1) There is a need for limiting and reversing woody species encroachment and infill (shrubs and trees into grasslands, and trees into shrublands).
2) There is a need for promoting natural and prescribed fire in all ecosystems while addressing public safety and health concerns.
3) There is a need for defining desired conditions regarding structure, composition, snags, and downed woody debris, as well as objectives, standards, and guidelines that will promote achievement of those desired conditions, support sustainability, and minimize risks to ecosystem integrity.

**Potential Solutions**

- **Threats**
  - **Sagebrush Encroachment in Grasslands**
    - Climate and heavy grazing have shifted cover from grass to woody shrubs and trees.
  - **Conifer Encroachment in an Aspen Stand**
    - Conifers have filled in aspen stands. Formerly open stands have become dense as more young trees survive.
  - **Piñon-Juniper Expansion and Infill**
    - Piñon-juniper woodlands have become more dense, and have expanded into former grasslands during the past century.

- **Desired Conditions**
  - **Adequate Forage**
    - Forest openings provide forage for livestock and wildlife.
  - **Restored Natural Fire Regime**
    - Fires in open, frequent fire systems remove surface fuels and small trees, leaving large trees and discouraging high intensity fires.
  - **Sagebrush Mowing and Reseeding**
    - The forest is removing sagebrush and seeding with grass to restore grassland which protects soils, reduces sedimentation, increases water infiltration, and improve forage for wildlife and livestock.

- **Atmospheric Factors**
  - High levels of carbon dioxide have been shown to favor woody species growth. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are higher now than at any time in the last 3 million years. Warmer, wetter conditions during the mid-1900s also contributed to a pulse of woody species establishment.

- **Management Considerations**
  - www.foresthistory.org
  - www.gearfuse.com
  - www.eenews.net
  - Larry Lamsa flicker.com
  - Steven Richard Miller