

Foreword

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Restoring Western Ranges and Wildlands has had a fairly long gestation period. The final product of three volumes had its beginnings in 1983. At that time research administrators of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station (now part of the Rocky Mountain Research Station) had obtained funding from the Four Corners Regional Commission (FCRC) to produce a series of research summary syntheses to aid agriculture and natural resource values and management for the Four Corner States (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah) and surrounding areas. The FCRC, now defunct, was formed in 1965 as one of five Federal regional commissions to aid regional development in economically distressed areas. *Restoring Western Ranges and Wildlands* was intended to supplant the successful, out-of-print, *Restoring Big Game Range in Utah* (Plummer and others 1968) with a broader geographic coverage and new knowledge gained during the intervening years. *Restoring Big Game Range in Utah* was published by the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Game. The authors, in addition to A. Perry Plummer (a Project Leader and Range Scientist for the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station), were Division of Fish and Game Biologists Donald R. Christensen and Stephen B. Monsen. The three were part of an integrated Federal and State workgroup lead by Mr. Plummer and located at the Great Basin Research Center in Ephraim, Utah (for additional details see McArthur 1992). This volume served land managers well. There are many dog-eared copies in offices and libraries in Utah and elsewhere around the West. It has been cited many times in peer-reviewed

literature of the *Science Citation Index* during the past several decades (*ISI Web of Science, online*).

I sat with a group of administrators and researchers in a 1983 meeting in the conference room of the Shrub Sciences Laboratory in Provo, Utah, as we laid out plans for writing and compiling *Restoring Western Ranges and Wildlands* by subject areas and possible contributors. The lead compilation roles in the effort were assigned to Stephen B. Monsen, by this time a Botanist with the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, and Richard Stevens, Project Leader of the Habitat Restoration Unit of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources. Steve and Richard also took on major writing assignments. But delaying the publishing date were continuing research assignments, other demands on the compilers' time, a shift in revegetation philosophy toward holistic landscape management and emphasis on using native plants, and retirement of both Steve Monsen and Richard Stevens. A third compiler was added to the team—Nancy L. Shaw, a Research Botanist on the Shrubland Biology and Restoration Research Work Unit posted in Boise, Idaho. She worked tirelessly to see the project completed. All three compilers deserve kudos for completion of this massive project.

Many people have helped the authors and compilers complete this work. I extend appreciation to dozens of reviewers of the individual chapters but especially to Robert B. Ferguson, retired Scientist from the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, and the late Homer D. Stapley, Scientist, from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, who each reviewed

most of the manuscript. The manuscript was initially prepared on several computer hardware and accompanying software word processing systems. The preparation and integration of the manuscript was facilitated by Pat Ford, Nancy Clark, and Roberta Leslie of the Shrub Sciences Laboratory, and Scott Walker, Nalisa Bradley, and Chris Wade of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Great Basin Research Center in Ephraim, Utah. Others who contributed to the project include Rocky Mountain Research Station employees who worked on indexing (Jan Gurr), reference compilation (Karl Soerensen and Felicia Martinez), and proofreading and general assistance (James Hall, Jim Spencer, Darren Naillon, Kelly Memmott, Gary Jorgensen, Melissa Scholten, Danielle Scholten, John Kinney, Ann DeBolt, Matthew Fisk, Lynn Kinter, and Nicholas Williams). Also contributing services were the Library staffs of the Rocky Mountain Research Station (Carol Ayer, Mary Foley, Lindsay Bliss, Sally Dunphy, Elizabeth Parts, and Jolie Hogancamp) and Pacific Southwest Research Station (Irene Voit). The Rocky Mountain Research Station Publishing Services lead by Louise Kingsbury, with

Nancy Chadwick, Lillie Thomas, Loa Collins, and Suzy Stephens, performed exceedingly well in editing, integration, layout, and design. Many of the line drawings of plant species that are on the chapter introductory pages and illustrate the species in chapters 20 and 21 were prepared by Rocky Mountain Research Technician Annielane J. Yazzie.

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I believe that the materials presented here in a “how to, what with, and why” manner will be timely and relevant for land managers and students in rehabilitation and restoration of degraded Western wildlands for years into the future.

