

Establishing peer-learning networks for effective, low-cost medusahead control within the ranching community.

California Invasive Plant Council Symposium

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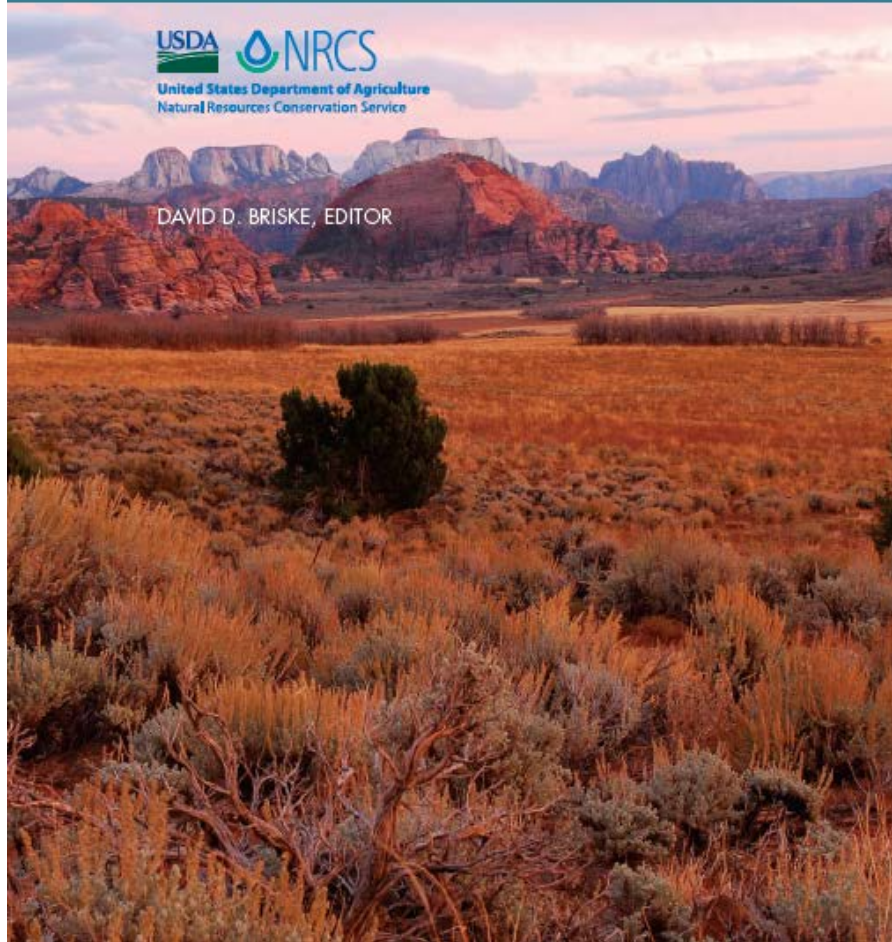
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Conservation Benefits of Rangeland Practices

Assessment, Recommendations, and Knowledge Gaps



DAVID D. BRISKE, EDITOR



CHAPTER

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Invasive Plant Management on Anticipated Conservation Benefits: A Scientific Assessment

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Demonstration Projects

- Management plans driven by the ranchers' needs
- Demonstrate low-cost treatments
- Use these as examples to begin conversations



Medusahead—Current Situation

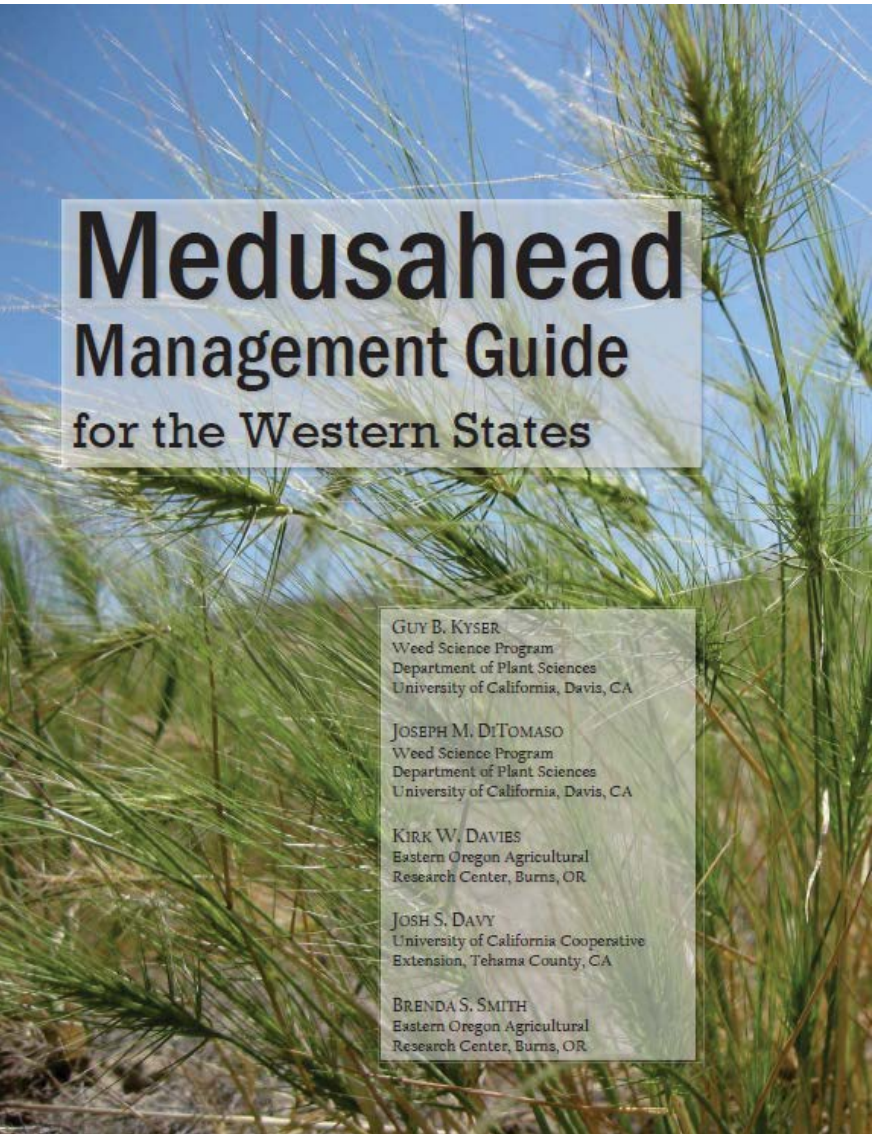
- Occupies nearly 1 million hectares in western states (Duncan et al. 2004)
- Alters fire regimes, degrades wildlife habitat quality, reduces rangeland biodiversity, changes soil nutrient cycles, reduces forage quality for livestock production
- Strong competitor



Current Realities of Ranching (and Rangelands)

- Grazing lease prices headed towards \$30+ per acre
- Hay prices have doubled in 10 years
- Strong need for maintaining current livestock productivity on California rangelands
- [Cameron, Marty, and Holland. 2014. "Whither the Rangeland? Protection and Conversion in California's Rangeland Ecosystems." PLoS ONE 9\(8\).](#)





Medusahead Management Guide for the Western States

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- Burning (Furbush 1953; DiTomaso et al. 2008)
- Herbicide (Young et al. 1969; Young & Evans 1971; Monaco et al. 2005; Kyser et al. 2007; Kyser et al. 2012; Kyser et al. 2012; Kyser et al. 2013)
- Mowing
- Seeding
- Grazing
 - targeted (Lusk 1961, DiTomaso et al. 2008)
 - moderate
 - managing distribution (fencing, water, herding, supplement, N fertilizer)

[Kyser et al. 2014 available at wric.ucdavis.edu](http://wric.ucdavis.edu)

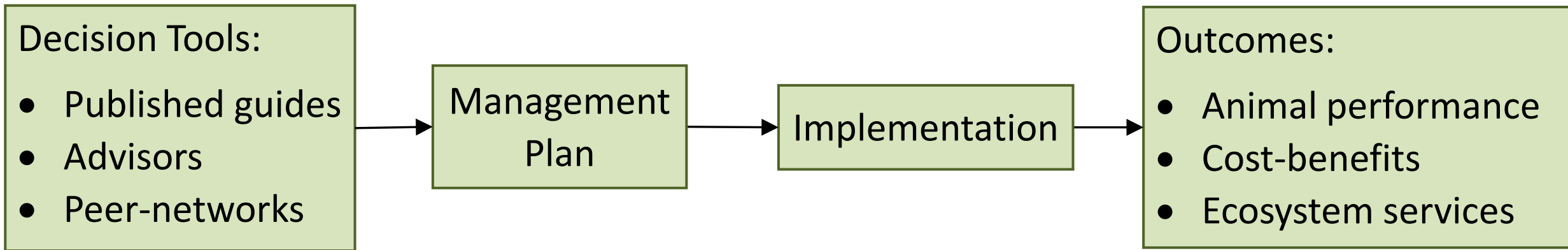


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From science to practice:



Four Demonstration Ranches

- Glenn County, California
- Stanislaus County, California
- Crook County, Oregon
- Grant County, Oregon



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Peer-Learning Networks

Rancher Community

- Informal
- Demonstrations as catalyst
- Based around workshops and livestock advisors
- What worked?
- What didn't?
- What did you learn?



Intended outcomes

- Greater understanding of the implementation process and outcomes at larger scales
- Estimation of actual costs and benefits of these treatments for livestock producers
- Provide examples of large-scale implementation
- Sharing of experiences through workshops and informal networks to pass on knowledge (starting in Spring 2015)
- Rangeland restoration experience database??





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