



# JUNIPER REMOVAL

protect your way of life.

## Financial Assistance Available for Juniper Removal in Sage- Grouse Habitat

Since the late 1800's, juniper has subtly been invading vast acreages of rangeland in eastern Oregon that were once dominated by grasses, wildflowers and shrubs. Although juniper is a native plant, fire suppression has allowed this tree to expand to sites it never occupied historically. As juniper invades rangelands, it gradually results in a number of resource problems, such as reduced forage production, increased soil erosion, altered wildlife habitat, and reduced stream and spring flows.

**Sage-Grouse and Trees Don't Mix:** Besides affecting your bottom line by reducing forage production, juniper invasion is severely impacting rangeland wildlife like mule deer and sage-grouse. These wildlife species depend primarily upon the shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that are lost when trees move in. Sage-grouse, in particular, are sensitive to

juniper invasion and their populations have declined dramatically due to the loss of habitat to trees.

**Early Intervention Is the Key:** Once junipers become dense and mature, the understory grasses and shrubs die out and it becomes much more difficult and expensive to restore forage production and reverse other resource problems. However, areas that are still in the early phases of juniper invasion often retain a large component of grasses and shrubs. This provides an opportunity to reverse resource degradation relatively inexpensively through the removal of young trees.

**Financial Assistance:** NRCS has several voluntary conservation programs that provide financial assistance to landowners who want to treat juniper on their ranch. Participants in the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) receive payments up to 75 percent of the average cost to implement conservation practices according to approved specifications. Program participants may choose to do the work themselves or hire it out. NRCS reimburses participants the set rate upon successful completion of the practice.

## Conservation in Action: Juniper Removal Before and After

Crook County, Oregon



Before



After

Encroaching juniper has been removed from the project site improving habitat for sage-grouse and maintaining forage production for livestock.

Interested landowners  
can apply for these and  
other programs at their  
local NRCS office.

Eligible applications are ranked and compete against other projects for funding. Generally, higher preference for juniper management is given for projects located in around sage-grouse core area habitat.

### NRCS Field Offices

Deschutes & Crook Counties	541-923-4358
Lake County	541-947-2367
Harney County	541-573-6446
Malheur County	541-889-7637
Baker County	541-523-7121



## Helping People Help the Land