



Executive Summary

2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention

Preserving and Enhancing NM Rangeland through Brush Control,
Greg Alpers, NMSU Interim Brush Specialist

Albuquerque, NM—2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention:
Transforming Challenges into Opportunities

Summary:

In many regions across New Mexico and the Southwest, brush control is a key concern and important practice. To control the brush problem in the Southwest, producers need to turn to brush control to have full use of their property.

Alpers also explained the benefits to brush control include increased dry forage for livestock, more precipitation collection to the ground, greater grass production, less erosion, and create an increase in wildlife. A major species of concern in New Mexico is mesquite, currently this plant is at an 80% mortality rate after two years of the application. However, there are some important things to consider, such as soil moisture, soil temperature, leaf size, and carbohydrate flow in the plant.

The expansion of brush could impact the ecosystem and limit agricultural production. To increase land productivity, farmers and ranchers need to turn to brush control to utilize the full potential of their property.

Key Points:

1. Brush is more tolerant to drought and consumes more water than grasses.
2. Producers rely on rangeland for animal feed, brush limits animal production.
3. The type of herbicide varies depending on the species of brush on the range.
4. Contact your local brush specialist and learn more options for your rangeland.
5. Research the timing and seasonal variations of brush to increase efficiency.

Contact Information:

Greg Alpers—alpersgreg@gmail.com or 575-626-7438



P.O. Box 850 • Moriarty, NM 87035 • Telephone: (505) 247-0584 • Fax: (505) 842-1766
email: nmcga20@gmail.com • website: www.nmagriculture.org