

Opportunities

The juniper invasion across central and eastern Oregon offers both challenges and opportunities to address the problem through markets. Juniper can be used to create a variety of unique products from custom furniture, to log homes, to providing fuel for renewable energy biomass operations.



Juniper Products

Log Cabins Fence Posts
Flooring Furniture & Cabinets
Biofuel & Firewood more ...

Juniper Working Group

The Juniper Working Group is a collection of private landowners, resource managers, conservation groups and businesses that are concerned about the expansion of western juniper. Their mission is three fold:

1. Restore healthy watersheds.
2. Create family wage jobs.
3. Develop juniper products

This will be accomplished by mobilizing local forest products knowledge and skills and by partnering with community members who are concerned about juniper expansion and are willing to address the problem.

Additional Information

The OSU Extension - Crook County Office
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook/index.php>
or 541-447-6228

The Juniper Working Group
www.coic.org/juniper.htm

The Western Juniper Manufacturers
www.westernjuniper.org/index.php

The Western Juniper Commercialization Project
<http://juniper.oregonstate.edu/index.php>

This brochure was produced through funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

The Quiet Invasion Western Juniper in Oregon



Keystone Ranch 1888



Keystone Ranch 1989

**Western Juniper is
changing the landscape.**

History

Impacts

Treatments

Opportunity

You can make a difference!

Overview



Western juniper has been a part of the Oregon landscape for thousands of years. For much of that time, periodic wildfire kept juniper confined

to rim-rock, rock-outcrops and shallow or unproductive soils where fire was less frequent.

In the past 130 years (since European settlement), juniper has rapidly expanded across the landscape, invading lands that have been historically dominated by sagebrush and native grasses. When juniper trees begin to occupy a site, there is often a corresponding loss of diverse native shrub, grass and wildflower communities, creating severe impacts on watershed function, wildlife habitat and livestock forage production. Wildfire suppression has been a crucial factor in the expansion of juniper.

1930's Oregon
1.5 million acres
of juniper

1990's Oregon
6.5 million acres
of juniper

Impacts



Wildfire

Juniper expansion increases the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire and reduces

managers ability to maintain healthy landscapes.

Watershed

As juniper begins to occupy a site, the loss of understory vegetation - and resulting bare soil - limit the watershed's ability to capture, store and safely release water.



Wildlife

Native species, such as the sage grouse, suffer from loss of habitat, loss of forage and a loss of hiding cover



due to the expansion of juniper across the landscape.

Making a Difference

Treatments

Juniper can be controlled through cuts or prescribed fire. Do you have land that requires treatment? Contact the OSU Crook County Extension for assistance.



Picture Perfect Contrast!
Junipers were removed from the land on the left 10 years ago.

Get the Facts

- Juniper is a native species, historically occupying unique parts of the landscape.
- Juniper expansion away from these unique landscapes is the result of many factors.
- When juniper expands into new areas, there is a loss of understory vegetation.
- Juniper occupation can harm the health of a watershed.
- Juniper occupation can eliminate habitat for native plants and wildlife
- Juniper treatments can be done through cutting and prescribed fire.
- Juniper is being used to make useful products.