

## Invasive Task Force Meeting

February 13, 2019, 1 PM

### Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center

**Attendees:** Larry Hendrickson (California State Parks Senior Park Aide), Syd Magner (California State Parks ESI Botany), Chris McDonald (UC Cooperative Extension National Resources Advisor), Mary Jo Churchwell (SDCNHM , Parks volunteer), Joe Woods (Cal-IPC Volutaria Volunteer), Don Stang (Seasonal Resident & Weeder), Elaine Tulving (Assistant to the Reserve Manager), Sicco Rood (UCI Research Associate)

- CAL-IPC = California Invasive Plant Council
- V = Volutaria
- SM = Sahara Mustard

Introduction meeting started at 1:15 pm

January 9, 2019, meeting minutes – no edits/changes approved. Elaine graciously takes notes for the meeting.

**Sicco Rood:** Updated meeting with David Garmin (Tubb Canyon Conservancy), continuing to record live mesquite at the Mesquite Bosque for GDE to include into GSP. Wondering if others are updating in CALFlora. Satellite mapping for historic imaging. Checking with park to see if berms S22 can be graded before SM goes to seed.

**Larry Hendrickson:** – private consultant conversation Margie Mulligan and Michelle McCloud, survey work on mesquite. Currently mapping up in Joshua Tree NP. Wednesday weed groups off DiGorgio Road – east side and a little bit of the west side to pull SH – approx. 3100 pulled. Good start but many starters still there. Coyote Canyon – east side of the main road – about 900 plants pulled.

Larry to use his SM eradication guide sheet to write an article for the Borrego Sun to educate general population. Any pullers who volunteer to pull in the Park need to have supervision. He doesn't want the word out to have the pulled weeds brought to the Park.

LH has observed SM close to needing seed heads cut off. Only bagging out mature seed heads. If fruit is there, it needs to be bagged. Revisit the same areas annually to keep SM population down.

**Syd Magner:** Requested pruners for Wednesday group. LH directed where to find 20 pairs of shears and bags in the lab. National Sierra Club members will return February 22 to March 2. They will be working on specific areas. Last year they pulled other invasive plants (African grass).

Americorps crew and inmate groups/CalFire crews were used past years but LH doesn't think there is set aside funding for this year. La CIMA crew from Cuyamaca area could get going. Thursday weeding could be done if someone other than LH be the leader.

**Chris McDonald:** San Bernardino and Riverside is rampant with SM. Palm Springs area is also seeing lots of SM. London Rockets are about ready to go to mature fruit. Big year and big pulling time. LH suggested to have all V pulled. A newer weed that looks like London Rocket is getting out of LA area –

“Mediterranean Rocket” and will eventually find its way to San Diego County. Interested in sizes of plants at this time. We should pull only in areas that you want to protect it.

CM: Has the volutaria increased from 2017? Joe and Larry say “yes” Joe started surveying late (April) 2017. Didn’t do as much in 2017 nor go out to the remote areas in 2017. Resumed survey in Oct 2017 on V skeletons. In general, finding more V. Feels better knowing what the edges are.

CM - Big Wheel, pivot field look less today than 2017. Checked Borrego Springs Resort and SM looks worse today than 2017.

**Joe Woods:** is pulling lots of SM in Coyote Canyon (been doing this area for 3 weeks). Saw an increase of desert wildflowers (a mile from the pavement). LH reported that 2017 crews did not work in Coyote Canyon. Joe Woods report on CalFlora map about volutaria sites to compare from 2018. S22 near Pale Verde Wash area is farthest east, but noticed that there are many “dots” off Henderson Canyon Road into Coyote Canyon that Parks need to evaluate and pull. Joe would like to see emphasis on the Henderson Canyon Road near Peg Leg area.

By identifying the edges of the volutaria. The abandoned golf course on the west side of Borrego Springs Resort needs possibly the County to come in and spray. JW feels he can spray along Digorgio road.

Larry H will take the Sierra club members out at Little Baja to check out the volutaria. Joe pulled a few hundred plants nearby closer to DeAnza golf course.

Horse Camp Road area – Larry did not see anything 3 weeks ago, Joe confirmed. Joe suggested to re-visit after next rain.

Joe, Syd and Austin need to set up a time to meet out in the field. Larry has a weeding tool with a flashlight (hahahaha) for Syd to work if he camps.

Joe looks for water flow and basin collections for volutaria growth.

Next meeting: March 6, 2019 at 1 pm at SBABDRC