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BENEFITS OF UNDERGRADUATE PARTICIPATION IN FACULTY RESEARCH IN NATURAL RESOURCES

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ABSTRACT: Graduate student assistance with faculty research is common in university natural resource programs. Traditionally, undergraduate students are involved less with research programs of faculty. The Uintah Basin Branch Campus of Utah State University provides a unique setting for developing research projects in natural resources that involve undergraduates. We use a research project on the control of greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus) in the Book Cliffs, Utah to illustrate the benefits and challenges for undergraduate students and faculty of collaboration on research. Students benefit by interacting with faculty outside the classroom; by applying classroom learning to field problems; and by working with natural resource management personnel. Faculty benefit by observing the ability of students to apply classroom learning to field situations; by maintaining a scholarly research program; and by interacting with students outside the classroom.