



Figure 1. ICWD field assistant Jennifer Hanson (left) stands next to pedestaled remains of a meadow bunchgrass, *Sporobolus airoides*. Remnant roots of the grass still cling to and bind the black, organic soil, even though most of the surrounding soil has eroded away (detail above). The site, south of Independence, converted from meadow to saltbush scrub during the last century primarily due to groundwater pumping. The conversion occurred prior to the Water Agreement, but relics of the past serve to remind how quickly and totally the local environment can change.

Figure 2. This pedestal sports living sprigs of meadow bunchgrass, *Sporobolus airoides*, in this photo taken in 2007. The site, near Aberdeen, is a somewhat-recovered meadow that suffered the effects of groundwater pumping from about 1987-1997. Water table recovery allowed dormant grasses to resprout, but the local environment experienced soil loss, leaving some living grasses and shrubs on pedestals.

