**Managing Invasive Annual Grasses

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 **Abstract:**Invasive winter annual grasses, including downy brome, medusahead, and ventenata are causing economic and environmental damage in Utah. These invasive grasses, reduce available forage, impact native and desirable vegetation, and appear to facilitate invasions by other species. Wildfires due to invasive annual grasses consume tens to hundreds of thousands of acres each year costing millions of dollars in losses and management costs. Research conducted at Utah State University the past 20 years has sought to identify strategies for managing invasive annual grasses and protecting desirable plant communities. Studies have evaluated fire, mowing, reseeding, and herbicides. In many instances, a given site has been managed effectively for 1 or 2 years. In the few instances where desirable species plantings have been successful, invasive annual grass resurgence has been delayed even longer. With herbicides alone invasive annual grass control can be improved through proper timing and with different chemical combinations. However, even when properly applied none of the previously investigated treatments could prevent invasive annual grass from becoming dominant again within a few years. More recent research with a newly developed herbicide has shown long term suppression of invasive annual grasses. In these trials, long-term suppression of the annual grasses has allowed native and desirable species to increase in cover and biomass. Some treatments are showing invasive annual grass control almost 5 years after treatment. All of the different herbicides and their unique properties will allow development of effective management and restoration plans for invasive annual grass invaded landscapes.