

Briefing Statement

Date April 27, 2005

Title Proposed Sahara Mustard Workshop

Issue USGS, Mojave WMA, and CalIPC have requested DMG support and co-sponsorship of a workshop devoted to Saharan mustard

Background

Prior to the winter of 2004-2005, the spread of Sahara mustard from the Sonoran Desert through the Mojave Desert and into the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau has been noted and studied by only a few scientists and land managers in southwestern North America. High biomass production by Sahara mustard caused by record rainfall during the past few months has brought this species to the attention of a wider range of people who are very concerned about the potential ecological effects of this species. As a result, various proposals have been circulating to develop control programs and to initiate new research projects to learn more about this species. There is a need to bring all interested people together for a workshop to discuss the state-of-knowledge about this species.

Proposed Action

DMG support and co-host a one-day workshop that help guide the effective development of regional control programs and new research projects. The workshop would be held in Barstow late summer or this fall. Primary DMG contributions will include restoration coordinator staff time and manager support for staff participation.

Sponsors

- USGS
- NPS
- DMG
- BLM
- CalIPC
- Southwest Vegetation Management Association
- Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council

Additional potential Sponsors

- University of California Coop Extension
- University of Nevada Coop Extension
- University of Arizona Coop Extension

Contact

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Proposed Agenda

- Workshop Introduction
- Invasion history
 - Where it came from, when it got here, patterns of spread, vectors of spread
- Basic Ecology
 - Annual with a seedbank, early phenology, germination characteristics, seedbank longevity, compare to other mustards, etc.
- Potential Ecological Effects
 - Competition with native plants and alteration of fire regimes
 - Effects on wildlife
- Control Strategies
 - Managing seed production
 - Direct effects on the target species, vs. net effects on all species (e.g. species richness, dominance by natives)
 - Limitations on the use of control strategies (e.g. in habitat for T&E species)
- Manager Summaries by State
 - What is the history and status of Sahara mustard in you neck of the woods?
 - What are your major concerns?
 - How are you dealing with it?
 - How does it compare to other invasives you are managing (where does it rank)?
 - CA
 - AZ (excluding the AZ strip)
 - NV
 - UT (including the AZ strip)
- Open Forum
 - How should the management of Sahara mustard be accomplished?
 - What should we do that we are not doing?
 - What should we not do that we are doing?