

Mechanical Treatments

- Objectives have changed over time
- What kinds of objectives are there
- Considerations when deciding what methods to choose

Mechanical treatments change over the last 50 years

- Methods are similar but more purpose or objectives have changed
- purposes have changed from:
 - 1940-50's eradication of unwanted brush species
 - 1960-70's control of spread of brush
 - 1980-1990's integrated brush management
- objectives have also changed from:
 - 1940-50's increased ease of managing domestic stock
 - 1980-1990's habitat improvements for wildlife as well as for livestock forage

Mechanical treatments can have several specific objectives

- control (kill) or remove existing or undesirable vegetation
- disrupt compacted soil
- remove debris to allow access of other equipment (e.g., seeding equip)
- smooth, firm the seedbed before seeding
- manipulate soil to improve stand establishment
- make clearings in dense shrub or woody canopies

Factors to be considered when
planning a mechanical
treatment
for habitat improvement.
(see P&B table 9.2)