



# Working Fuelbreaks on a Working Cattle Ranch Deseret Land and Livestock Woodruff, Utah

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6 November 2014

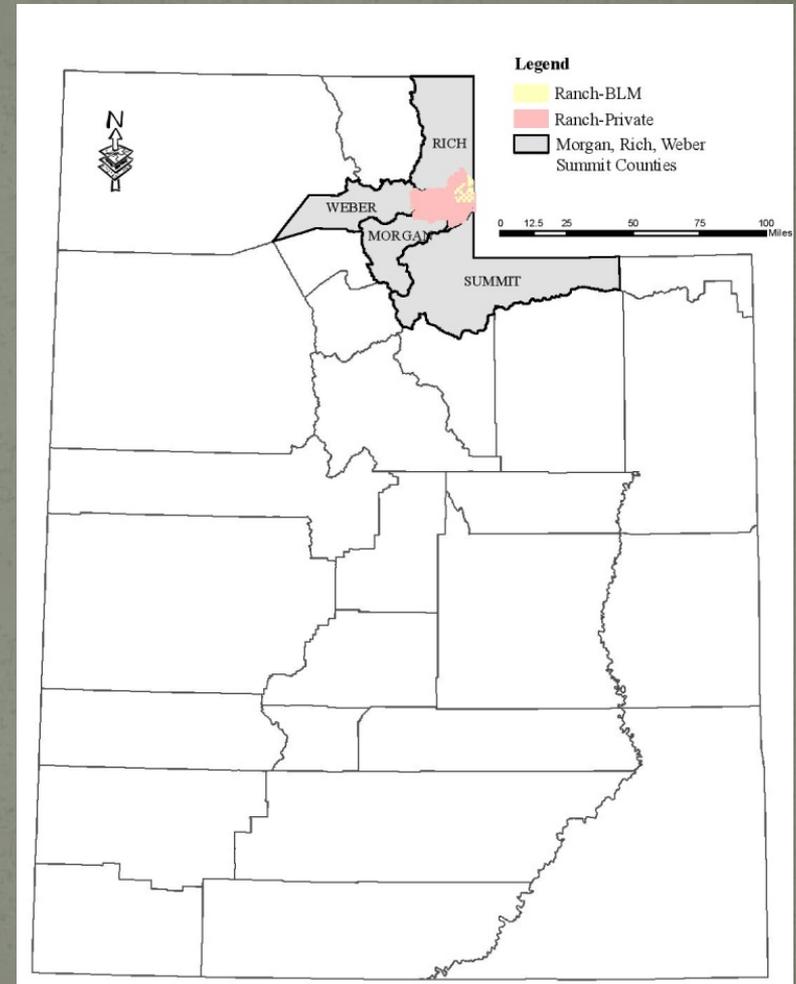
# DLL History

- Deseret Livestock Company Formed in 1891 (sheep...)
- Sold in 1953 to 1974 Garff, Freed, Robinson
- Became Deseret Livestock Ltd. in 1974 to 1983 and sold to Joseph Hotung
- Became Deseret Land and Livestock in 1983 bought by the LDS Church.



# Deseret Land and Livestock

- 220,000 acres
  - 203,000 private
  - 16,000 BLM
- Primarily cattle operation
  - High intensity short duration deferred/rest rotation grazing system
  - ~5,800 pairs
  - ~1,400 replacement heffiers
  - ~500 bulls
- Wildlife/Hunting Program
  - ~1800 elk
  - ~2800 deer
  - ~1000 pronghorn
  - ~150 moose



# AgReserves, Inc.

## Our Mission

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We have felt that good farms, over a long period, represent a safe investment where the assets of the Church may be preserved and enhanced, while at the same time they are available as an agricultural resource to feed people should there come a time of need.



*President Gordon B. Hinckley  
General Conference, April 1991*

# General statements about Rich County and Deseret Land and Livestock

- Utah's sagebrush steppe
  - It wants to grow sagebrush
  - Similar to western WY
  - 10-50 year treatment interval
- 20 year period 'treated'  
~1.4% annually



*The biggest threat to Rich County when it comes to sage-grouse management is doing nothing. This country wants to grow sagebrush and if we are not actively managing our sagebrush habitats the densities and carrying capacity of sage-grouse populations will continue to decline. Todd Black Rich QRM meeting 2005.*

# Working Fuelbreaks

- What:
  - Simply a treatment of sagebrush in an area(s) that provide benefits to the Ranch
- Why:
  - To protect of our investments ie., structures, rangelands, utilities/ROW
    - Edge habitat for wildlife
    - More forage/grocery store (mule deer/grouse)
    - Protection of catastrophic fires
    - Allows for control burns



# Working Fuelbreaks

- Where:
  - Along existing linear features (roads, fences, ROWs)
  - In areas that have <25% canopy of sagebrush
  - In areas that exceed 15” annual precip.
  - Along fence lines
  - Along existing roads
  - Other areas to allow for smaller scale treatments (burns)
- When:
  - Fall disturbance, winter/spring plantings

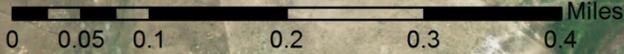


# Working fuelbreaks

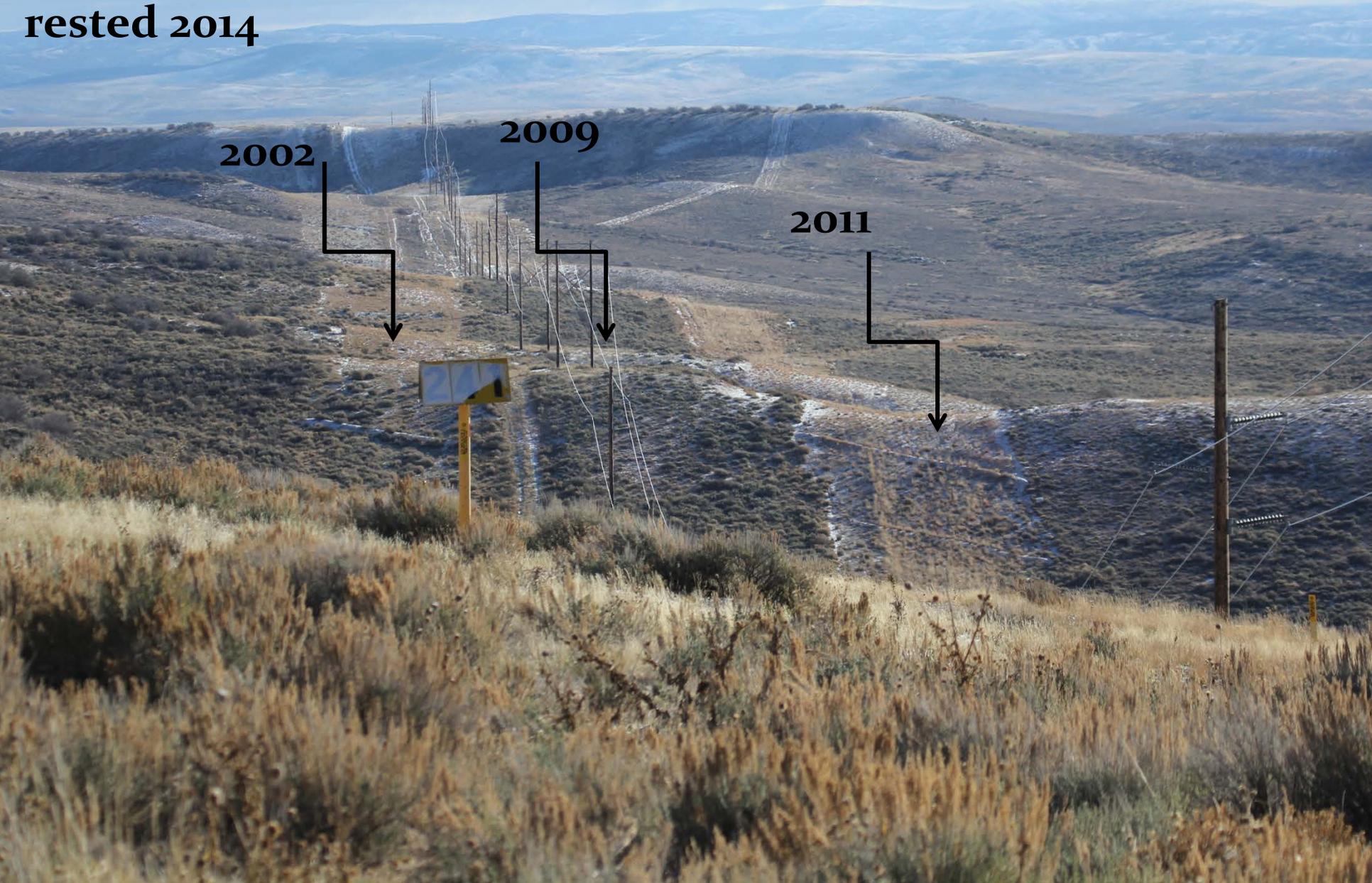
- Disturbance Methods
  - 15' disk
  - Intense angles 12'
  - 45-50' disturbed area plus fence/road
  - Doze/blade fence lines
- Planting Methods
  - 2013 and beyond either forage kochia or ranger alfalfa. Broadcast vs. drill
  - No planting in areas where good understory



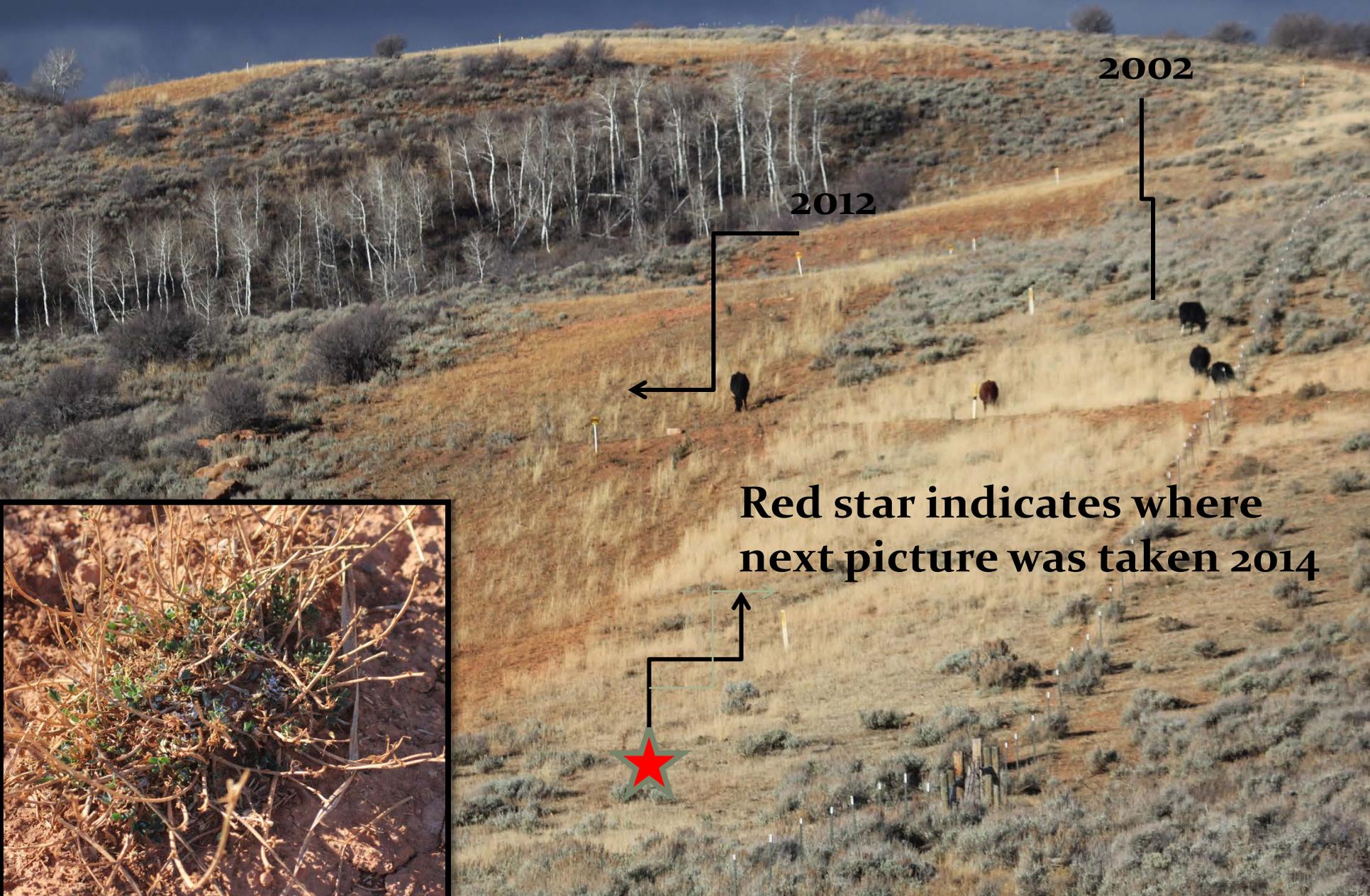
**Quest Star ROW planted in crested wheat 2022**



**2 gas pipeline ROW and a  
transmission ROW pasture  
rested 2014**



**2 gas pipeline ROW grazed 2014 2012 planted just to alfalfa**



**2002**

**2012**

**Red star indicates where next picture was taken 2014**





Fall 2012 disturbance Spring  
2013 planting to protect



Fall 2013 treatment, spring 2014  
planting. Kochia already being  
browsed by mule deer



**Significant deer use particularly in the spring and fall. 2012 treatment.**



**Fall 2011 disturbance nothing planted in 2012 due to drought**



**More sage-grouse use of these 'treatments' than I can document.....**

Sage-grouse...plowed dirt 'treatment'





**Fall 2011 disturbance nothing planted in 2012 due to drought  
picture taken summer 2013.**



**Fall 2012 disturbance nothing planted this hen nested in treatment**

**2004 treatment , mostly wheatgrass but still use by grouse,  
picture take fall 2014.**



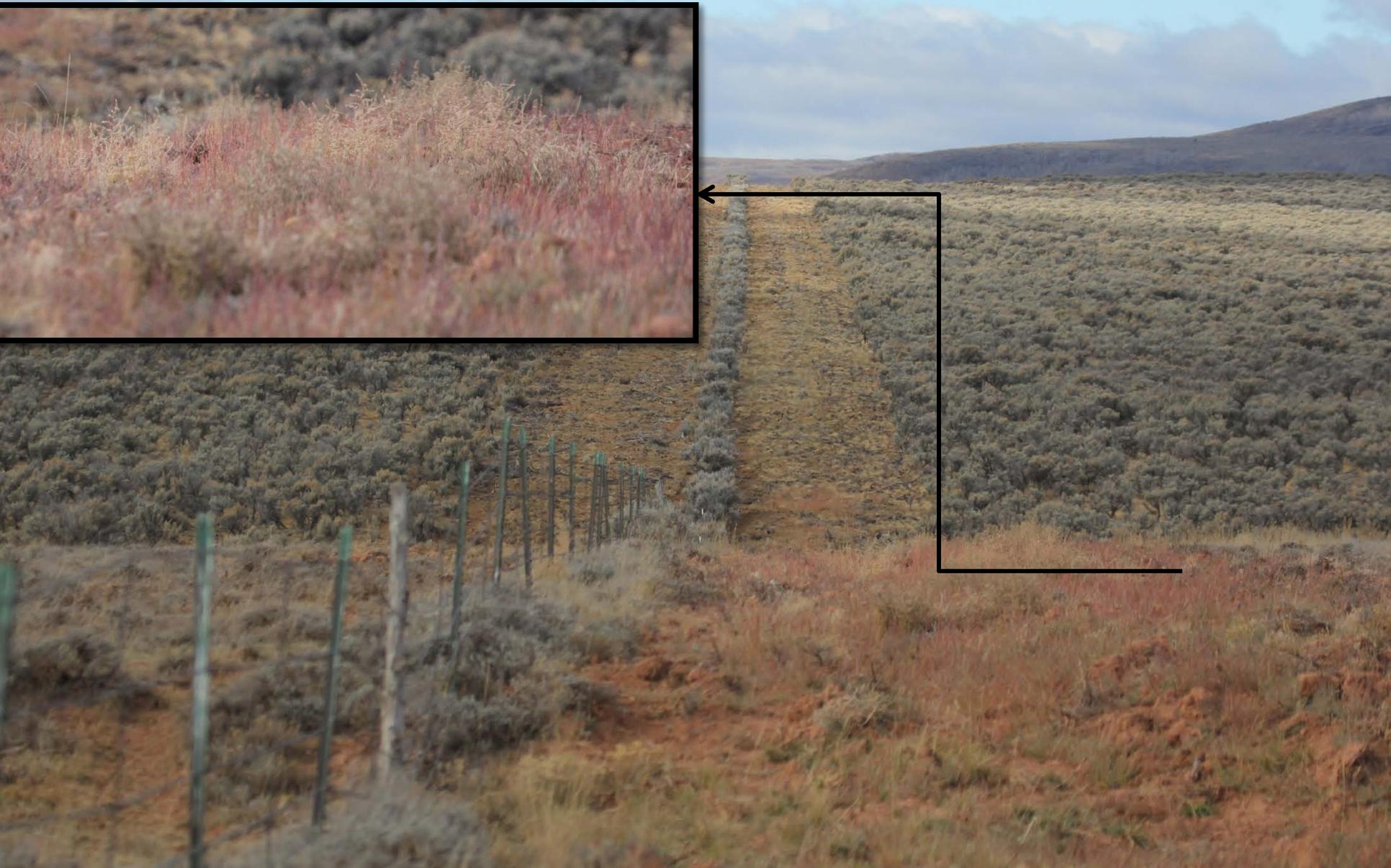
**Even well know sage-grouse researches like fuelbreaks. 2011 treatment, not seeded. Picture take fall 2014**



**Replacement fence, dozed/bladed, fenced, seeded (kochai/alfalfa). Photo take fall 2014**



**Fall 2013 treatment, spring 2014 planting of Kochia, produced seed, November 3, 2014.**



**Fall 2013 treatment, spring 2014 planting June 2014 burn.**



**Fall 2013 treatment, spring 2014 planting June 2014 burn mule deer use within 14 days of burn.**







