

Invasive Task Force Meeting

February 14, 2018, 1:00 PM

Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center

In attendance: Gina Moran (Senior Environmental Scientist, California State Parks), Briana Puzzo (Education Manager, Anza-Borrego Foundation), Joe Woods (Volutaria Volunteer, CALIPC), Jennifer Howland (Environmental Services Intern, California State Parks), Pat Matthews (Botany Society, ABDNHA, CALIPC), Don Stang (Seasonal Resident and Weeder), Sicco Rood (UCI Research Center / Website), Mona Robison (on phone, CALIPC), Larry Hendrickson (Senior Park Aide, California State Parks) Chris McDonald (UC Cooperative Extension, Nat'l Resources Advisor), Danny McCamish (Ocotillo Wells State Recreation Area)

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

Introductions – see list above

Update Reports:

Sicco Rood - Website now online: weedtaskforce.org

Jennifer Howland - Park surveyed after rain in flower fields at base of Coyote Mountain. Small Volutaria plants were seen but they did not survive. Weeding Wednesdays have focused on London Rocket, SM, etc. Little Baja was also surveyed and one plant that looked like V. Sierra Service Club will work in that area. Upper Coyote had a Stork's Bill in flower – it was pulled. Week 10 of seed mortality experiment: mortality rate is leveling off around 80%. Germination on the control is also going down. Experiment is taking place at the same time of year that solarizing would likely take place in future years.

Chris McDonald – Solarization works to kill seeds. Likely that moisture or heat aren't enough in the state park experiment. Could try adding more water.

Don Stang – Are there attempts being made to contact private land owners? We should include a fundraising ask at the end of all media outreach.

Mona Robison – Attempts to contact land owners is on hold because of low germination rates. Have rights of entry on some properties. County does not want to send blanket letter to all land owners. Will contact ABDNHA to find out if they would be willing to accept donations for the project. Mona will share a summary of how Weed Manager is being used for a Mount Tamalpais project. Half-mile grids are being put together. Can load grid as a background layer. Preparing paper maps for now. A range of covers will be applied to each half-mile grid square.

Pat Matthews and Joe Woods do try to get permission to enter private land to survey/pull. Now have 238 volunteer hours with 29 people spent at Coyote Canyon. Hula hoed thousands of SM plants. About a third to a half of the volunteers are new this year.

Joe Woods – Cal-IPC is managing the project and funding; donations should be made to them for simplicity. Found some 3-ft tall plants near BSR golf course. Mike Strandberg found ~50 plants in that area also. Joe found 600 plants from last season on west side of Peg Leg and removed them all. Mark Martinez's crew, along with an escort, could go into BS County Airport. Chris McDonald will follow-up with Mark and airport manager to potentially schedule something. Solar farm north of elementary

school has a lot of V. Chris will contact Gretchen Cummings to find out the best way to reach the solar farm owners. Many V sites in the mesquite, south of Palm Canyon and east of BV Road.

Mason will pursue getting a quote for the Weed Manager software.

Chris McDonald - Long-term forecast is that La Nina will end in April/May – aka dry this spring. Toured much of the valley with Pat and Joe looking for V sites and didn't find any. Not going to do phenology study this year – maybe next year. Looking for growing study chambers at UC Riverside. Bad year for field work because there has been no rain. Chris talked about V at the LA CNPS Symposium with 80 people in attendance.

Danny McCamish - No V sightings and minimal SM sightings in Ocotillo Wells. Not much of anything germinating. Hand crews start back next week so may have more to report next month. SM seen near roadsides of Texas Dip. Looking for V following the wash coming from Inspiration and Palo Verde washes, will have crews look there after first week of March.

Larry Hendrickson – V seen on county preserve near the dump. Who is responsible to clear invasives there? Lots of SM around the dump; some V in patches south.

Mona Robison – Grid map is being finalized to show areas that have been surveyed and those that haven't. Won't cover state parks areas. Tracking will be easier. Spoke with Chris about fundraising for their project. A fundraising phone call will take place next month. All are invited. Mona may invite Sara Husby, the executive director of ABF. Now making plans for next year. Mona will work with Mason to get a quote on Weed Manager.

Additional email notes added later through email:

Hello Taskforce members,

I have two items in my notes from the call last month. First, there was interest in more information on Calflora's Weed Manager. The link below has information about the use of Weed Manager by agencies in Marin County. See the SOP and Appendices for detailed information on Weed Manager.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q9ANM1Q-eaV3wsNF10G89rYimhENVnAR?usp=sharing>

The second question was about who can receive donations to support the Volutaria management efforts. Here is information I gathered, based on discussions with Betsy Knaak of ABDNHA, Sara Husby of ABF and Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC.

The three non-profits involved in this effort can all receive donations to support the work: ABDNHA, ABF and Cal-IPC. ABDNHA can receive donations for work outside the State Park and ear-mark it for the invasive plant program. ABF can take donations for invasive plant work on State Park property and pass it along directly to the State Park. Cal-IPC can also receive funds for regional coordination and research. We are all 501 C (3) organizations so donations would be tax deductible.

ABDNHA donation page

<http://www.abdnha.org/donations2.htm>

ABF donation page

<https://anzaborrego.z2systems.com/np/clients/anzaborrego/donation.jsp>

Cal-IPC membership and donation page

http://www.cal-ipc.org/join_renew/

Thanks everyone for your interest and I am happy to help coordinate donations among the groups if there are any questions, Mona Robison

---End email notes---

Chris McDonald – Ron Vanderhoff with the Orange County CNPS chapter is going through all new invasive plants and creating a list of emergent plants that can still be managed.

Additional observation emailed in by Joe Raffetto, owner of California Overland Desert Excursions who couldn't make it to the meeting.

"I'm sorry that I can't get the break in the action around here to be able to attend a meeting, but I just want to give you an update from my neck of the woods. I have been surprised at the lack of sahara mustard through the Borrego Badlands, Thimble Wash, the slot in Palm Wash, Hawk Canyon (though decimated by the drought), San Felipe Wash and Fish Creek. I yanked a few in the Badlands about a month ago and have not seen any since. Hopefully this is the silver lining to the drought. I will keep in touch. Thanks for all your endeavors,

Joe

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Meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm

Next meeting date is March 14 at 1:00 pm **in the classroom** at the Research Center (Future meeting dates are April 4, May 9)

