



GOATS!

**to Prevent or Reduce Wildland
Fire Danger in Shrub Dominated,
Wildland-Urban Interface Areas**

**A cooperative research effort of the Bureau of Land Management,
Utah State University, and Utah National Guard and funded by the Joint Fire Science Program**

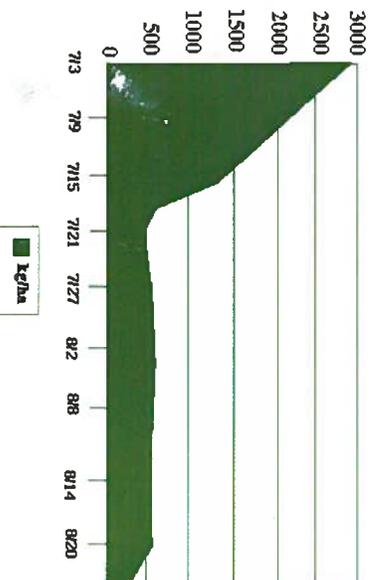
Though controlled browsing by goats has periodically been used to reduce fire fuels and hazards, this practice has not achieved widespread acceptance by fire managers as one of the tools in their toolbox. The purpose of this project is to:

- determine the degree to which goats can modify fuel types,
- model the fire behavior managers might expect given the modification,
- provide managers with the practical management tools and animal husbandry guidelines necessary to control livestock for fuels reduction purposes, and
- develop guidelines for how and where this tool can be successfully used.

Two years of pilot studies were followed by two years of larger scale research. A handbook on CD for fire managers is being completed this summer and fall and will be available by January 31, 2003.

**Preliminary results
indicate a high
degree of success.**

Biomass Measurements - 2000 Grazing Season



Goats rapidly reduce shrub biomass, and regrowth is slow and can be rapidly reduced. Longer-term studies show that over a five year period treatment time decreases and ultimately creates "park-like" stands with large openings between shrub/brush groupings.

Both fire behavior simulations and an actual fire in 2002 demonstrate that "goat breaks" will stop or slow a fire under even the most extreme conditions.

**Demonstration sites are
being selected for 2003.**

For information on how you might participate, to receive a video, or to be placed on the mailing list for our final product and training sessions contact:

Kathy Voith
BLM Project Lead
435-797-1279
kvoith@cc.usu.edu