

Field Note

August 29th – September 2nd



By Jeff Clarke

Before



We take bails of bluebunch wheatgrass and slender wheatgrass from the plantation and place them on disturbed roads and roadsides. The grass seed will establish and prevent erosion in these disturbed areas. This week we targeted the new road in Whaley Draw and roads where 2011 logging occurred.



After

Many varieties of swallowtail butterflies live in Montana; the caterpillars are differentiated by their unique eye spots.



Several two tailed swallowtail caterpillars devoured every leaf on the large planted chokecherry at the Upper House. Bluish eye spots and yellow inner eye spots identify this species.



These turkeys were on to me before I ever spotted them. When they sense danger at a distance, they duck and run.



If leafy spurge hawk moth caterpillars were this abundant across the ranch, they would work.

Another birthday balloon tangled in a tree. We remove them all.



Hundreds of geese are back in our fields feeding on the cut grass seed.





The alfalfa blooms and butterflies indulge.



A cooper's hawk burst out of the Woodchuck drainage to pay me a visit atop the ridge. It hovered above me, shrieked a few times, and soared on.





A successful puffball.

Gumweed blooms.





This Week's Field Work

- Spread plantation seed across disturbed roads
- Removed N. sainfoin electric exclosures
- Fixed Exclosures
- Watered planted trees
- Collected fruits for later propagation