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**Review of *Brush Management: Past, Present, Future* Edited by  
Wayne T. Hamilton, Allan McGinty, Darrell N. Ueckert, C. Wayne  
Hanselka, and Michelle R. Lee**

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**Brush Management: Past, Present, Future.** Edited by Wayne T. Hamilton, Allan McGinty, Darrell N. Ueckert, C. Wayne Hanselka, and Michelle R. Lee. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2004. 282 pp. Photographs, figures, literature cited, index. \$50.00 cloth, \$26.00 paper.

Focused on the brush problem in Texas, this book contains sections on mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire as methods of brush management, with an additional section on brush management issues. The chapters on management practices address the historical perspective, current practices, and their future use. This approach provides more than a snapshot of current research and helps readers understand the progression of management practices.

The mechanical brush management section defines various mechanical methods, illustrating their effectiveness on various species. Treating brush mechanically remains popular and will continue to be used with brush sculpting, a method of selectively removing woody plants for wildlife and livestock benefit. Brush sculpting's effectiveness is increased through the integration of current technologies such as Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning Systems.

The section on chemical brush management reviews the use of chemicals, pointing out that many of the first herbicides labeled for rangeland application remain effective today. Since timing is critical for effective herbicidal brush control, an entire chapter is devoted to this topic.

The biological control section describes various management methods, including the use of insects and herbivores on rangeland, and discusses the process of determining the target weed or brush species and the procedures for approving biological control agents. Many examples are given for controlling plant species such as salt cedar and pricklypear.

Prescribed fire is the focus of a section that begins with a description of its development as a management tool. Although effective on rangelands, there are more regulations and restrictions when using fire compared with other brush management methods. Regulations and policies regarding the use of prescribed fire are explained, along with proper applications and other important considerations.

The final section, which addresses several issues including economic considerations, runoff from rangelands, and wildlife concerns, helps put the various influences of brush management on rangelands in perspective. Although the book focuses on Texas grasslands, many of the concepts apply to brush problems occurring throughout the Great Plains. I highly recommend it for the valuable information it offers students, land managers, and professionals.

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