



Consumption of Salt Cedar and Willow *Baccharis* by Boer-Cross Goats

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Salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and willow baccharis (*Baccharis salicina*) are invading rangelands throughout Texas, particularly areas with high soil moisture. Both species often dominate mesic sites throughout the southwestern U.S. Control efforts are often hampered because of cost and reduction in non-target species growing on the same site. The objective of this study was to determine if Boer-cross goats would consume salt cedar and willow baccharis. Goats (n=35) were randomly divided into four treatments. Treatment 1 was fed saltcedar, Treatment 2 was fed willow baccharis, Treatment 3 was fed saltcedar and willow baccharis, and Treatment 4 was fed alfalfa pellets. Goats ate more ($P<0.05$) salt cedar than willow baccharis. Intake of willow baccharis was apparently limited because of aversive postingestive feedback experienced by goats. When salt cedar was fed alone, intake was higher ($P<0.05$) than when it was fed with willow baccharis. Conversely, willow baccharis intake was higher when it was fed with salt cedar. Alfalfa and water intake were similar ($P>0.05$) among treatments. Collectively, the results of this study indicate that goats may be a viable option for reducing salt cedar cover but may have little impact on willow baccharis cover.

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