



Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Project Anthony Creek Dispersed Area Restoration



2016 Summary

Description:

The Anthony Creek Dispersed Area Restoration project consists of 6 user-created dispersed camping locations along Anthony Creek on the White Sulphur Ranger District. The area has been popular with visitors for decades due to proximity to Blue Bend Campground, Big Draft Wilderness, and Anthony Creek, which is stocked with trout. The impacts on soil and vegetation are moderate to severe at each site. Forest staff recognized the need to address concentrated use within the riparian area to reduce impacts while still providing quality recreational opportunities. In addition to restoration of campsites, there is a need to address soil compaction and root damage to trees at the Blue Bend swimming/fishing area and to provide safe parking areas for visitors.



Pre- and post-restoration photos of gully erosion along Anthony Creek. Photo by Matt Edwards.

Results/Other Details

In 2016, restoration work was completed at campsites, and a parking lot was constructed to accommodate users. Compacted areas at each site were ripped, non-native plant species were removed, and areas were seeded with native grasses, forbs, and wildflowers. Hardened camping pads were constructed to protect soil and provide suitable sites to camp. Interpretive panels were installed at each site with a new "Respect the River" message and pertinent recreation information.

Restoration efforts will continue in FY17, including outreach for site users and plantings of native shrub species at key sites in the project area.

An impacted dispersed camping site was hardened and seeded to minimize erosion and improve visitor experiences



Year Project Initiated: FY16

Partners Involved: WVDNR, AFHA AmeriCorps

Greenbrier River Watershed Association

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