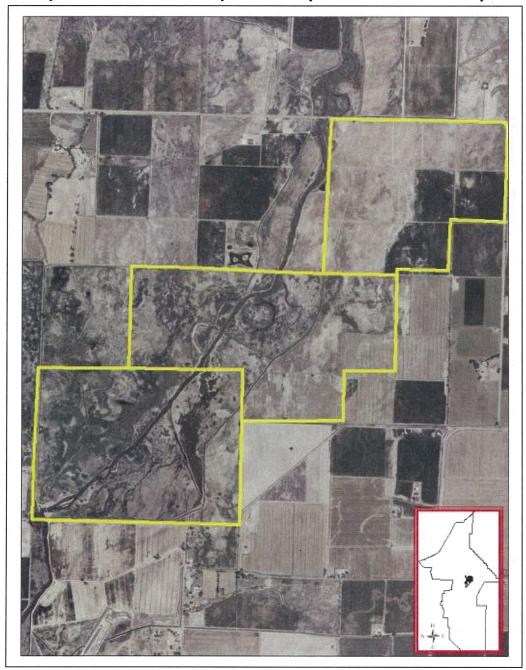
# EXHIBIT 108

## Revegetation Plan South Aguiar (APN 014-321-013), Joggles (APN 014-241-035) & Weir (APN 014-401-018)



September 2012

Prepared by Mason Valley Conservation District 215 W Bridge St Suite 11A Yerington NV 89447

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#### **Executive Summary:**

Public Law 111-85 provides the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) the authority to implement the Walker Basin Restoration Program for the primary purpose of restoring and maintaining the elevation of Walker Lake through increased freshwater inflows. This is being accomplished through a mix of efforts including a voluntary water rights acquisition program with willing sellers to reduce diversion of flows keeping more water in-stream, a water leasing program to be developed and administered by the Walker River Irrigation District, creation of a conservation and stewardship program focused on land stewardship, water conservation, alternative agriculture, watershed improvement and establishment of a local non-profit to assist in management of Program assets and program implementation, and additional research related to the various efforts.

Through the willing seller program, NFWF has acquired four parcels of land in Mason Valley comprised of nearly 2000 acres of land and associated water rights. NFWF has provided Mason Valley Conservation District (MVCD) funding to develop and implement restoration plans for these parcels known as Weir, Joggles, South Aguiar and North Aguiar (Appendix A-1). In early 2012, title for the North Aguiar and Weir parcels was transferred from NFWF to the State of Nevada for inclusion to the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. New conveyance agreements are in the process for the South Aguiar and Joggles parcels to again transfer title to the State of Nevada from NFWF. Revegetation activities on these properties will be based on a plan approved by NFWF, State Lands, and the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife and implemented by MVCD over a number of years.

#### Overview:

This revegetation plan pertains to the parcels known as South Aguiar (APN 014-321-013), Joggles (APN 014-241-035) and 13 acres of the Weir parcel (014-401-018). All parcels are contiguous and are located south of Miller Lane and west of Aiazzi Lane near Yerington, NV (Appendix A-1). Included with this restoration plan is Field 2 (approximately 13 acres) of the Weir parcel which had been previously transferred to the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area spring 2012. South Aguiar is approximately 366 acres divided between eight fields with varying levels of restoration needs. The Joggles parcel is approximately 481 acres of which 72 acres were in production and the remaining 409 acres managed for livestock grazing with little land disturbance.

Given the diversity of site conditions found in each property, four different plans were developed. A tabular summary and timeline of each plan is included in Appendix B. All management plans will include noxious weed monitoring, inventory and treatment of any infestation throughout the restoration implementation and monitoring processes. All restoration activities are contingent upon site conditions, availability of resources (seed, water, equipment, etc.), weather and contractual regulations.

#### **Definition of restoration activities**

Biomass Removal

Some sites may require removal of the above ground biomass to reduce competition of selected species. Techniques for removal may include livestock grazing, crop harvesting, burning, traditional agricultural processes (disking, ripping, etc.) and/or herbicide applications. The actual technique used will be dependent on site conditions, water availability, timing, species to be controlled, contracts with producers, and weather restrictions.

#### Seeding

Grass and/or shrub seeding will occur either in the fall prior to the end of the irrigation season or early spring timed with the first irrigation using the best available seeder for that site capable of placing the seeds approximately 0.25-1.0 inches deep with press wheels (or other devices to cover and firm the soil) following the seeding operation; depth of planting is dependent on the individual species. Many conditions are required for a successful seeding; therefore, plans containing these tasks identify various alternatives that will allow optimal conditions for seeding establishment.

#### Plug planting

Shrub plugs will be obtained from the Nevada Division of Forestry Washoe Nursery, private nurseries, local producers, or local high schools and placed randomly or planted in furrows, and/or islands, etc. Actual spacing and species selected is dependent on soil type, irrigation delivery and proximity to anthropogenic activities. If needed, MVCD will incorporate a rodent control plan to protect live plugs.

#### Monitoring

Monitoring of the sites includes repeatable photograph points, visual observations, surveys, soil samples, line-intercept transects, and hoop clippings and/or gap intercept measurements. For the purposes of this restoration plan undesirable conditions include establishment of unbeneficial plant species, fugitive dust creation, poor wildlife habitat value and noxious weed establishment.

#### Irrigation

Although sprinkler irrigation is preferred for planting native species; the selected seed blend will be irrigated using the existing flood irrigation system. Irrigation will begin in early March 2013 and continue throughout the spring; additional irrigations may be required depending on the efficiency of the existing flood system.

#### Contractors

For contracted services such as field preparation, seeding and irrigation; Mason Valley Conservation District's standard operating procedure first contacts the last producer to manage the property, then the neighboring producers and finally other producers

willing to perform the necessary service. MVCD will follow NDOW direction for contracted services once the parcel transfers to State ownership.

#### **Field Specific Restoration Plans**

Plan 1

Plan 1 applies to Joggles Fields 3-5 (Appendix A-2). Active restoration for these fields is unnecessary because little disturbance has occurred; therefore, the restoration plan consists of monitoring for undesirable conditions during the next three to four years.

Joggles Field 3 was in production at some point in the past; however, the field is primarily covered with pasture grasses and white clover. Joggles Field 4 appears to be in a natural state and only used for livestock grazing of native vegetation. It appears Joggles Field 5 was never in production. Should conditions in these areas begin to deteriorate, MVCD will develop and implement a restoration plan similar to the Plans 2-4 described below.

Photos on the right are of Joggles Field 3 (top), Joggles Field 4 (middle) and Joggles Field 5 (bottom).



Plan 2 specifically applies to Weir Field 2 and Joggles Field 2 (Appendix A-2) which were previously in agricultural







production; however, appear to be revegetating naturally. MVCD is observing sweet clover and grass replacing alfalfa in Weir Field 1 and salt grass in Joggles Field 2. Both fields are within close proximity to native seed sources capable of establishing desirable species to minimize weeds and dust as well as provide adequate wildlife habitat. MVCD will continue to monitor these areas for undesirable conditions and will begin active restoration tasks should the need arise. Such tasks could include but are not limited to biomass removal, seeding of grasses or shrubs, shrub plug plantings and noxious weed treatment.

Photos on the right are of Joggles Field 2 (top), Weir Field 2 (middle) and South Aguiar Field 1 (bottom)

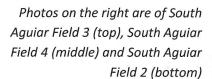


#### Plan 3

Plan 3 applies to Joggles Field 1 and South Aguiar Fields 1, 3 and 4 (Appendix A-2). During the fall and winter of 2012, these fields will be grazed by cattle to reduce biomass as well as reduce resource competition between alfalfa and species to be seeded in the spring or fall of 2013. MVCD has demonstrated native and drought tolerate grass species establish well when planted in the spring if provided with irrigation. These fields have not been irrigated in several years; therefore, the irrigation delivery system requires repair and general maintenance prior to any seeding or plug planting. Herbicides applications may need to be applied to areas dominated by alfalfa or other weeds;

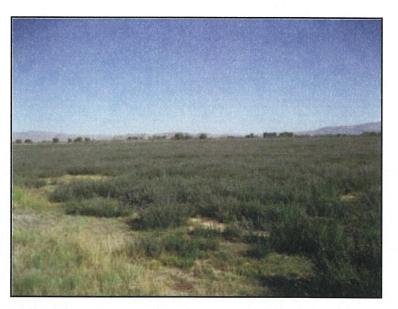


therefore, grasses may be seeded separately to shrubs as most herbicides will harm shrub seeds or seedlings. Any herbicide application will be made in strict accordance to label regulations and performed by licensed subcontractor applicators, MVCD staff or NDOW personnel. If needed, additional grass or shrub seeding attempts are scheduled for spring and fall 2014. Shrubs may also be established using plug plantings. Given the project scope and timeline, MVCD may eliminate shrub seeding from the restoration plans as techniques for establishing plugs improve.

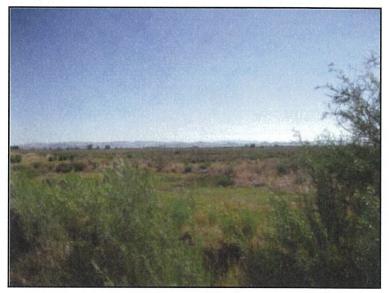


#### Plan 4

Plan 4 applies to South Aguiar Fields 2 and 5-8 (Appendix A-2) which are dominated by native and drought-tolerate grass species with some residual alfalfa beneficial for wildlife; however; lack of a diverse canopy cover reduces wildlife use of the approximate 251 acres. Plan 4 mimics Plan 3 restoration tasks and timing except Plan 4 excludes all grass seeding and reduces or possibly eliminates all shrub seeding activities depending on plug establishment and capability to deliver sufficient irrigation.









South Aguiar Field 5 top left, South Aguiar Field 6 top right, South Aguiar Field 7 bottom left, and South Aguiar Field 8 bottom right.

#### **Species Selection**

Species selections were based on the following: NRCS Ecological Site Descriptions, an actual site inventory and commercial availability of seed. Seeding rates were based on NRCS Practice Standards for Conservation Cover, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Critical Area Plantings and Restoration & Management of Rare and Declining Habitats. Species and composition maybe altered based on actual site conditions, soil tests and availability of seed. Refer to Appendix C titled "Weed Control, Grazing Management, Planting Considerations and Value to Wildlife for Selected Revegetation Species" for additional information.

	Estimated	Live Material
Species	lbs/acre	Spacing (ft)
Creeping or Beardless wildrye	2	0
Basin wildrye	0.5	0
Slender wheatgrass	1	0
Crested wheatgrass	2	0
Tall Wheatgrass	0.5	0
Big sagebrush	0.5	1-30 ft
Torrey Quailbush	0.5	5-10 ft
Fourwing saltbush	0.5	5-10 ft
Greasewood	0.5	5-10 ft
Silver Buffaloberry	0	6-10 ft
Willow	0	6-13 ft
Woods Rose	0	13 ft
Total	8	

Table 1 Grass and shrub species selection, seeding rates and spacing

#### Monitoring

Monitoring for seedling establishment as well as weed control efforts at the South Aguiar and Joggles parcels will occur throughout the revegetation process. MVCD will document all irrigation applications, herbicide treatments, dates of seeding and species selected.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

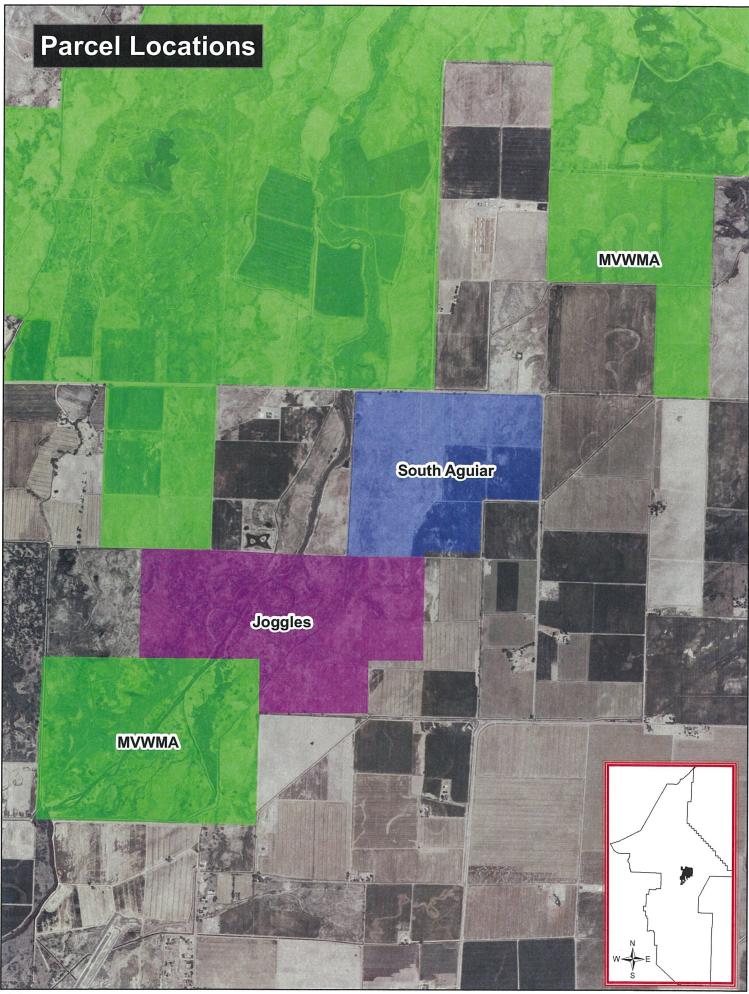
MVCD is responsible for generating, implementing, and monitoring revegetation efforts on the identified parcels. Implementation of the plan includes weed control, seedbed preparation, obtaining materials, seeding or live material planting (where appropriate) of native and drought tolerate species, and irrigation during establishment period. Revegetation efforts will require a minimum of three years for completion; however, this time period will be extended to accommodate additional seedings or plantings. MVCD will provide MVWMA a detailed map of the irrigation delivery system, noxious weed infestations and established plant communities as a well as a long-term monitoring plan. MVWMA is responsible for long term management of the parcels; including monitoring and post establishment irrigation, if needed. NFWF provided MVCD a grant for \$352,257.50 for costs associated with revegetation efforts. NFWF is committed to ensuring success of these efforts and is aware additional funding may be necessary depending on success of plantings and other unknown variables over the next several years.

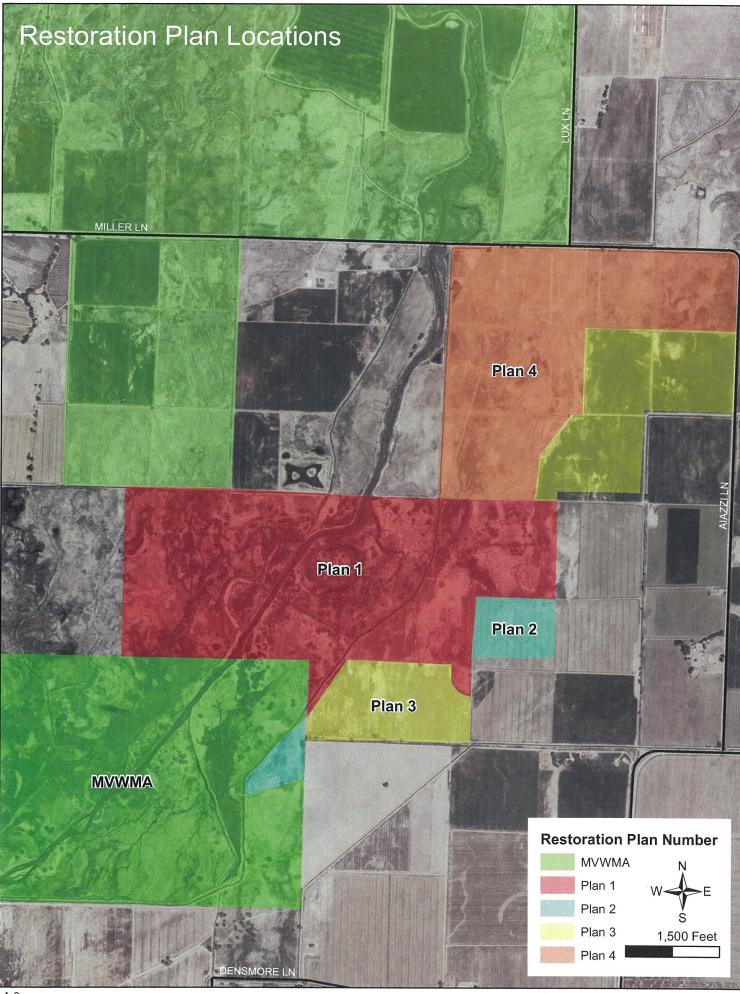
#### Contingency

Revegetation efforts in Nevada are dynamic and require flexibility in timing and application; therefore, MVCD will notify all parties if changes to the plan are required.

The following parties have reviewed and appr 321-013), Joggles (APN 014-241-035) & Weir (	oved the revegetation plan for the South Aguiar (APN 014-APN 014-401-018).
Nevada Department of Wildlife	- Date
Nevada Division of State Lands	, ————————————————————————————————————
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Sept 26 12 Date
Mason Valley Conservation District	 

## Appendix A Maps





## **Appendix B**

## Restoration Plans 1-4 Summary of Tasks and Associated Timeline

Appendix B. Restoration Plans 1-4 summary of tasks and associated timeline

Plan 1 Plan 2 Plan 3 Plan 4 Fields Affected Joggles 3-5 Weir 2 & Joggles 2 Joggles 1 & South Aguiar 1, 3 and 4 South Aguiar 2, 5-8 Fall 2012 Monitor for undesirable Biomass removal Winter 2012 conditions. If necessary, start Monitor for undesirable conditions and treat active restoration activities (i.e. Spring 2013 weeds as necessary biomass removal, grass and Seed with desirable species if appropriate shrub establishment) Summer 2013 If needed: irrigation maintenance and If needed: biomass removal as needed for Fall 2013 delivery; biomass removal, seeding of grass shrub seeding and plug plantings using Winter 2013 and/or shrubs furrows and/or islands Monitor for Irrigation maintenance and delivery; biomass | Irrigation maintenance and delivery; biomass undesirable removal as needed for possible shrub seeding removal as needed for possible shrub seeding conditions Spring 2014 and plug plantings using furrows and/or and plug plantings using furrows and/or and treat islands islands weeds as Monitor for undesirable necessary Summer 2014 conditions replant and treat Weed control as needed Weed control as needed Fall 2014 weeds as necessary Winter 2014 Spring 2015 Summer 2015 Monitor for undesirable conditions replant Monitor for undesirable conditions replant Fall 2015 and treat weeds as necessary and treat weeds as necessary Winter 2015

Spring 2016 Summer 2016

<sup>\*</sup>Noxious weeds monitoring and treatment will be ongoing throughout the entire process.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Techniques for biomass removal will be grazing, harvesting, fire, discing, etc. Technique selected will be based on composition and quality of biomass, timing, availability.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>All seeding and plug planting efforts are conditional on site conditions and availability of water, seeds, plugs, etc.

### **Appendix C**

Weed control, grazing management, planting considerations and value to wildlife for selected revegetation species

#### Weed Control, Grazing Management, Planting Considerations and Value to Wildlife for Selected Revegetation Species

	1			
Species	Weed Control	Grazing Management	Planting considerations	Value to Wildlife
			D 71 1 1 1 54 (91 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
			Drill seed at depth of 1/2" or less on medium to fine	·
Creeping or	Tolerant of standard, broad-leaf		textured soils; 1" or less on coarse textured soils. The	
Beardless	1	Moderately palatable to all liverteels generally in the early	best seeding results are seeding in very early spring on	, , ,
wildrye	(chlorsulfuron) at 3-4 leaf stage	Moderately palatable to all livestock, especially in the early spring before it becomes coarse	late fall on medium-light textured soils.	waterfowl, shorebirds & wetland-obligate passerines, as well as
Wildryc	(chlorsundron) at 3-4 lear stage	spring before it becomes coarse	Disc or deep furrow drill seeded at a depth of 0.25-	foraging areas for Canada geese and Sandhill cranes.
	Bromovynil at 3-4 leaf stage 2.4-D	No grazing until late summer or fall of the second growing	0.75" inch on medium to fine textured soils and <1" on	Excellent cover habitat for small animals and birds, excellent
Basin wildrye	at 4-6 leaf stage.	season and > 10" tall. Leave > 10" after grazing	coarse textured soils,	nesting cover for upland birds, excellent standing winter feed and
Busin Wildryc	at 4 0 lear stage.	Season and 7 to tail. Leave 7 to arter grazing	Coarse textured soils.	cover for big game
		Moderately tolerant of grazing, stands should be managed	For native seed mixtures, limit slender wheatgrass to 1	Upland game birds & small mammals utilize seed for food and
Slender	2,4-D, Bromoxynil, Metribuzin or	carefully to ensure seed production occurs every other	pound PLS/acre because higher rates effect the	foliage for cover. Readily grazed by large ungulates, (elk and
wheatgrass	dicamba okay to use.	year for long-term survival	establishment of slower developing native species.	bighorn sheep) in higher elevations
8		year to rong corn survival	The best seeding results are obtained from seeding in	ingitors steep) is nighter elevations
'Hycrest'	2,4-D application after 4-6 leaf	Tolerant of heavy grazing once firmly established (i.e. 6" of	-	
Crested	stage. Mow when weeds are			Birds & small rodents eat seeds. Deer, antelope, and elk graze in
wheatgrass	beginning to bloom.	of the grazing season to maintain the long-term health	textured soils.	spring and fall. Provide upland & songbirds nest habitat.
				Spring and rail. Fromde apraira & songaines nest nustat.
		Deferred for at least 2 growing seasons and > 8" of new		
İ			Under dryland conditions, heavy to medium textured	
			soils should be seeded in the very early spring, and	
			medium to light textured soils should be seeded in the	
	2,4-D may be necessary after 4-6		late fall. Irrigated land should be seeded in spring or	
Tall Wheatgrass		1	late summer	Provides nesting cover and food for upland birds
<u> </u>		It can be used as a key species to determine grazing		
		1 .	Fluctuating the water level during the establishment	valuable forage species for big game and livestock later in the
		season, but becomes tough as the temperatures grow	period may speed establishment and spread. Water	growing season. Shoots are grazed by muskrat and geese, while
Sedge		colder	levels can be managed to enhance rhizome spread	seeds are eaten by small mammals and birds
		·	Soil should be kept saturated after planting. Plants can	
			tolerate 2.5 - 8 cm of standing water as long as the	
		· ·	level fluctuates over the growing season. Allow roots	
			to become established before flooding soils. Ideally,	
			plants should be planted in late Oct-Nov, enables roots	
			to become established before heavy flooding and	Seeds eaten by waterfowl, songbirds, small mammals, jack rabbits,
		Cattle graze rushes late in the season after more palatable	winter dormancy occurs. Survival is highest when	cottontail, muskrat, porcupine, quail, and gopher. Help improve
Rush		plants are eaten	plants are dormant and soils are moist	habitat for amphibians and spawning areas for fish.
				Fruits good source of energy and protein for squirrels, deer,
		The plants are browsed by livestock and big game from		coyotes, bears, etc. Many birds and mammals are sustained by the
		spring through fall, but the young spring leaves are		persistent dry hips when the ground is covered with snow.
Woods rose	<u>L</u>	especially palatable	Transplants, hardwood cuttings, and direct seeding	Thickets provide nesting and escape cover

#### Weed Control, Grazing Management, Planting Considerations and Value to Wildlife for Selected Revegetation Species

Species	Weed Control	Grazing Management	Planting considerations	Value to Wildlife
			Un-rooted cuttings used with good moisture	
			conditions. Rooted cuttings on droughty sites, Un-	
			rooted cuttings should be at least 12 inches long, with	This plant is provides wood and shelter for many game birds and
Willow			the lower 10 inches buried vertically in the sand.	forage for deer
				Thorny thickets create ideal cover for numerous song bird and
				animal species. It is a preferred food source of many songbirds and
		Silver buffaloberry is reported to be a suckering plant.		sharp-tailed grouse. Seeds of this shrub are dispersed in the
		However, the suckers do not seem to be strongly	Bare root seedlings should be planted in the spring,	droppings of birds and ungulates, but sprouting of the seeds seems
		,		to occur very rarely in nature. It is also a browse source for big
Buffaloberry		suckers.	mid-September	game animals, as well as rodents
33.113.030.17	WATER CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRA	outlet 3.	Third September	game animais, as wen as rouents
				Evergreen leaves and abundant seed production provide an
				excellent winter food source to numerous species of large
			Mix seeds w/ rice hulls, should not be sown in the	mammals including mule deer, black-tailed deer, white-tailed
Big sagebrush			same drill row w/ more aggressive forbs & grasses	deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep and jack rabbits.
			Seed best sown in April or May, placed in containers or	
			seed trays with a compost of peat & sand and a slow-	
			release fertilizer. Firm the medium gently, sow the	
			seed thinly and evenly on top, and cover with its own	
			depth of medium. Place the pots in a cold frame at 13º	
			C, seed should germinate 1-3 wks then placed into	Rabbits, lizards, rattlesnakes, coyotes, quails, and other birds use
Torrey			individual pots and grown in a greenhouse for the first	the seeds and foliage for food and habitat. The foliage and twigs
Quailbush			winter.	provide shelter for many small mammals and livestock
		At least 2 growing seasons for establishment prior to first		
		grazing season. Well adapted to winter use. Rotation		Deer relish this plant, especially during the winter. Quail use this
Fourwing	Keep weed free during the first	deferred system of grazing will aid this point in producing a	•	species for shady cover, roosting and food. It has been observed
saltbush	year	maximum yield for livestock	Can take 3-4 years to become established	to be used by porcupine, ground squirrel and jack rabbit
		Contains sodium & potassium oxalates that are toxic to		
		livestock. Browsing can be fatal in low quantities, but can		
		be consumed safely in light to very moderate amounts in		Provides important cover for wildlife and livestock, epically during
Black		the spring while leaves are growing, as long as there is a	Propagation by seed, bare root, container, and cutting.	the winter. Plants are low to low fair in protein levels depending
Greasewood		substantial amount of other preferable forage available	Density 10-300/ac	on soil and growing conditions