

Juniper Encroachment

Western juniper is common in the high desert of Eastern Oregon and has become a dominant landscape feature since the late 1800's. Historical evidence indicates these landscapes were once prevalent with shrubs, grasses, and forbes.

While juniper are native to our area they are very aggressive and have a unique ability to consume water throughout the year - which allows them to out-compete other vegetation. With roots that span three times the height of the tree, a single juniper can consume an average of 30 to 80 gallons of water/day.



Juniper expansion has shown a negative impact on forage production, wildlife habitat, fire cycles, and overall watershed functions. Treatment options are available to reverse this trend.

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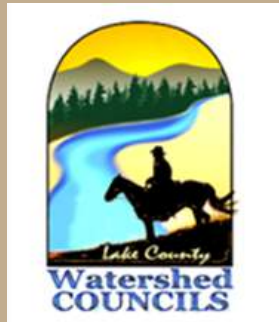
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Managing Juniper in Lake County



Benefits and Success

Benefits and success have been obtained by landowners who have developed a juniper removal strategy. While your goals may vary, juniper treatment is an attempt to restore hydrological functions of the watershed and establish a more balanced and resilient ecosystem from the upland slopes to the meadows, streams, and lakes below.

Working with LCUWC

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC) seeks grant funding for upland enhancement projects (such as juniper treatment) through a variety of sources. 90% of the funds are put on the ground - where treatment can occur. 10% is retained for administrative purposes.

Landowners who choose to involve the LCUWC are expected to identify their land management goals, grazing plan (if applicable) and contribute an In-kind match of 25%. This match may be cash, labor, materials or equipment; or a combination.

Local contractors are hired to complete the work while the LCUWC stays involved to see the project through from start to finish.



Hand Cut and Hand Piled



Hand Cut and Machine Piled



Hand Cut, Lop and Scatter

Juniper Treatment

Juniper treatment requires trees to be cut, piled, and then burned for final cleanup. The type of treatment can depend on the topography, existing vegetation, and desired acreage to be treated.

Post Treatment Maintenance

CUTTING AND PRUNING

Once juniper have been removed from the property, seedlings and sprouts will continue to work their way back in. To maintain your investment, annual cutting and pruning of new starts is important.

PRESCRIBE FIRE

Reduction of large juniper reduces fuel load on the landscape. Ground fire can be introduced during certain times of the year to help prevent new sprouts.

SEEDING AND HERBICIDE TREATMENTS

With the juniper removed there is less competition with other vegetation, even weeds. Evaluate the site to see if noxious weeds or invasive annual grasses are an issue. If you have an over population of noxious weeds or annual grasses, you may want to treat with an appropriate herbicide or a grass/forb seed mixture. You may also need a combination of both.