

4001 - Prescribed Fire Size Effects on Medusahead Threshold Reversal



Fire can be a great management tool to keep rangeland vegetation in check, but important factors such as frequency, size, and intensity affect the success of using prescribed fire. This study is concerned with the minimum spatial scale of prescribed fire that will successfully reverse the threshold processes that allow medusahead to dominate landscapes. Researchers will also be examining the influence of cattle grazing on medusahead dispersal and reinvasion rates after a prescribed fire. There will be an application of varying sizes of burn treatments (0.1 ha, 1 ha, and 10 ha) and control units, with half of each unit located within cattle grazing parameters. SFREC appeals as a research location because it is well suited to serve as a demonstration site for medusahead management, where seminars may be led that will show both land managers and researchers the progress being made in medusahead management.