



UP - DATE

the **electronic** newsletter of the
Uncompahgre Plateau Project

UP Enhances Wildlife Habitat

The oak brush zone is excellent big game habitat. Often, however, it lacks the natural surface water needed to maintain herds. Establishment of dependable water sources in these areas can, therefore, be a great benefit to wildlife. This is especially true on the Uncompahgre Plateau where surface water can be scarce.

In September, an UP Team converted this muddy spring into a consistent, year-round water supply. Located on the rim of Dry Creek Basin, the spring was only intermittently used by elk and deer because of its unreliability. The spring was susceptible to drying up, becoming too muddy due to the animals tromping through it, or freezing in the winter months. In a two-day effort, using funds from a Seeking Common Ground Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, an UP team installed pipes and a metal trough to catch the spring water. By collecting the water in a trough, the spring is much more accessible to wildlife. The design creates a stream of water that falls and makes ripples that keep a small area from freezing, providing open water throughout the year.

This year-round water will provide long-term assistance to big game. By creating several reliable water sources in areas grazed by livestock and big game, we can maintain or improve the quality and health of the range.

October 2005



From an unreliable, muddy spring...



...to a dependable, clean, year-round water source.



UP Team member makes the final inspection