



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD

MILFORD FLAT FIRE RESTORATION PROJECT

In recognition of the Milford Flat Fire Restoration Project, the rehabilitation and restoration project following the largest fire in Utah's recorded history. This effort was a large-scale project to improve watersheds across multiple jurisdictions.

The Milford Flat Fire started on July 6, 2007, in Beaver County, Utah, as a result of dry thunderstorms. The fire spread rapidly in cheatgrass, sagebrush and pinyon-juniper stands and exhibited explosive rates of spread. The fire burned on Bureau of Land Management, State, private and Bureau of Indian Affairs lands. At containment on July 19, the fire had burned more than 363,000 acres. Land management agencies conducted post-fire assessments of the burned areas and saw the need to conduct stabilization, rehabilitation and restoration efforts on 202,000 acres, which is over 300 square miles. Because burned areas had mixed land ownership, many people were involved in this effort. State and Federal agencies came together under the umbrella of the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development to form a collaborative group effort. The team's task was to design and implement stabilization and restoration actions for the entire burned area - and to do so - regardless of land ownership. A rehabilitation effort of this magnitude required 1,766,103 pounds of seed using several treatment methods. In addition to seeding efforts, noxious weed infestations were surveyed and treated, 74 miles of burned fence were replaced, 78 new miles of fence were constructed, and 315 sediment basins were developed. Treatment began in October 2007, and was completed by spring 2008. Monitoring of treatments is also being done jointly by the partnership. The project was extremely successful because of the support and contributions of all partners involved. Managers knew that for this project to be successful, everyone involved would need to be kept apprised throughout the process. Communications was another key to success. Close coordination allowed the project to be completed sooner than expected. In Utah, it has been adopted as a model for implementation of future large fire restoration efforts. For its collaborative work in improving watersheds and rehabilitating fire-ravaged lands in Utah, the Milford Flat Fire Restoration Project is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.