

Effects of multiple fires on sagebrush steppe plant communities

Eva Robinson, Matt Davies, Jon Bakker

Sagebrush shrubs provide habitat to wildlife and prevent soil loss from wind and water erosion.

Sagebrush burns intensely and few seeds remain after a fire.



After a single fire, the community retained many native species.



Bunchgrasses and native forbs recovered.



However, invasive species such as cheatgrass and tumbleweed colonized disturbed areas and produced abundant seeds.



Will the community diversity and composition recover, or will invasive species take over as the landscape is disturbed by frequent fires?