Brush Management on Rangelands

Drs. Charles Hart, DowAgro Sciences and Kirk McDaniel, Prof. Emeritus, NMSU

# Brush Management on Rangelands

Plowing

Burning



#### Biological

Chemicals

IPT

Pulling

Brush Management on Rangelands

A little bit about herbicides Why we control brush and weeds What happens after control Recent findings

# How to decide if, when, where or why to spray

# Keys to Decision Making

- Knowing your land and what you want
- o Brush type
- Overstory/understory relationships
- Appreciating the time element
- Visualizing desired outcome

Herbicide Activity



#### **Trade Name**

#### **Chemical Name**

CreosotebushSpike

o Mesquite

- Transline
- Milestone
- Garlon

NEW –
 Sendero

Tebuthiuron

- Clopyralid
- Aminopyralid
- Triclopyr

#### **Trade Name**

#### **Chemical Name**

CreosotebushSpike

o Mesquite

- Transline
- Milestone
- Garlon



Tebuthiuron



#### Sendero<sup>®</sup> @ 28 oz pr/A

Sendero<sup>®</sup> @ 28 oz pr/A Plus Remedy Ultra<sup>®</sup> @ 8 oz pr/A



### GPS & GIS systems



# Future – With new technology and innovation

 Drones
 Robotics
 More precise spraying devices
 New herbicides



- New herbicid
- o Etc.

#### U.S. FAA approves agricultural spraying with drones













# Many Reasons Why

- Competition with desirable forage
- Minimize soil-water use and enhance watershed condition
- Eliminate a nuisance plant problem
- Create better wildlife habitat
- Restore historic plant communities and condition
- Increase land value
- Improve land appearance.....



# Creosotebush and mesquite spraying



# Study 1- Creosotebush - 20 yr. Response to Control



Huerfano Canyon Brush Control M December 28, 2000

- o 1981 to 2000
- 68 sites and
  135,000 acres
  treated in Las
  Cruces
- 23 sites and
  32,000 acres in
  Socorro
- Spike @ 0.5 lb/ac



### Creosotebush mortality – Long term average ~80%



# Cresotebush Cover Change Through Time after Spraying



# Creosotebush / understory response



### Mesquite - control in arid environments is a challenge

#### Honey





Velvet



Toreyanna or Western honey

### Mesquite varieties – Distribution and Rainfall pattern



Torreyanna or Western honey

Velvet



#### Standard guidelines for spraying

- Plants like mesquite must be sprayed when the herbicide will best be translocated to the root and basal meristem region.
- Timing of application has been touted as the key to successful control.

#### Optimal timing or spray window

- 45 to 90 days after bud break (about late May through early July)
- Soil temp. @ 12 to 18 inch depth > 75 F
- Healthy dark green full foliage to insure herbicide absorption
- Avoid damage to foliage by recent rains, insects, hail, drought etc.

#### Stressed vs non-stressed canopy



# Study 2 - Mesquite response to spraying

 1988 to 2004
 Mesquite was aerially sprayed at 60 different sites





#### Mesquite Mortality by Year Sprayed



### 20 yrs of mesquite control with Clopyralid + Triclopyr

Precipitation receive from Jan 1- June 1	No. of sites sampled	Low growing multi-stemmed mesquite	Upright fewer stemmed mesquite
		% AM	% AM
< 2 inches	24	43	38
2-3 inches	14	45	66
> 3 inches	21	55	88



San Pedro

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esn Japan, METI, Esn China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Companyinity



Community



### Preliminary-Mesquite Control Results

Arizona Border F			
Initial Spray	Second Spray	Average	
2014 Sep	none	10	n=4
2015 Jun	none	65	n=2
2015 Aug	none	53	n=1
2016 Jun	none	53	n=1
2014 Sep	2015 Jun	66	n=5
2014 Sep	2015 Aug	57	n=4
2014 Sep	2016 Jun	90	n=1
	Average 2015-16	64	



