



## **Kochia and Non-Natives for Restoration, Good or Bad?**

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The 2006 Buckskin Wildland fire burned 1400 acres of pinyon juniper and sagebrush woodlands on the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. There was not a consensus on how the restoration should take place. Due to its monument status some felt that only non-native species could be used while others felt that other species should be used in order to meet the objectives for ground cover and soil erosion. With support from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources a compromise of native and non-native species were used. The project was initiated by flying forage species on, then implementing a one way chaining to break down standing dead trees and cover the seed. When this was completed forage kochia was flown on. Monitoring showed that the forage kochia became established within the first year (2007), and that non-native forage species were establishing after the second year (2008). Many of the native species in the seed mix have not established to this point. Continued monitoring will be completed to track this project over time to identify whether or not forage kochia and non-native species are the right tools to meet restoration success criteria sooner than native species.

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