

Evaluating historic seeding treatments in western grasslands and shrublands using the Land Treatment Digital Library

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Improving the effectiveness of post-fire seeding treatments partly depends on capturing and evaluating local and institutional knowledge about the successes and failures associated with previous seedings. The Land Treatment Digital Library (LTDL) was created by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to permanently archive information about land treatments on Department of Interior lands. The LTDL currently houses >4,600 seeding treatment records collected across California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. The entire western U.S. will be completed by 2014. Potentially useful information about seeding treatments, including seed lists, seed application rates, and seeding success are available for about 20% of the records. Here I demonstrate the utility and limitations of summarizing data from the LTDL to evaluate historic seeding treatments. I conclude with a brief demonstration of the power of the LTDL as a tool to improve studies that examine post-fire seeding success.