



***Phragmites* project update 2016**
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Brief synopsis of study methods:

- Herbicide applied 2012-2014, monitored 2012-2016
- Glyphosate or imazapyr herbicides
- Summer (early July) or fall (mid-August) herbicide application
- ¼ acre plots (small patch study) or 3 acre plots (large stand study)
- The 10 sites spanned the full range of Great Salt Lake emergent wetland conditions
- Mowed in winter, except for summer mow/fall glyphosate treatment

Most important findings:

1. Fall application is far superior to summer application
2. No difference in herbicide effectiveness between types but glyphosate is cheaper
3. Herbicides do not “take” if *Phragmites* is drought stressed
4. Mowing is part of tool kit
 - Can prevent seed production (~late June mow)
 - But results in lots of dead biomass that takes time to break down
 - Burning is likely better, but limited by permit access
5. *Phragmites* is returning in many areas, especially where well-watered
 - Once *Phragmites* is killed, drought can keep it at bay
6. Native plant recovery is still limited
 - Initially limited by dead *Phragmites* litter, now by live *Phragmites*
 - Pickleweed and saltgrass returning in drought-stressed areas
 - In areas where remnant native plants persisted, natives are rebounding
7. Some native plants hold promise (bulrushes) for reducing *Phragmites* rebound

Bottom line:

- Be strategic about where you control *Phragmites*
 - Better with water control abilities
 - Target small patches first with natives nearby, and be proactive with revegetation
 - 3+ years necessary to greatly reduce *Phragmites* cover