

## FHA REVEGETATION PROJECT

1997

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### DISCUSSION

The majority of the FHA Restoration/Revegetation (RES/REV) field work project occurred in August and September. Bryce Canyon National Park received an abundance of precipitation intermittent with sunny weather during those months, further making it possible to achieve very favorable results. All RES/REV field locations received nitrogen fertilizer (30-0-0) broadcast/incorporate treatment at the time when the native grass seed was planted. Recent nitrogen fertilizer research conducted within the last 4-5 years at Bryce showed increased success rates in re-establishing native grass seed ground cover. With the favorable climatic conditions this year, grass seed germination averaged 2 weeks. Further resulting in establishing native grass cover prior to the forthcoming winter and optimizing the use of following early spring moisture availability conditions. By timing the planting process in late summer/early fall, it is our hope to increase RES/REV success.

Shrubs (Purshia tridentata, Symphoricarpos oreophilus, and Cercocarpus ledifolius) from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service located in Meeker, CO arrived on September 16, 1997. They were transplanted at the designated sites within a few days of their arrival. Many of the shrubs were in poor condition upon arrival. Their conditions included being too young to transplant (fragile root systems), leaf yellowing due to over watering, and low plant germination rate within their provided containers. To encourage success in a given area, 2 to 3 shrubs were planted together.

### METHODS AND RESULTS

| <u>Location</u>                                | <u>Application</u>             | <u>Results</u> |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| North of 1st pullout<br>south of Rainbow Point | Reseeding/fertilized           | germination    |
| Black Birch Canyon                             | Reseeding/shrubs<br>fertilized | germination    |

|                                           |                                          |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| North of 1st pullout<br>after Black Birch | Reseeding/shrubs<br>fertilized           | germination                     |
| Ponderosa Canyon                          | Reseeding/shrubs<br>fertilized/woodchips | germination                     |
| Agua Canyon                               | Reseeding/shrubs<br>fertilized           | germination                     |
| Steep hillside south<br>of Natural Bridge | Reseeding/fertilized<br>waterbars        | corrected erosion<br>pattern    |
| Natural Bridge                            | Reseeding/fertilized<br>shrubs/woodchips | germination                     |
| Farview Point                             | Reseeding/fertilized                     | work completed<br>in late Sept. |