Intensive Monitoring Of Linaria Vulgaris At The Patch Scale[MAS]

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Non-native species vary in their level of invasiveness in different natural plant communities. While land managers recognize this, the information behind this idea is anecdotal. Quantitative data for documenting, facilitating and directing management efforts does not exist. The invasion of Linaria vulgaris into native plant communities in the Rocky Mountains is a challenge for managers because this species is perceived to invade upland plant communities that lack obvious human disturbance. Our goal with this experiment was to gain an understanding of the demographic and ecological factors that facilitate *L. vulgaris* invasion of native plant communities. The study had three main objectives: to quantify the invasive potential of *L. vulgaris* in three different community types; to characterize which life history states are more responsible for invasiveness; and to quantify how population demographics and invasion rates vary between patch interiors and edges. Results from the first three years of the study indicate that rates of invasion varied significantly for each of the different plant communities. Seed production and seedling emergence have been extremely low over the study period and vegetative production has been the life history state most responsible for invasion. Finally, the data showed little difference for rates of invasion, in terms of both density and spatial extent, between patch edges (the invading front) and patch interiors for the three habitats studied.