

Invasive Task Force Meeting

April 3, 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), Bruce Kelley (BVEF), Jaquelin Douglass, Mary Jo Churchwell (SDNHM, Parks volunteer), Joe Woods (Cal-IPC Volutaria Volunteer), Pat Matthews, Don Stang (Seasonal Resident & Weeder), Sicco Rood

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

Updates:

Bruce Kelley: BVEF recognizes threat of SM & V, especially to the attractiveness of Borrego Springs to residents and tourists, and may fund grants for control or removal projects.

Pat Matthews: Pat's group has pulled more mustard than V, 1000's of each. 17 trips into the field with 10-20 volunteers. 644 volunteer hours. Wed big purpose is education. \$60K grant funding available. Chris soliciting ideas. Looking for solarization project ideas and community location. Written up a proposal with half-time coordinator. Asking for input.

Bruce Kelley: A crew of high school students with knowledgeable supervisors pulled SM in Galleta meadows. BK and Pat Matthews talked with Halina Avery about importance of traffic control in Galleta meadows. Avery may provide some funding. BVEF might fund a crew.

Pat Matthews: Spread of V needs contained also highly trafficked areas. SM and V maybe need county or non-profit to be logical home. Under the sun Avery too artistic. Or the park would host. Talk about solarization locations and methods. Talk about what constituted mature plants/seeds when to cut the coldest point in the barrel or composter. It needs to be 165F. Some money is available in San Diego county. Need the right thermocouples and datalogger.

Larry Hendricksen: Suggested we consider it a pilot project to get more funding.

Jaquelyn Douglas: Tubb Canyon Conservancy crews were very inexpensive in weed removal.

Chris McDonald: Will look into county funding source to see how we can science the compost side of it. Its super ambitious how to document learning, how to measure, how to teach community.

Jaquelyn Douglas: Could we add Sisymbrium?

Joe Woods: Very difficult to find V without first removing the Sisymbrium irio, London rocket.

Chris McDonald: CDFA while proposal was generally broad, there were factors that reduced applicability. Deadline Friday. Can find 33 projects with \$2 million. Only certain WMA grants are first come first serve, the first 33 projects were funded. Within the request for proposal, but on the phone. Disappointing. There are only 2 people working on these projects, too hard to handle. Exempt from following CEQA regulations. The Ag. Commissioner did get out 3 grants. Volutaria, W(?)weed, and knapweed (spotted knapweed). County is putting in for a grant that they can do inhouse.

Joe Woods: County program very inefficient.

Chris McDonald: 3 million annual for weed management not supposed to have a 1st come 1st serve basis.

Syd Manger: 1500 V pulled with U of Virginia. All American Conservation Experience similar to Urban Core. JW says SS arranged for them to survey area above Coyote Canyon. Sites on the south east edge of Borrego sink have expanded. Also possible V found by Hidden Spring, Alcoholic Pass, and Coyote Mountains. Still lots of places we haven't looked at.

LH went to BPC area to find stinknet. Did not find any. Weeded SM Main strategy is to weed around rare plant populations. Only couple around V Horsecamp. Little Baja found V up the hillsides.

Chris McDonald: We are beyond the limit of eradication of SM, once you go over a couple thousand acres. Your chances drop. Need about ½ million dollars and a 4 year drought at this point for SM.

Next Meeting November 13rd, 2019