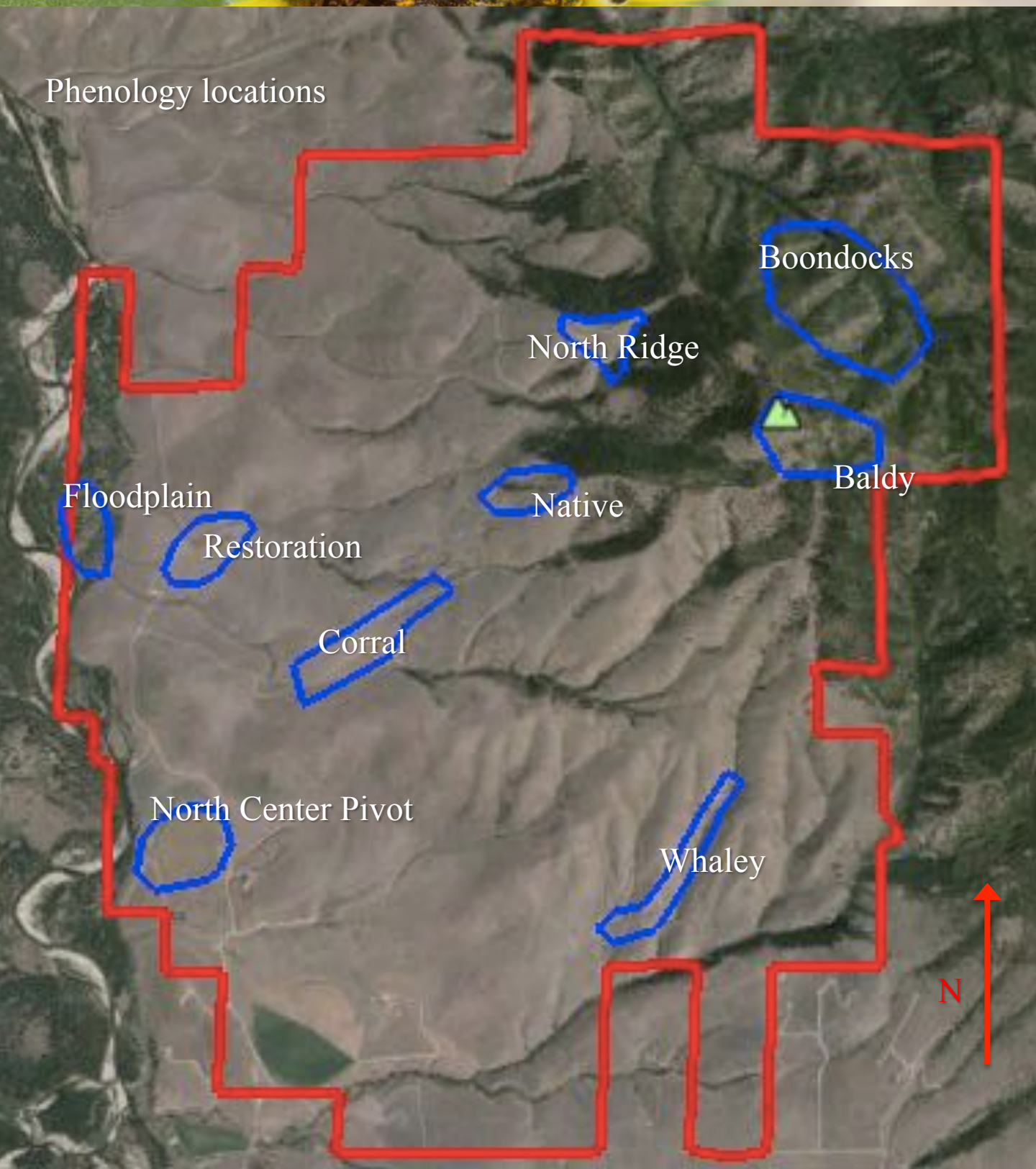
Phenology Field Note
Seasonal Fruits and Flowers
August 28, 2015
Prairie Wolfe


Phenology locations
Boondocks
North Ridge
Baldy
Floodplain
Native
Restoration
Corral
North Center Pivot
Whaley
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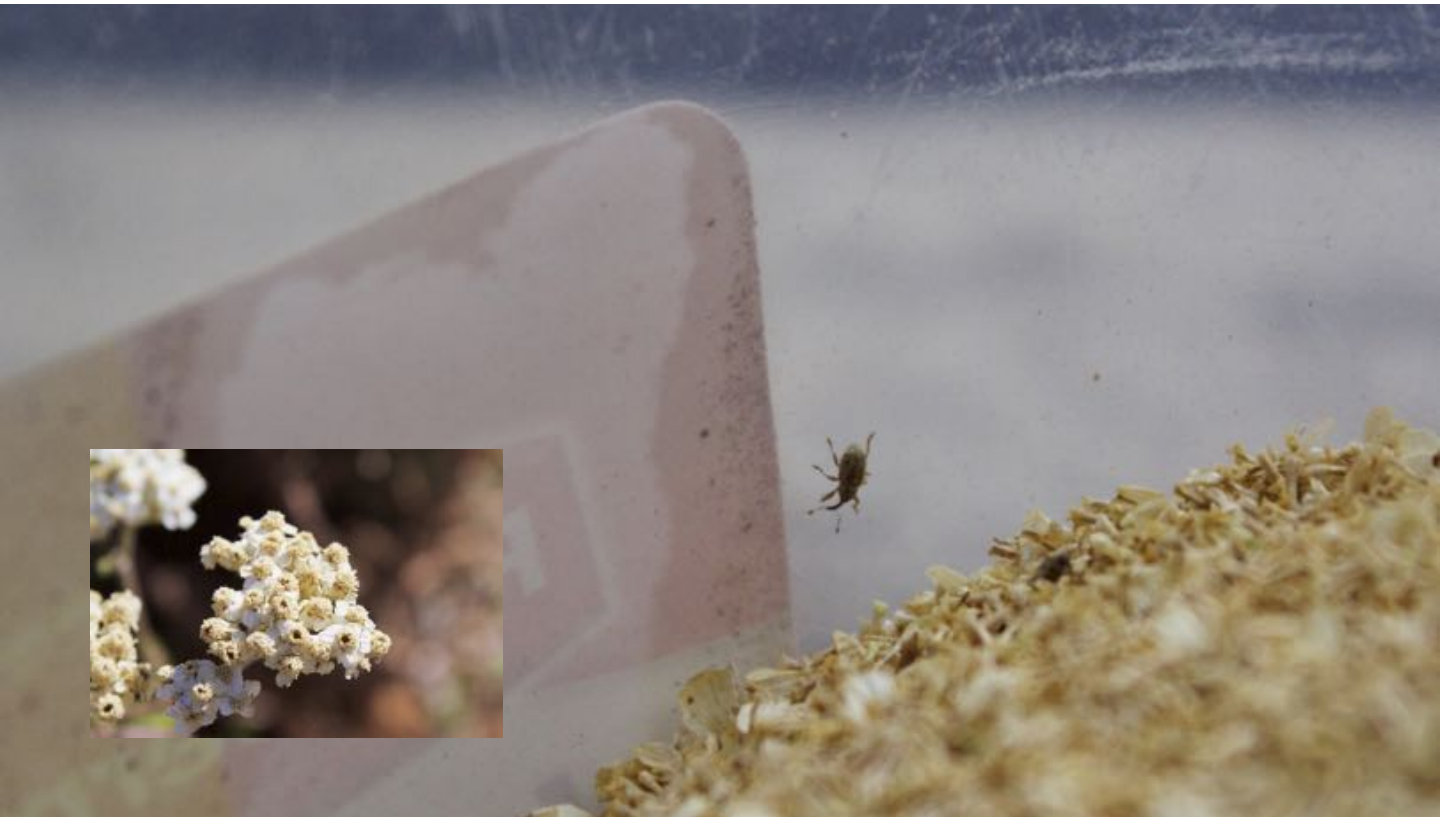
A population of antelope bitterbrush near the mouth of Whaley Draw yellows earlier than other populations (*Purshia tridentata*, Whaley).

Several high elevation chokecherry shrubs produced galls instead of fruit. Although the galls were empty by the time I inspected them, chances are they were caused by the chokecherry gall midge (*Contarinia virginianae* on *Prunus virginiana,* Baldy).

Fresh rose hips ripen on branches alongside fruit from last season (*Rosa woodsii*).

Many species flower for extended time periods. This annual tumble mustard near the floodplain is in it's 14th week of flowering (*Sisymbrium loeselii*).

During a session of seed cleaning I discovered the culprit of the yarrow predation: a diminutive weevil.



In many areas, leafy spurge launches into a second flowering period (*Euphorbia esula*).

After two and half months of bud development, wild tarragon blooms. These diminutive flowers often require a hand lens to determine phenological stage (*Artemisia dracunculus*).

Fruit appears stunted and discolored on a snowberry stripped of its leaves (*Symphoricarpos albus*). The “Restoration” zone experiences high grasshopper numbers in areas adjacent to wheat fields.

Cooler nighttime temperatures and continued dry weather bring color to high elevation sites.

A persistent blanket of smoke dampens the rich hues from changing ninebark, chokecherry, and Rocky Mountain maple.

Each spotted knapweed flower head contains 30-40 flowers. Outermost flowers are enlarged and dissected into multiple segments, lending a winsome feathered feel.

The field crew weed-whacked spotted knapweed on Baldy to reduce seed production. The plants increased vegetative growth, creating vivid viridian orbs among the otherwise brown landscape (*Centaurea stoebe*).

Boundaries of herbicide application on the North Center Pivot emerged a few weeks after crews sprayed.

Many sprayed species, such as kochia, appear chlorotic and withered but produce some seed (*Kochia scoparia*).