

## Effectiveness of sagebrush steppe post-fire rehabilitation projects: Short and long-term responses

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Wildfires continue to threaten the foundational shrub of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem, *Artemisia tridentata*. Post-fire seedings have been used as a tool for rehabilitating sagebrush throughout the west, but a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of these treatments has never been done. We took two approaches to examine success of these seedings. First, we conducted a synthesis of the literature including a meta-analysis of rehabilitation project effectiveness determined at the end of the third year after the project was implemented. The synthesis provided insights into the importance of elevation and precipitation for aerial seeding success, while this was not the case for drill seedings. Secondly, we initiated a field evaluation of rehabilitation projects that were implemented between 5 and 15 years earlier. This study examined nearly 100 projects across the northern Great Basin including California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah and compared locations that were burned and seeded, burned and unseeded, and unburned and unseeded. In addition, the field study compared both aerial and drill seedings. In this presentation we provide our preliminary analysis of this study. We determine if the findings from the synthesis are supported by independent analyses of field data that were collected 5 to 15 years after the original seedings.