Response of Two Semiarid Grasslands to a Second Fire Application
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Degraded rangelands contribute sediment that lowers stream water quality; these degraded rangelands are also susceptible to invasion from woody plants. We reintroduced fire to 2 semiarid grasslands to try to stimulate grass production and reduce cover of woody plants. Fire reduced cover of juniper shrubs and trees, reduced the number of cholla cactus and the size of prickly pear cactus, but the loss of total plant cover after the fires increased the potential for greater erosion until plant cover returned. The benefits of returning fire to grasslands must be balanced with the cost of higher potential erosion.

The Recipe Corner

Editor’s Note: There are many “family” recipes that are passed from generation to generation and never seen by outsiders. Many of these recipes would be enjoyed by others. This column has been established to present some of these recipes so others can enjoy them. The following recipe was submitted by Joe Brummer, Gunnison, Colorado, jbrummer@lamar.colorado.edu.

Simple Dutch Oven Cobbler
A lot of Boy Scout activities take place outdoors and include campfire cooking. This recipe was something I picked up when my son was in the Scouts.

2 (21-ounce) cans of your favorite pie filling (apple and cherry are my favorites)
1 box yellow cake mix
1 stick of butter or margarine

Build a campfire and let it burn down to the coals. For easier cleanup, I line my Dutch oven with aluminum foil. Place the pie filling on the bottom. Add the cake mix dry. Cut the stick of butter or margarine into thin pats and spread them over the top of the dry cake mix. Cover the oven with the lid and place over low to medium heat with some coals on top. Check after 30 minutes. This makes a heavy but rich cake on top of the pie filling.