

Hi. I'm Bryce Richardson.

I'm a research geneticist for the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, and I'm located in the Shrub Sciences Lab in Provo, Utah.

My current project is big sagebrush and trying to understand how it's adapted to its environment.

So big sagebrush has lost a lot of its distribution over the last 100 years.

This has been primarily due to increased fire frequency and invasive exotic weeds.

The main goal of our project is to develop seed transfer zones for big sagebrush.

So seed zones can be used as a way to ensure that plants are adapted to the site.

So, when we do restoration, there's many areas where we could collect seed to plant at a restoration site.

Some of those seeds might not be adaptive.

So seed zones act as a mechanism for a land manager to select seed that's most appropriate

for the plant and would have the best success for establishment.

So it's important after wildfire to not only act quickly in restoration but also to have the appropriate seed which greatly increases your chances of establishment.

Establishment will not only reduce the amount of weeds on the restoration site but also improve the habitat for other plant and animals such as sage-grouse and other wildlife species such as deer and elk.