PLANT INVASION

Plant invasions on Great Plains Grasslands; status, successes, and moving forward

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Abstract

Plant invasions in the North American Great Plains present unique problems for sustainable management. New and persisting noxious weeds and invasive native plant species are an ongoing threat to productivity and biodiversity of these valuable lands. Disturbance, multi-stakeholder conflicts, patchy patterns of ownership, and bureaucracy make implementation of invasion management plans difficult. In this paper we outline the status, special needs, successes and failures of plant invasion management in grasslands in terms of mission, prioritization, tools, implementation, monitoring and restoration. We describe new strategies and researched tools that have succeeded locally or are upcoming, and may be utilized across management units. We also discuss the status of managing invasions sustainably on National Grasslands, and strategies to improve interactions among stakeholders, land managers, public agencies and researchers that are required for the future of successful plant invasion management.