



Rigden Farm - Hog Treatment (FC City Council)



ALOTERRA

By valuing and respecting the processes of our natural world (and the impacts of people) we can restore our environment through mastery of our craft and the usage of time-honored practices.

Why are we here today?

Presentation Summary and Relationship to the values of Fort Collins



Species Diversification

Our current options are Bluegrass turf or Kochia weed monocultures. Both are limiting



Sustainable Treatments

2027 could see significantly higher water prices. How do we build a greener, sustainable park system across Rigden?



Anticipating Challenges

Spring rainfall has been going up since 2000. Our existing weed bank is *more* likely to germinate - therefore, seeding is critical



Aligning with the warmer weather

In poorer soils, with warmer weather, weeds have a marked advantage against natives. We need a plan for dealing with this.



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RESTORATION PRINCIPLES:

- 1. ADDRESS THE SEED BANK**
- 2. REDUCE WATER USE**
- 3. DESIGN PERMANENT SOLUTIONS**



1. ADDRESS THE SEED BANK



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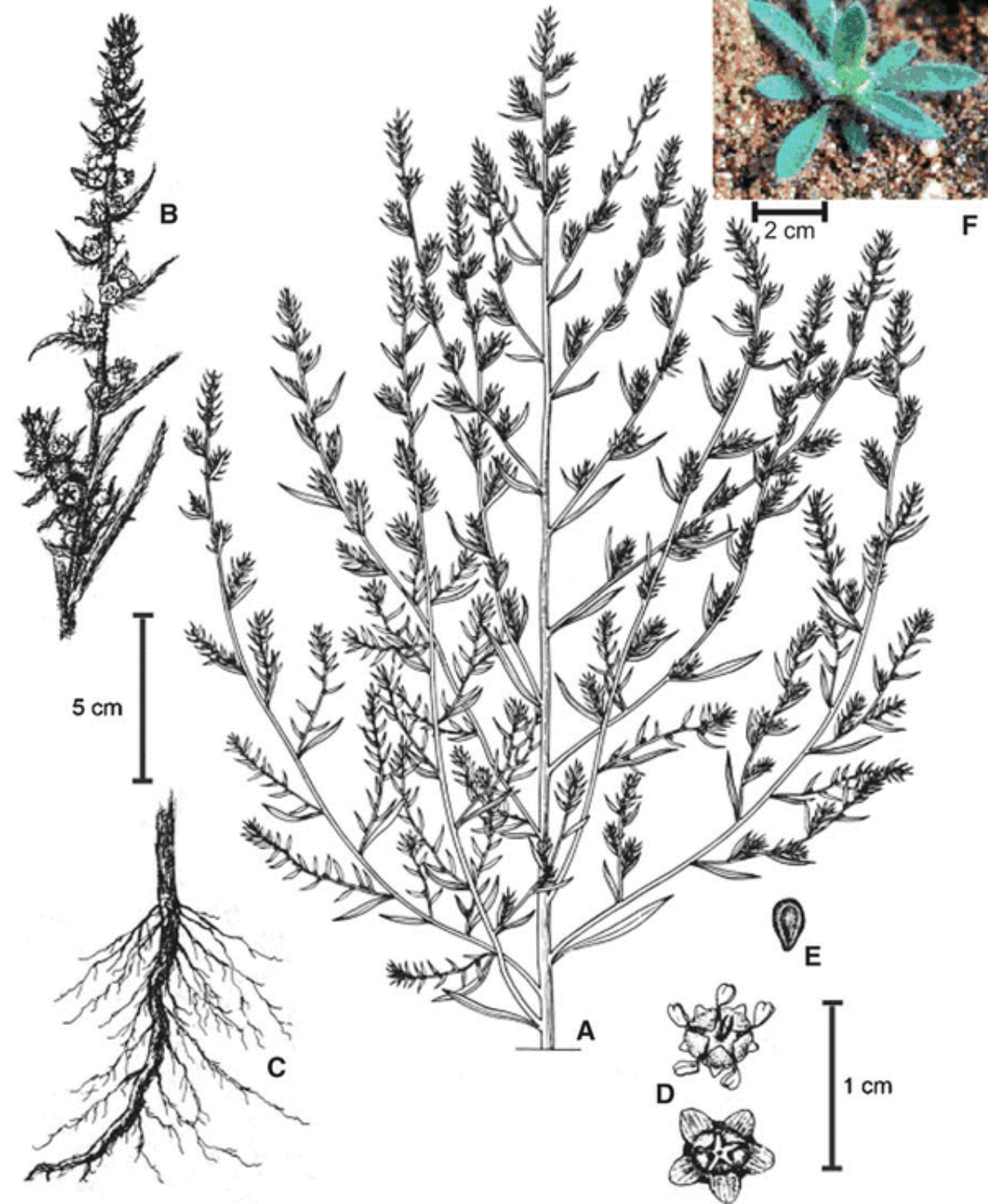


(a)



(b)

- >14,000 viable seeds per year per mature plant
- 14,520 plants per acre
- >101m seeds per year for our test area
- More than 1B seeds distributed so far





1. ADDRESS THE SEED BANK



2. REDUCE WATER USE

8ft

3. DESIGN PERMANENT SOLUTIONS





TREATING KOCHIA WITH PIGS



FULLY CONSUMES ALL PARTS OF PLANT



10 MINUTES LATER...





SIMPLE SOLUTIONS



CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS



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By valuing and respecting the interconnections of our natural world and the impacts of people we can treat the restoration process with intentionality through our growing mastery of our trade and best practices for successful outcomes.

DEALING WITH CONCERNS:

- 1. NON DANGEROUS**
- 2. NON SMELLY**
- 3. NON EXPENSIVE**
- 4. NON TOXIC**
- 5. VERY CUTE**









Changes proposed through this public process

- 1. Odor mitigation**
- 2. Noise mitigation**
- 3. Project completion**
- 4. Dust mitigation**
- 5. Food storage**
- 6. Public health**
- 7. Animal removal**



1. Odor mitigation

- Cover manure with straw and re-seed each small area after pigs are rotated to a new paddock
- Cap pig density: no more than 15 pigs per year



2. Noise mitigation

- Provide pigs with sound-dampening shelters for sleeping at night
- Reducing stress and boredom
- Increase grass buffer zone
- Limit # of male boars to 1 (necessary for herd protection)



3. Project Completion

- Once the invasives are down to 12.5% - 15% coverage (ocular estimation) we will plant the permanent seed mix (see following slide)
- Thereafter, we will spot spray invasives and interseed bare areas until the site reaches “significant completion” or only small patches of weeds that are manageable with hand removal or spot spraying

Revegetation Seed Mix - Permanent

Upland Seed Mix

Scientific Name (USDA)	Common Name (USDA)	Cultivar or Ecotype	Life History	% Mix	Pounds PLS Needed
<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass	Paloma	NPG-L	8	2.89
<i>Adenolinum lewisii</i>	Lewis flax	Maple Grove or CO ecotype	NPF	3	0.52
<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	prairie sagewort	CO Ecotype preferred	NPF	3	0.03
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	sideoats grama	Niner	NPG-L	8	2.15
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	blue grama	Fremont CO ecotype	NPG-L	10	0.69
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	buffalograss	Cody	NPG-L	8	7.28
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	Rocky Mountain beeplant	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NAF	4	1.80
<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	plains coreopsis	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NBF	3	0.11
<i>Dalea candida</i>	white prairie clover	CO Ecotype preferred	NPF	3	0.41
<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	squirreltail	Pueblo or Wapiti	NPG-L	5	1.33
<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	slender wheatgrass	Pryor	NPG-L	6	2.11
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	blanketflower	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NPF	4	1.09
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	common sunflower	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NAF	3	1.33
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	prairie Junegrass	Sims Mesa	NPG-L	6	0.13
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamot	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NPF	3	0.11
<i>Nassella viridula</i>	green needlegrass	Cucharas	NPG-L	8	2.25
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	western wheatgrass	Arriba	NPG-L	8	3.58
<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i>	tanseyleaf tansyaster	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NBF	4	0.50
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	upright prairie coneflower	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NPF	3	0.20

Revegetation Seed Mix - Temporary

Upland Seed Mix					
Scientific Name (USDA)	Common Name (USDA)	Cultivar or Ecotype	Life History	% Mix	Pounds PLS Needed
Quickguard	Quickguard	Quickguard	IAG-L	12	46.51
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	blue grama	Fremont CO ecotype	NPG-L	25	1.72
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	purple prairie clover	Kaneb or Stephanie	NPF	31	5.39
<i>Dalea candida</i>	white prairie clover	CO Ecotype preferred	NPF	31	4.22
<i>Vicia americana</i>	American vetch	CO Ecotype (or VNS)	NPF	1	1.55



4. Dust mitigation

- Apply water to treatment area every other day
- Additionally, our new protocol (straw + seed immediately after rotation) will increase ground humidity and reduce dust



5. Food Storage

- Pig food comes from both herbaceous cover and locally-sourced fermented grain (barley, corn, triticale)
- Kept in 55 gallon drums (x2) that are sealed and protected by t-posts to ensure no animals can knock it over.
- Rodents cannot get into the containers



6. Public Health

- Recent research on animal E.coli by researchers at CU Boulder, Cornell, and Stanford shows that animals fed fermented grain have significantly lower concentrations of harmful E.coli than otherwise
- Additionally, the amount of manure in this treatment area is nowhere near the amount typically viewed as a bio-hazard
- See Larimer County /Colorado state definitions of for concentrated animal feeding operation & animal point source pollution

INSTEAD
THIS



6. Public Health

- In fact, there is a MUCH higher concentration of E.coli in pet waste flowing freely in gutters during a storm surge event
- That said, we are mitigating any possible contamination by pig manure in the following ways:

Straw wattle

Grass Buffer

Soil infiltration - enabled by freshly disturbed soil and low stocking density



STRAW
WATTLE



GRASS
BUFFER



7. Animal Removal

- In the event of an animal death, staff will be informed and Aloterra will address the removal the same day or by the next morning at the latest if not contacted by City staff when Aloterra does the pig check-ins

Proposed Solution:
Cheaper, Faster, &
more Eco-friendly



Alternatives Summary

1. **Status Quo:**

- **Pro:** Cheap
- **Con:** Does not address latent seed bank or existing weeds

2. **Strip and Haul Soil + Re-seed:**

- **Pro:** Effective
- **Con:** 3-4x more expensive, requires 4-5 years of maintenance

3. **Boom Spray + Re-seed:**

- **Pro:** Action-oriented
- **Con:** requires 4-5 years of maintenance, does not address seed bank. 50% more expensive



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ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION