

M04t13_Invasives

Indicator 16 is invasive plants and these are plants that will continue to increase on a site and have become dominant or codominant if not actively controlled by management. Examples that we have below include an invasive exotic and this is a cheatgrass, the grass, the straw-colored grass that you see in front of the juniper is cheatgrass. Invasive plants do not have to be exotic plants (i.e.) introduced from somewhere else to the United States or to wherever your study is. The middle picture is juniper which on the site where it's being studied is an invasive plant, it should not be there and so it is a plant that has managed to come in and become established and if not some kind of management practice is not applied; it will become dominant or codominant possibly with other species such as pinyon pine. The third picture on your right is a state listed noxious weed, now; these are generally weeds that are important agriculturally, if they get introduced in a cropland field, alfalfa field or whatever, they greatly reduce the economic value of the crop and the difficulty of managing the crop. So, the State Departments of Agriculture also often list certain plants as being noxious and weed. These almost always are plants that have left to their own devices will spread and will become dominant or codominant and you see the nap weed right there on the edge of the road in this picture there on your right and slowly, but, surely will become a problem plant out in the sagebrush plant's stand that you see then into the distance. So, you have a whole mix of invasive species, some are introduced, some are native, some are listed as noxious because they're such big problems to the agricultural community and what we see here, site in Northeastern New Mexico, and you basically have a loamy upland site, on the

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left-hand side, it for all practical purposes is a grassland and on the right-hand slide, you're seeing the fact that given the circumstances being correct, this site can be invaded by juniper and slowly, but, surely that juniper will fill in and become totally dominant and will begin the process of competing for moisture and reduce the dominance and reduce the amount of production in the presence of the grasses. So, this is an example of a native plant becoming invasive. Most of us have seen other invasive plants in our work, based on, that are local to the area in which we live. So, this is an important indicator for us because it does cause a change in the community that seriously affects the functions that go on in the community. The attribute for this one is biotic integrity and what we're going to close with on this particular attribute is a short video presentation.

Invasives like juniper spread into and dominate new areas which in this example were previously dominated by sagebrush grass.