

Pit 101T – Reclamation (Figures 1-10)

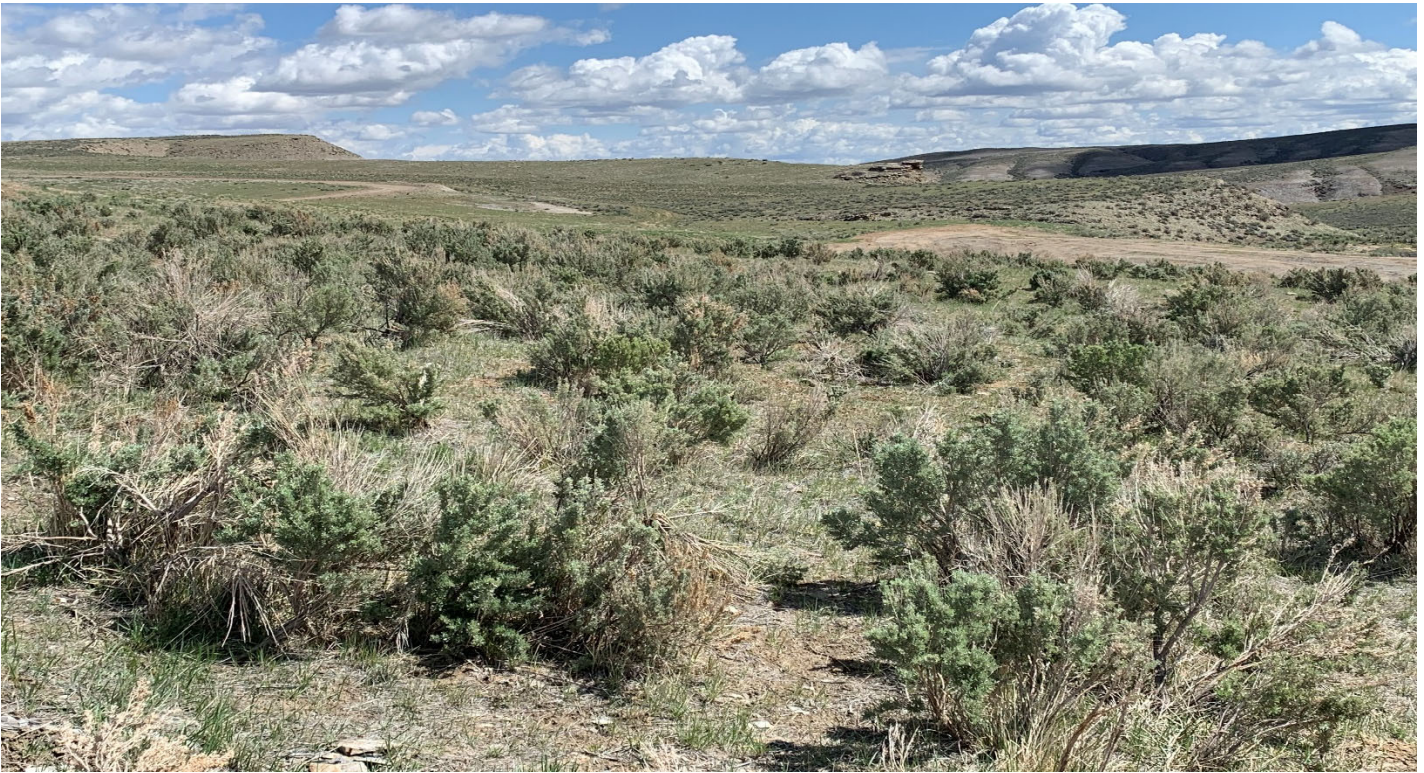


Figure 1: This Wyoming Big Sagebrush was seeded in the winter of 2013. The seed was generously broadcasted onto the snow surface during the winter months by hand application. This picture is taken west of the Sediment Basin looking to the east.



Figure 2: This Wyoming Big Sagebrush was seeded in the winter of 2016. The seed was broadcasted onto the snow surface during the winter months using an ATV with a mounted broadcast spreader. This picture is taken on the western edge of Pit 101T looking to the southwest.



Figure 3: Typical pre-mine vegetation on the bentonite outcrop for 101T and 101T Extension. (Sept 2008)



Figure 4: Removal of bentonite from Pit 101T Ext after the topsoil and subsoil has been removed (Jan 2016)



Figure 5: Reclamation located on the western edge of Pit 101T looking to the east, seeded in 2013. The foreground was an active bentonite stock pila area at the time of the picture. (Sept 2015)



Figure 6: Looking across the reclaimed Phase 1 of Pit 101T. Vegetation is just beginning to green up after a long winter. The succession of the reclamation since 2013 has included landscape dominated with Rocky Mountain Bee Plant in 2014, Sunflower in 2015, and has become a favorite of the cows in the summer and fall months (May 2021)



Figure 7: Matt Call, Environmental Supervisor, inspecting a nest that was discovered during a required nest search prior to any new disturbance from March 15 to July 15 at Pit 101T Ext. (July 23, 2015)



Figure 8: Image of the nest that was discovered at Pit 101T EXT on July 13, 2015. Initially there was only one egg and upon inspection on July 23, a second egg was discovered in the nest. These eggs successfully hatched and fledged the nest. (July 23, 2015)



Figure 9: From the western edge of Pit 101T looking across the areas that were seeded in 2013, 2015, and 2016 to the east. On the right-middle of picture is a culvert in the haul road. Just above the culvert to the left is the drainage that was blown out in 2016. Drainage was reconstructed and seeded in 2016, vegetation is doing well. (May 2021)



Figure 10: Recent cleaning of the Sediment Control Basin that was originally created in 1999 to prevent off site sedimentation. This has become a multipurpose basin as a water source for the wildlife and BLM grazing allottee. (May 2021)