

OSMP Tall Oatgrass Management



Tall oatgrass southwest of NCAR

Tall Oatgrass: Literature Review

- Perennial European hay producing grass
- Fall germinating, rapid spring growth, June seed production, senescence in summer “drought” period
- Creates dense stands, eliminates native prairie structure and composition.



Tall Oatgrass: Literature Review

- Shading makes it harder for insects to find food and egg laying sites (Hammond and Wilson 1993)
- Competition for water and nutrients
- Accumulation of litter reduces space for ground nesting animals
- Becomes invasive after several decades without any grazing



Tall Oatgrass: Literature Review

- Limited control research in natural areas
- Oregon State University, Redwood Nat. Park
- Prescribed fire not effective by itself
- Herbicide success inconclusive
- No biological controls available
- Repeated annual spring mowing/grazing is effective
 - Short spring treatment window
 - Repeated 5+ years, annually

Tall Oatgrass on OSMP

- Introduced in 1950's near NCAR/Shanahan during ranching operations
- Dramatic increase in last 10 years
- Extensive stands in NCAR/ Shanahan area, spotting out
- Absent in adjacent leased areas with rotational grazing



Staff assessing extensive tall oatgrass

Tall Oatgrass: South of NCAR



Tall Oatgrass: From Bear Creek



Tall Oatgrass: North of North Fork Shanahan Trail



Encroaching Tall Oatgrass: North of South Fork Shanahan Trail



OSMP Treatment Monitoring

Established in 2009 to replicate Oregon State University research



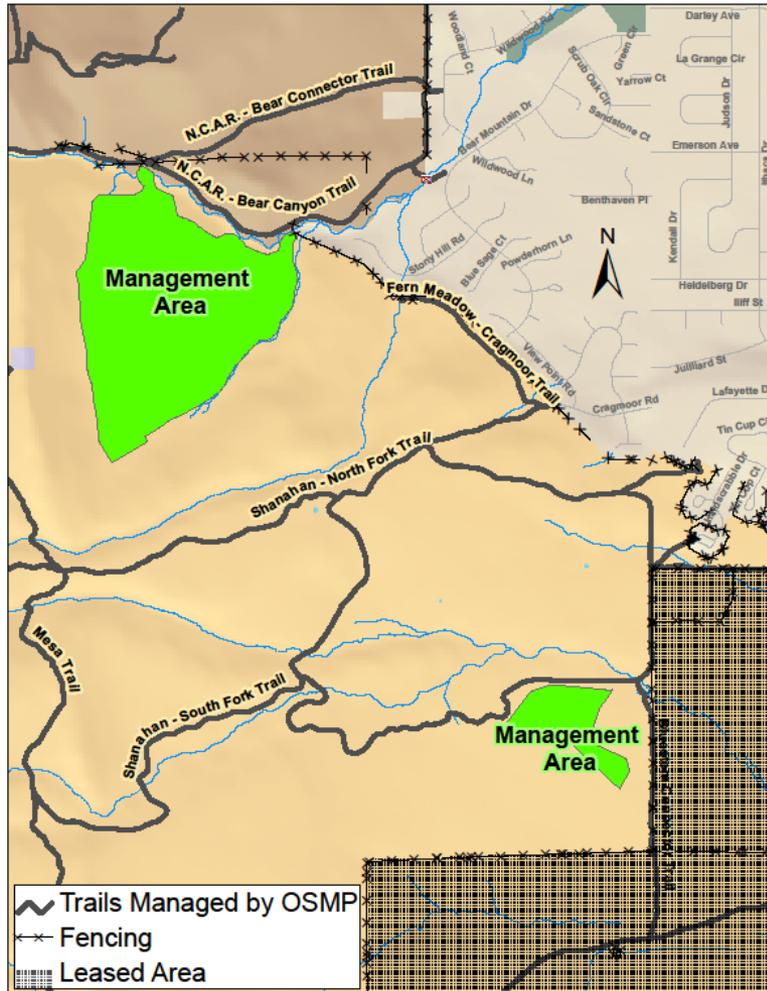
- Timed spring treatment are effective
- Reduction in tall oatgrass
- Native plant communities responding

Tall Oatgrass Project Elements

- Containment is essential
- Short treatment window(s)
- Annual surveys and management of peripheral sites
- Collaboration with adjacent landowners



Tall Oatgrass Project Elements



- Two annual spring grazing scenarios: small site south vs. large northern fenced enclosure (green shading)
- No trails impacted by grazing events
- Guidelines for OSMP management activities within containment area