

Invasive Task Force Meeting

December 6, 2017, 1:30 PM

Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center

In attendance: Sam Webb (Park Volunteer), Gina Moran (Senior Environmental Scientist, California State Parks), Jim Dice (UCI Research Center Reserve Manager), Briana Puzzo (Education Manager, Anza-Borrego Foundation), Joe Woods (Volutaria Volunteer, CALIPC), Jennifer Howland (Environmental Services Intern, California State Parks), Mary Ann Lord (BS Resident), Pat Matthews (Botany Society, ABDNHA, CALIPC), Don Stang (Seasonal Resident and Weeder), Tina Davis (BS Resident), Mason Hyland (Environmental Scientist, California State Parks), Sicco Rood (UCI Research Center / Research Associate/IT support), Mona Robison (on phone, CALIPC)

- CALIPC = California Invasive Plant Council
- V = Volutaria
- SM = Sahara Mustard

Sam Webb stepped down as chair and is not interested in continuing as co-chair. Sicco Rood will take on the chair role of the chair. (Jim Dice/Gina Moran). All vote yes. Motion passes

Introductions – see list above

Update Reports:

Mona Robison– figuring out how to staff 2018, 2nd year of work in BS. Hope to get someone to do mapping and coordinate county and state park efforts. Will report back on needed contractor help beginning in January. Boss has been trying to fundraise for V project. Chris McDonald has some ideas. If anyone has ideas please share them with Mona.

Pat Matthews – Showed map of V locations in Calflora. Points have increased because of high rain. Pivot field (NE of Palm Canyon and BV Road) may be as old as 20 years based on plant density. Property is owned by RoadRunner LLC. Previously owned was Bill Berkley (sp?). Lots of mapping was completed last year, as well as keeping sites cleared out. Road-side spraying coordinated with County. Goal for 2018 is to keep V out of Park. There is a layer in Calflora so you can see general park boundaries on map.

Mason Hyland – Last year, Mason trained people to use Calflora as mapping tool so info can be shared and kept in one location. State parks focused only on park property and mapped locations, as well as negative data. Have not found more plants at Alcoholic Pass, even though this is where the first plant was identified. Dispersal mechanisms seem to be water and wind. Surveyed the dump, Coyote Canyon, Fonts Point, San Felipe Wash. Little Baja has small population also. Returned to sites 2-3 times and found more plants, pulled and bagged and set in sun before disposal. Seed study has been started to determine what effectively kills seeds through solarizing. Looking for volunteers this season for field surveys in key areas. Last season their crew went out 2-3 times to survey in Coyote Canyon. V populations have been found, pulled and bagged. Weekly weeding will continue this season, schedule TBD. Surveying has been done in Coyote Canyon as far as 3rd crossing. SM will be pulled if seen but is not being mapped because it is so pervasive and been in county since 1927. SM could be weeded, since some did germinate after summer rains.

CALIPC Symposium – Mason gave talk with Chris McDonald and Ron Shugan on V, community involvement and task force work. Land managers present are now more aware of V so regional awareness could help locate more populations.

Gina Moran – went out in fall after monsoonal rains. New populations were found but from last season. Nothing seemed to have germinated in the summer/fall. Experiment finds it hard to germinate V. Chris McDonald also tried at UC Riverside and had very low germination rates. Perhaps high dormancy rate, long-lived seed bank. Trained volunteers can pull SM on site. SM should be bagged if flowering.

Sam Webb – SM seen on Borrego Valley Road past the maintenance station, south of Tilting T. Three years of consistent pulling has typically taken care of SM seed bank.

Pat Matthews – Middle Willows has SM, also 2nd and 3rd crossing of Coyote Canyon. Weds. Weed Walks will start at Bypass Road and work south. Pat will have volunteer forms available on the walks. Focus on V and SM on walks in dispersal sites: statues, flower fields, and other highly visited park sites like Coyote Canyon and Mine Wash. Gina/Mason will find out if Park Staff person is needed on walks in Park.

Joe Woods – Area south and east of pivot field was surveyed and many more found in April. New sites found around Borrego Springs Resort. Nothing found on west side of DiGiorgio, south of Palm Canyon Drive. Joe pulls if less than 100 plants. Southern most sites found just north of Old Borego. Density is not depicted on Calflora map. Surveyed east of Pegleg Rd. More surveying in this area should be done. Goal is to try to define boundaries and shrink them. Seeing more wind transport of seed. Has seen Tocalote in town.

Mona Robison – looking at containment until more funding is found for eradication. Need to keep Ocotillo Wells staff involved. Grant obligations are to treat/reduce populations. San Diego County Ag. will spray roadsides again this season and backpack spraying.

Sicco Rood – website domain needs to be renewed. Jim Dice offered to personally pay for the fee. Anyone with content or updates can send them to Sicco. Sicco will turn the Facebook page into a “group” instead of community organization.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Next meeting will be on January 10 at 1:00 PM.