

# You can help native plants recover on your property

## 1) Seeding

- spread seed late fall through early spring, order earlier.
- if you want to help wintering deer, emphasize bitterbrush in your mix. Transplanted nursery seedlings work well too.
- bitterbrush usually grows well with big sagebrush and singleleaf pinyon, also rabbitbrush in this area.
- avoid planting annuals, as they are harder to maintain in a condition of low flammability.
- don't use "wildflower mix" seeds, as these are mostly non-native annuals - keep it native!
- please include one or more of these in your mix:

Upland shrubby areas and margins of wetter areas:

bitterbrush	Purshia tridentata
big sagebrush	Artemisia tridentata
singleleaf pinyon	Pinus monophylla
California buckwheat	Eriogonum fasciculatum
blackbrush	Coleogyne ramosissima
desert peach	Prunus andersonii
silver lupine	Lupinus argenteus
basin wildrye	Elymus cinereus
western ricegrass	Stipa hymenoides

Wetter areas, apply bitterbrush, basin wildrye, and:

creeping wildrye	Elymus triticoides
rubber rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa
silver sagebrush	Artemisia cana
basin goldenrod	Solidago spectabilis

Information about vegetation recovery practices that will be applied on adjacent public lands is available by calling the Inyo National Forest's Public Affairs Officer, Deb Schweizer (760) 873-2427

Locally collected native seed is available through:

Comstock Seed Co.  
917 Highway 88  
Gardnerville, NV 89460  
Contact: Ed Kleiner (775) 265-0090

For bitterbrush seedlings (available Fall 2015), contact Karen Ferrell-Ingram (760) 937-0620

For information about which native plants would be adapted to your property, you may contact Mono County's consulting biologist, Dr. Jim Paulus (760) 937-7177

## 2) Raking

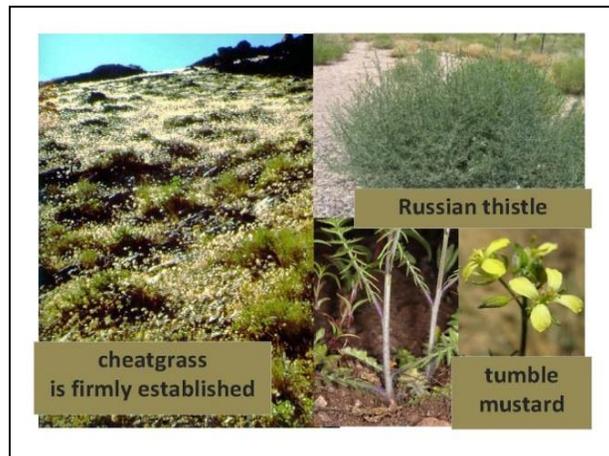
- light raking that breaks the soil surface crust everywhere that rain will fall.
- raking will hide your seed from birds and rodents.
- do this even if seeding isn't possible, as it helps reverse fire-induced hydrophobic crusting of the topsoil.
- breaking the crust improves infiltration and reduces erosion caused by runoff.

## 3) Supplemental Irrigation

- as allowed within current drought level restrictions only.
- encourage upland and wetland margin regrowth.
- some wetland shrubs and trees will basally re-sprout, depending on the intensity of consumption by fire.
- wetland and meadow grasses and sedges will widely resprout with spring precipitation.
- upland shrubs will generally not re-sprout from crowns.
- supplemental irrigation of re-sprouts is most effective in late spring as the soil profile naturally dries, with an additional watering in late July or early August if monsoonal rains are weak.
- supplemental irrigation of seedlings is most effective at these same times, plus irrigation as needed right after germination and throughout the first growing season.

## 4) Weeding

- learn which non-native plants easily out-compete our local plant species and increase the risk of wildfire - these are your enemies!



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Of all the non-native plants that will take advantage of a landscape opened by wildfire, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is surely the worst. Dry stands of this annual grass, along with mustard and Russian thistle "tumbleweeds," create unnaturally combustible understory layer beneath and between native shrubs and trees in the Paradise - Swall Meadows area. Cheatgrass in particular can build a halo of dry thatch around every shrub on your property, year after year. There are no natural biofeedback controls other than wildfire. Mule deer and other herbivores can use cheatgrass only when it is newly germinated. It will likely be the first and most abundant plant to show up after native vegetation has been removed, and then mowing is the only way to reduce its annual fuel load. In Paradise and Swall Meadows, a 2013-2014 research study found that cheatgrass, tumble mustard, and Russian thistle remained absent only from (some, but not all) areas of native blackbrush, bitterbrush, and mountain whitethorn where the vegetation has not been cleared for some time.

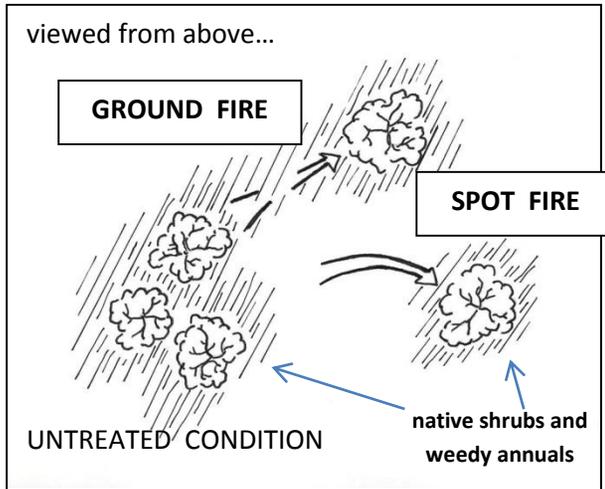
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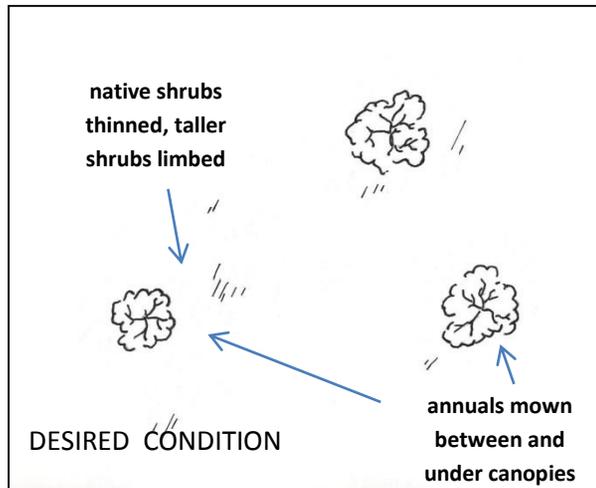


## 5) Mowing, Thinning, Limbing

Annual weeds fuel the spread of wildfire

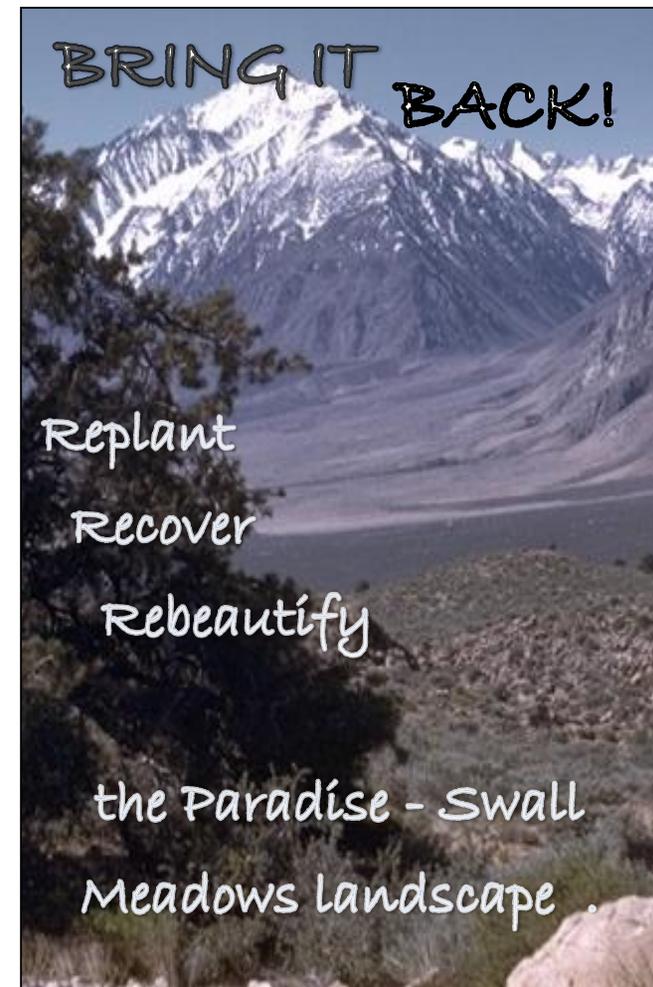


- the untreated condition re-establishes itself every year, beginning in June or July as annuals turn dry.



- if native perennial grass seed is to be spread, choose "bunch" type grasses (mowing these grasses may not be necessary).
- observe Defensible Space wisdom by making mowing, thinning, and limbing treatment a positive emphasis in your annual routine of property upkeep.

Created by J. Paulus for Mono County Planning Division, March 2015.



### 1. Initial Xeriscape Revegetation

If you believe the desired condition is healthy native vegetation (but with less fire danger!), then please consider: