

Region 4
Fall Update

MATT STRAUCH



Introduction

- Software
- Signs
- Monitoring
- Hunter Calls



Season Outlook



- Climate: Hot, Dry & Windy
- Habitat conditions spotty around the region.
- Spring Lek Counts and Crow Counts-:Higher Numbers than last year. Remain below historical averages.
- Mountain Grouse: Habitat conditions fared better than lower elevations.

Region 4 Stats



- 27 Expired Contracts in 2022 (19 Open Fields)
- 111 Active Contracts (67 Open Fields)

Freezeout

- Winter Cover Crop: slow start, field did finally produce some decent size plants, perhaps better than anticipated given the poor moisture received before/after seeding. Grain, Sorghum, turnups, etc.
- Crop Conversion Fields: fields showed minimal growth given dry conditions. Some plants did grow minimal seed heads produced. Kochia is abundantly present throughout the fields.
- Grass Conversion Plot: grain did eventually come up and produced seed heads.



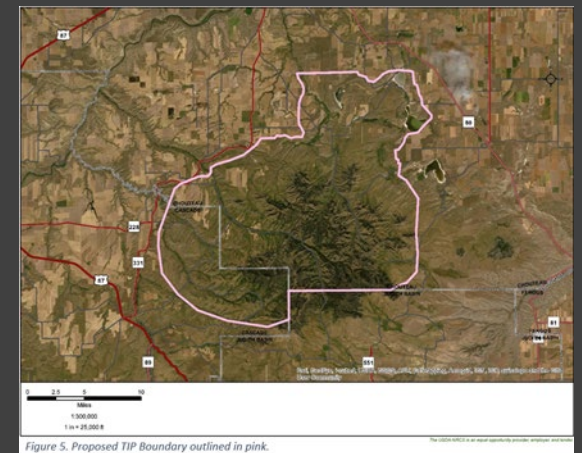
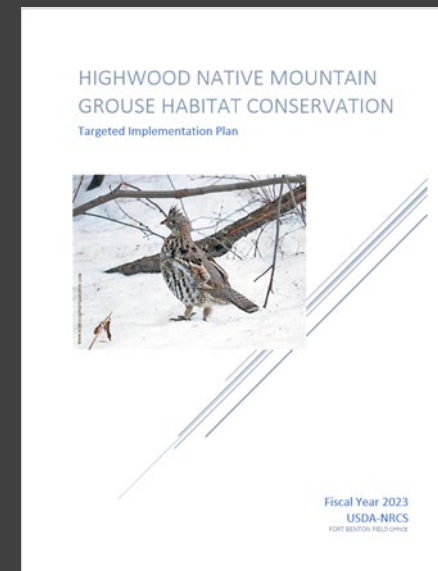
Marias River WMA



- Seeding completed on time. Good planting conditions.
- Climate: Hot and Dry conditions very minimal growth.
- Shaded areas produced better than direct sunlight.
- Heavy weed growth which was sprayed in July

New Projects

- NRCS Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) (declined last Spring)
- Riparian habitat restoration and protection for ruffed and sharptailed grouse in and around the Highwood Mountains
- Split into two TIP's for 2022 proposal
- More potential collaborative TIPS in the works:
 - Woody encroachment
 - Stripper header wheat
 - Cover crop
 - Wildlife friendly fencing
 - Invasive grass removal



Questions?

