

PROPOSAL

Sheep Creek Erosion-Control Structures and Seeding Project

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National Monument

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Objective

This project will repair erosion-control structures in the Sheep Creek watershed, a tributary to the Paria River, that were built in 1960, and seed the surrounding area in native grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

Background

The main source of salinity to the Paria River lies in the geologic strata that Sheep Creek flows through. The erosion-control structures that were built in 1960 have been very effective in rehabilitating large gullies and preventing overland movement of saline sediment. The structures are beginning to deteriorate. If this trend continues, the large amount of sediment deposition that has accumulated behind the erosion-control structures will blow out and discharge the sediment into the Paria River. The Paria River is currently on the 303(d) list as impaired due to high levels of total dissolved solids.

The surrounding area was seeded with crested wheat grass years ago and the grass is now dead due to the current drought, leaving extensive areas of bare ground. Land managers have a concern that this situation will invite noxious weeds. Planting the area back into native grasses, forbs, and shrubs, better suited for the climate and soils, will result in a sustainable and long-term approach to erosion control in the Sheep Creek/Paria watershed. Vegetation monitoring plots will be established to monitor the progress of the seeding. Soil erosion bridges will be installed to monitor sheet, rill, and gully erosion.

Deliverables

- Maintenance on erosion-control structures in the watershed.
- Purchase and seed areas surrounding the erosion-control structures.
- Set up vegetation monitoring plots and begin baseline monitoring.
- Submit a progress report that summarizes all work by December 31.

Costs

BLM	\$60,000
Allotment Permittees	\$20,000
Basin States Funding	\$60,000
TOTAL	\$140,000

**Sheep Creek
Erosion Control Project
Tributary to the Paria River**



Dead Crested Wheat



**Head cutting through erosion-control
structure**



Collapsed water-intake