



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management



# Seeding the Future: Wyoming Abandoned Mine Lands – Native Plants Project

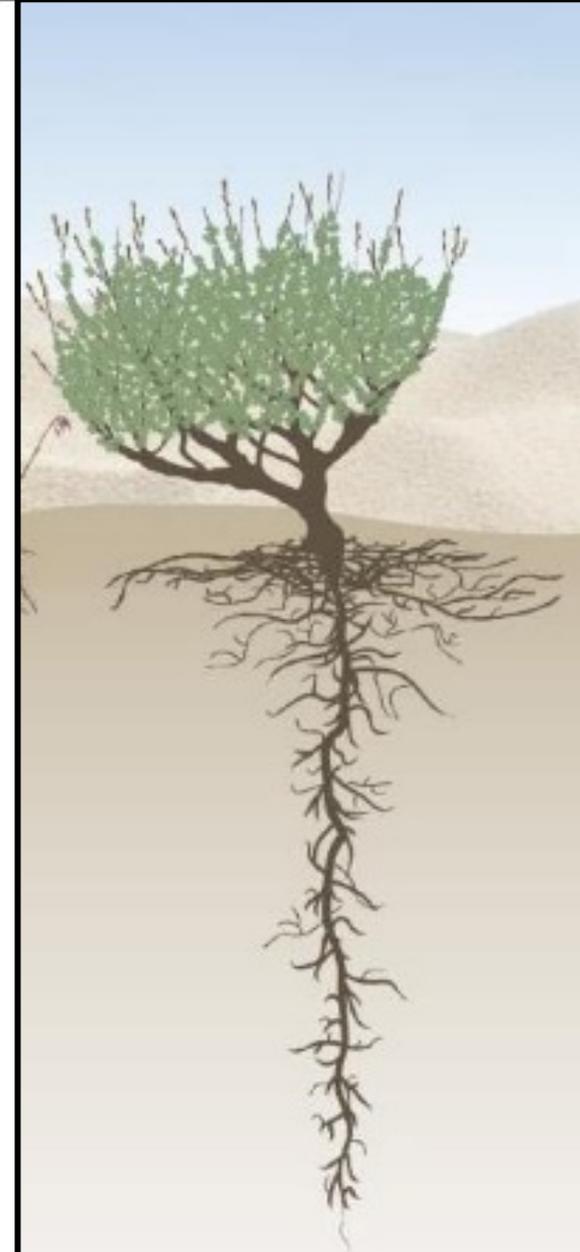


A sunset view on the sagebrush-covered top of Pinedale Mesa and the magnificent Wind River Range. Sublette County, Wyoming. Photo: Dave Showalter



# Overview

- Sagebrush Seedling Planting, Education, and Outreach
- Wyoming Sagebrush in Prisons Project
- Developing Innovative Seed Technology





# Creation

The AML Native Plants Project (AML NP<sup>2</sup>) was established in 2016 by the Wyoming BLM State Office AML Program, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – AML Division, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).





# Mission Statement

The mission of the AML NP<sup>2</sup> is to help improve wildlife habitat by re-establishing sagebrush and native plant communities at previously reclaimed mine sites.

From this...



To This...





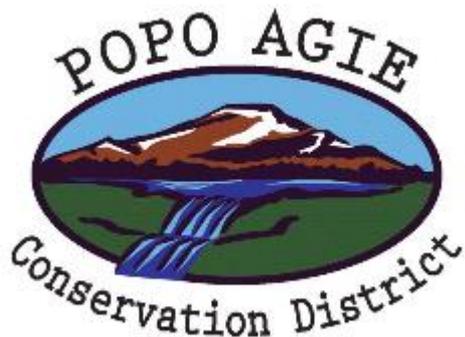
# AML NP<sup>2</sup> Goals

- Improving habitat diversity on previously reclaimed mine sites
- Forging sustainable partnerships around reclaiming sagebrush ecosystems
- Creating education and outreach opportunities
- Exploring alternative re-vegetation techniques
- Monitoring the success of the project
- Creating a blueprint for similar projects
- Restoring greater sage-grouse core





# Partners





# How does it work?





# Support Programs





# Seeds of Success

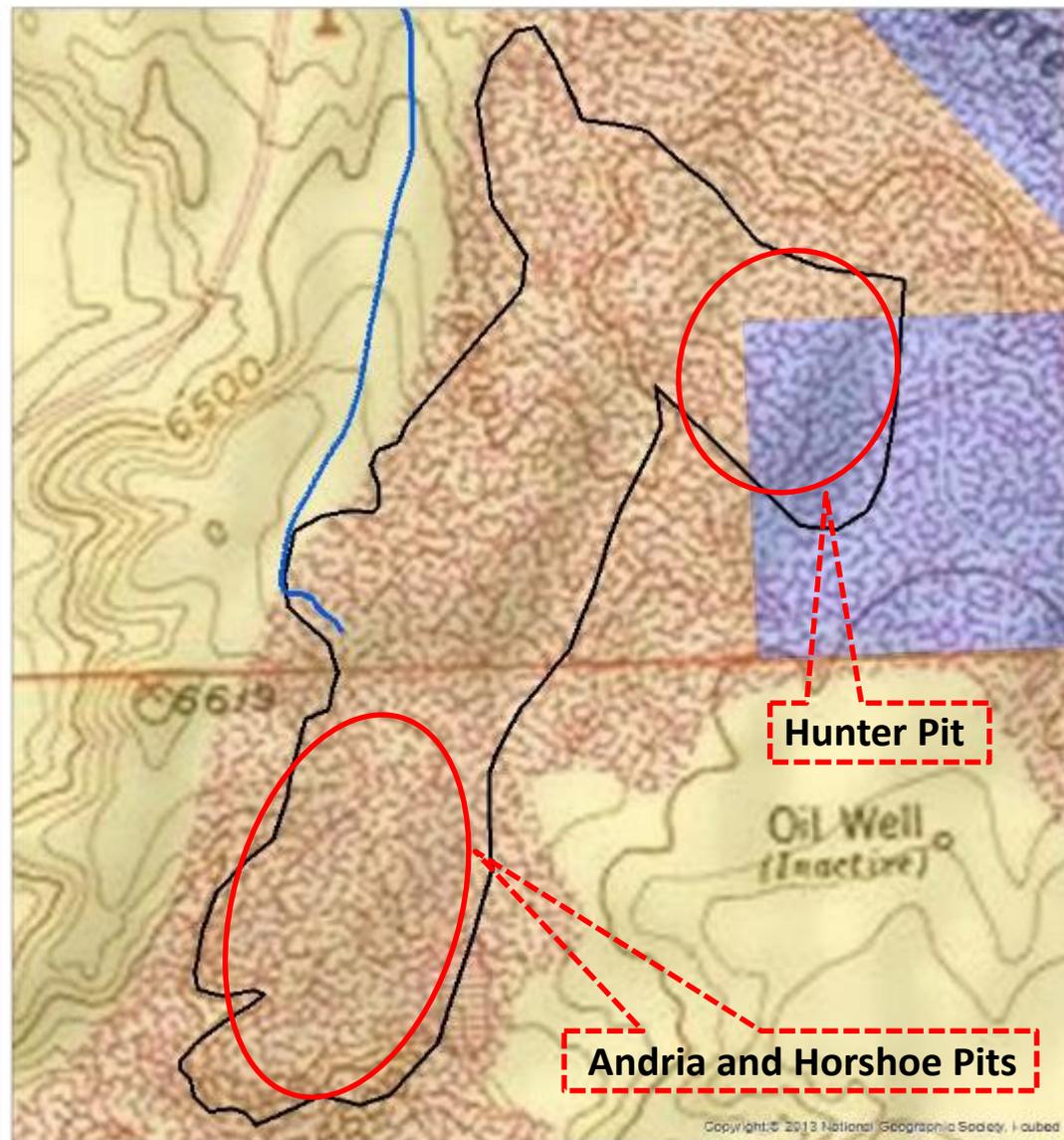






The Andria Hunter Mine consisted of three open pits before being reclaimed in 1996.

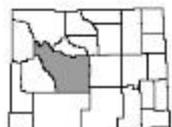
- Andria and Horseshoe Pits
- Hunter Pit

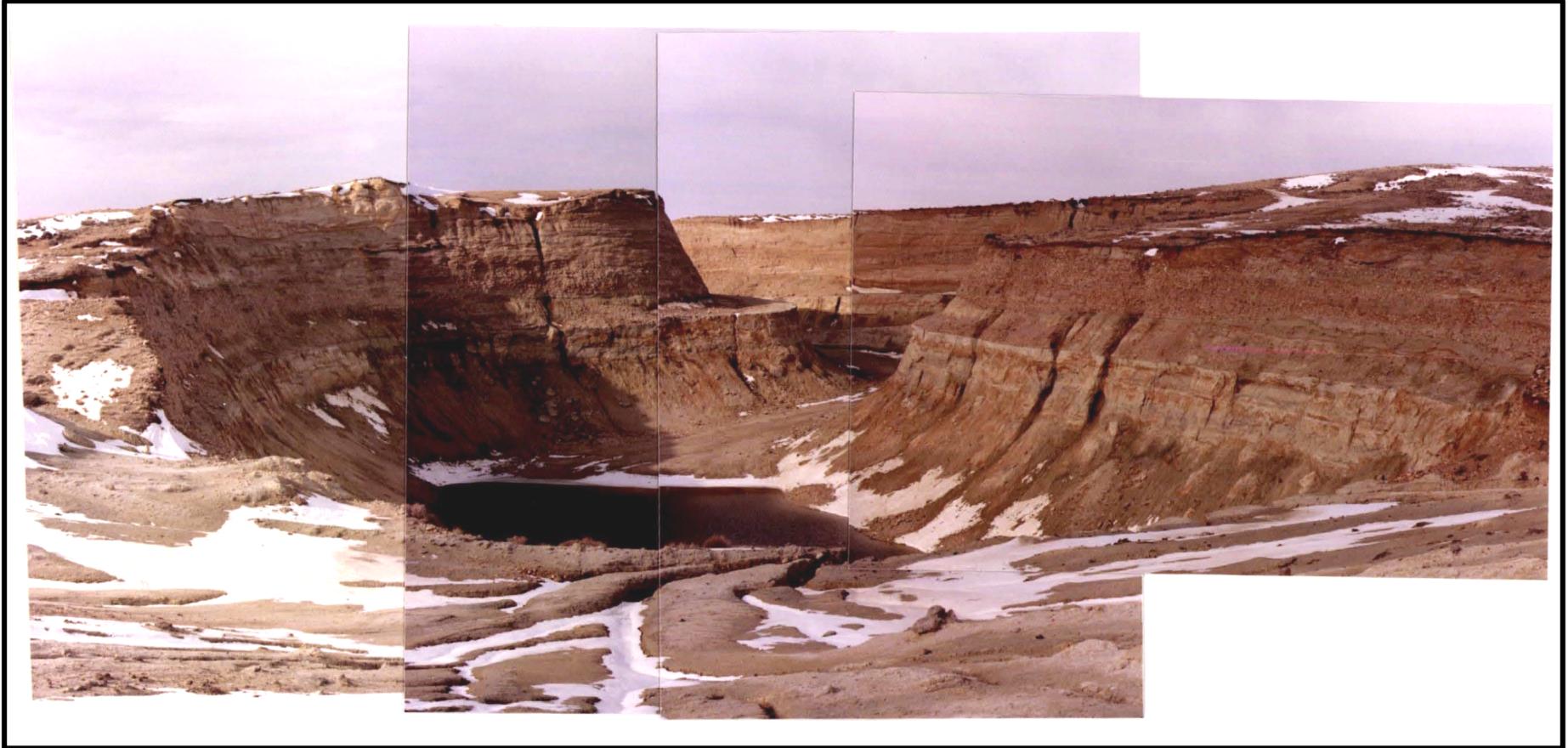


Map of the previously reclaimed Andria Hunter Mine in  
T32N, R91W, Sections 1 and 12 (1:6,000).



- Access Road
- Andria Hunter Mine
- Bureau of Land Management
- State





**Andria Pit in 1992**





# Education





# AML NP<sup>2</sup> Art Contest





# 2017 Planting





# Media Coverage



WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA





# 2018 Planting



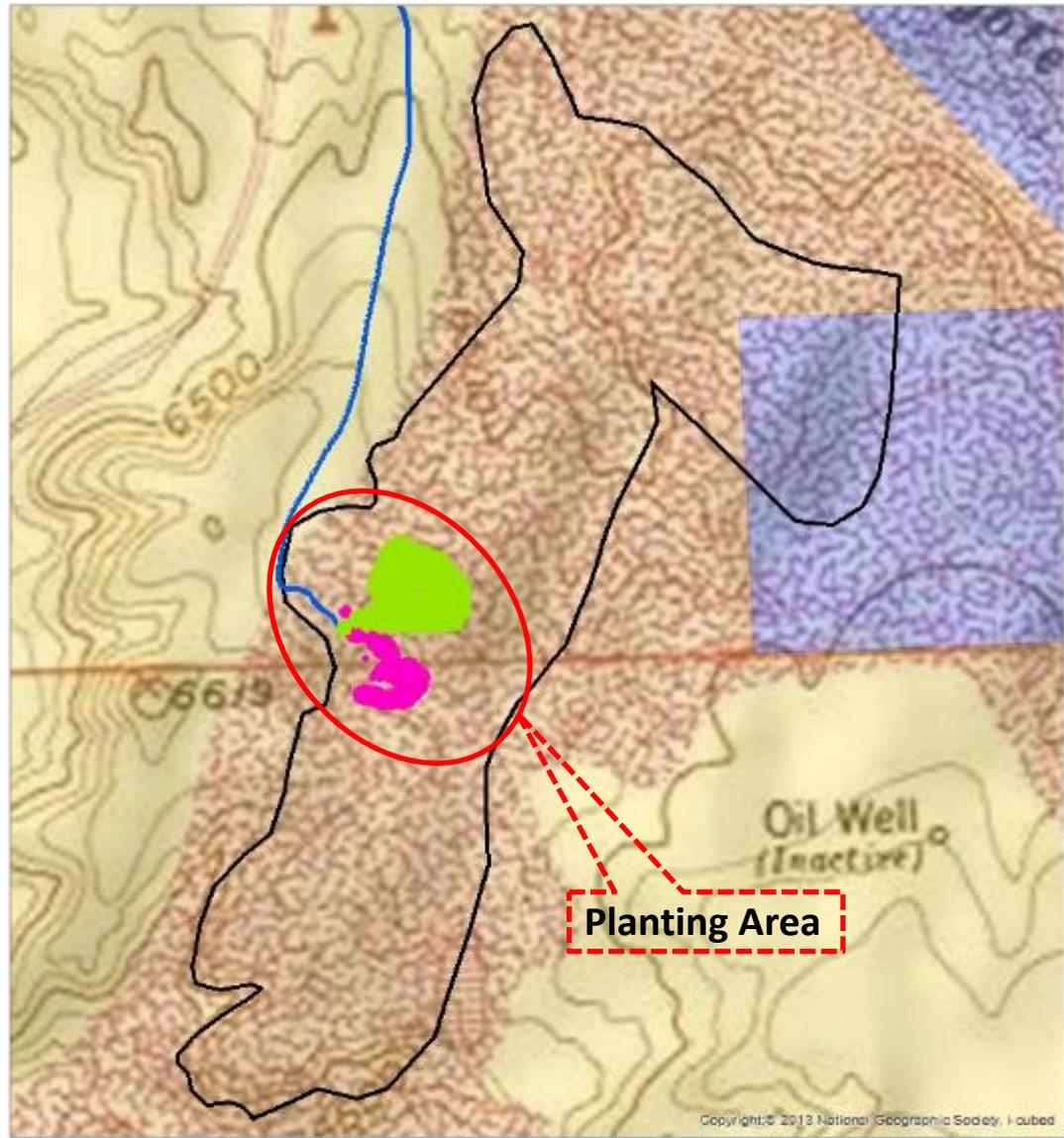
A background photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a dark jacket and a tan hat, kneeling in a field of dry, brown earth. The person appears to be engaged in seeding or planting. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

# Seeding the Future of Conservation





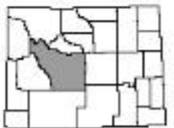
Currently, we have planted over 2,000 sagebrush seedlings covering approximately 4 acres.



Map of the previously reclaimed Andria Hunter Mine in T32N, R91W, Sections 1 and 12 (1:6,000).



- 2017 Seedlings
- 2018 Seedlings
- Access Road
- Andria Hunter Mine
- Bureau of Land Management
- State

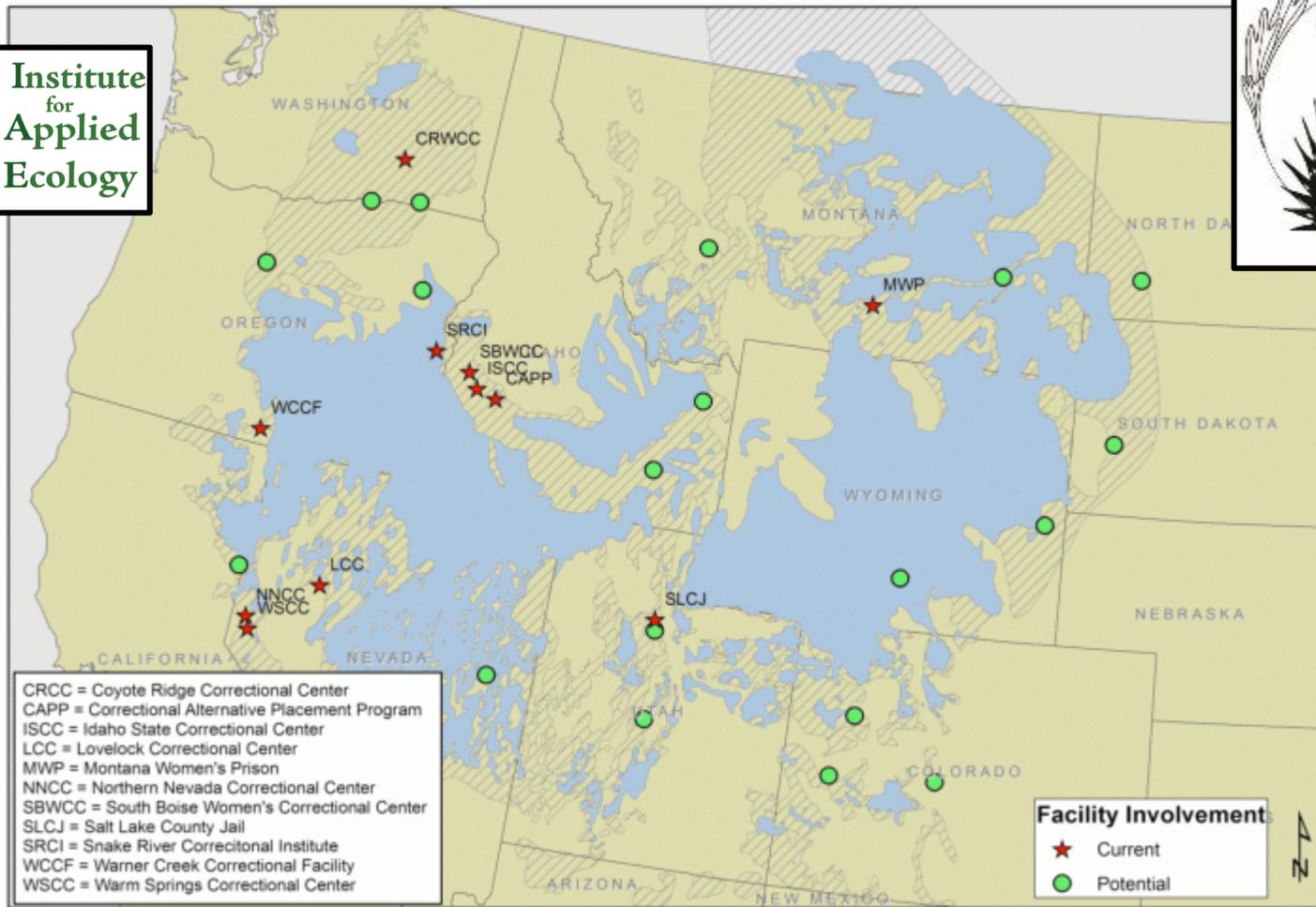




# The Uncertainty of Federal Funding



Overlay of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat and Prison Facilities\*





# The Future of Funding Seedlings





# Thinking Outside the Planting Table





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# The Future of Seed Technology

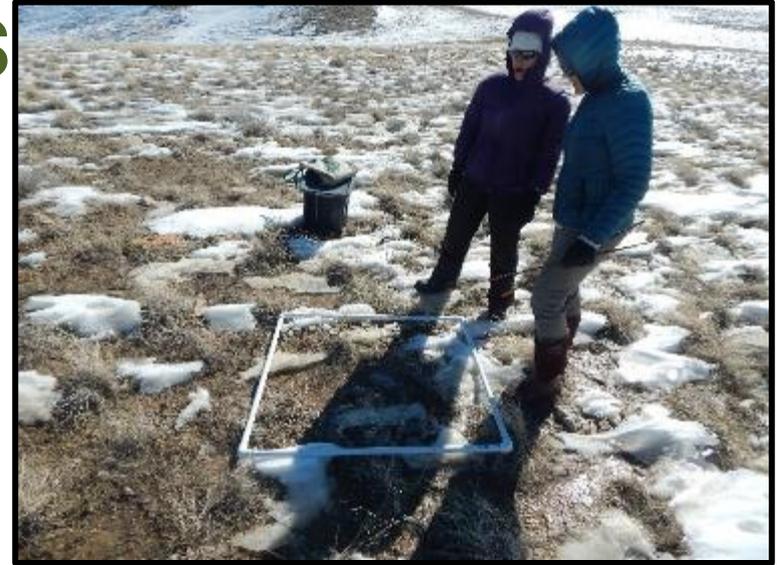


The Nature  
Conservancy





# Seed Pod Test Plots





# Seed Pod Laboratory





# Industry Partnerships

## *Partnering in Conservation and Environmental Stewardship*







**And  
we can  
help!**



**NATIVE PLANTS  
— PROJECT —**