

Memorandum of Understanding Mojave Weed Management Area

I. Introduction

Weed infestations in the Mojave Desert in California reduce the biological, agricultural, recreational, and economic value of the land and negatively impact the environment by suppressing native plant species. A coordinated approach among Federal, State and local agencies will improve the effectiveness of weed management efforts in the Mojave Desert. Weed management efforts may include site identification, public education, and mechanical, biological, chemical, and cultural control.

SB 1740 authorized funding for the implementation of Integrated Weed Management Plans submitted by county-based Weed Management Areas (WMAs), and to assist the WMAs garner additional monetary contributions and in-kind support for integrated weed management.

For the purpose of this document, a weed is a plant species that is detrimental or destructive to agriculture, silviculture, or important native species, and difficult to control or eradicate.

To facilitate planning and implementation of educational and control programs, representatives from the partner agencies developed a list of target species within the Mojave Weed Management Area (MWMA). These species are:

Camel thorn	<i>Alhagi camelorum</i>
Dalmation toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatic</i>
Fountain grass	<i>Pennisetium setaceum</i>
Giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Halogeton	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>
Puncture vine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Red Brome	<i>Bromus madritensis</i>
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i>
Saharan mustard	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
White hosenettle	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>
Yellowstar thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>

Saharan mustard is rapidly spreading throughout the Mojave Desert, and saltcedar continues to adversely affect hydrology and displace native vegetation in riparian areas; therefore, these two species are the focus of initial control actions for the MWMA. However, weed control activities are not limited to only species on the target list. The list will be used to help prioritize weed projects, and will be modified as needed. Partner agencies shall have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed modifications to the list.

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

II. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish the MWMA to facilitate the cooperation and coordination necessary to prevent and control weeds throughout the Mojave Desert in California. The emphasis of MWMA activities shall be on the exclusion, detection, eradication, and suppression of weeds. The priority for control and eradication efforts shall be on the species listed as noxious weeds by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and other species of local significance as they are identified. The signatory agencies and organizations will cooperate in developing coordinated work plans and seeking funds to support the activities of the MWMA. In addition, public education on weed identification, prevention, and control will be a primary goal of the MWMA. This MOU is limited to issues pertaining to weed control and management in the Mojave Desert, California.

III. Authority

California Senate Bill 1740 created the Noxious Weed Management Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund. The Bill authorized and appropriated funds for WMAs to use to control and abate noxious weeds according to approved integrated weed management plans, conduct research on the biology, ecology, or management of noxious and invasive weeds, and administer WMA activities.

Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)

Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species) February 3, 1999

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, Federal Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, PL 104-127; Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, 16 USC 3830 et seq. Activities under this MOU will improve wildlife habitat through the removal of invasive plant species allowing native vegetation to reestablish.

IV. Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of the MWMA includes the portion of San Bernardino County in the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District, the portion of Inyo County east of Death Valley National Park, all of Death Valley National Park, and all of Joshua Tree National Park.

V.

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

Parties

Participation in the MWMA is open to any public or private individual, organization, or agency interested in weed management, subject to their signing this MOU.

VI. Agreement

It is mutually agreed upon and understood by and between the said parties that:

- A. All partners will meet as needed for the purpose of developing, documenting, and implementing a Long Range Plan to control and suppress or eradicate weed infestations within the MWMA. The Long Range Plan will support and help implement the Federal Invasive Species Management Plan, as appropriate.
- B. Partners will annually develop a Coordinated Annual Work Plan for controlling weeds.
- C. Insofar as it is compatible with each agency's primary mission and statutory responsibilities, all parties shall use their best efforts to secure the funding needed to carry out the Long Range and Coordinated Annual Work Plans. Each project that requires specific funding to be implemented shall be the subject of a separate project-specific agreement between the agencies responsible for its funding and implementation.
- D. Partners will provide data and information on the distribution of weeds and methods of control for sharing with all partners through a centralized database and website.
- E. The Bureau of Land Management will:
 1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 2. Identify and map weed infestations on BLM managed lands.
 3. Promote the prevention and control of weeds on BLM managed lands.
 4. Support and assist other agencies and interested parties in weed prevention and control.
- F. Participating Department of Defense installations will:
 1. Educate installation personnel and visiting groups about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 2. Identify and map weed infestations on military lands.
 3. Promote the prevention and control of weeds on military lands.
 4. Support and assist other agencies and interested parties in weed prevention and control to the extent possible.
 5. Develop and maintain a MWMA website to facilitate communication and dissemination of information related to the MWMA. The MWMA website will include appropriate links to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Weed Management Area website.

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

- G. The Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District will:
1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 2. Maintain a GIS for exotic weed mapping efforts within the MWMA.
 3. In partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, provide recommendations and planting specifications for the re-vegetation of disturbed and/or chemically treated areas.
 4. Advocate for more sophisticated management strategies by agencies with weed management responsibilities.
 5. Contract with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to administer and manage SB 1740 funding.
- H. The Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council will:
1. Provide coordination and information on regional issues related to weed control.
 2. Support the MWMA's efforts in control and prevention of weeds.
 3. Coordinate grant funding, when appropriate, that requires application as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- I. The Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley National Park, and Joshua Tree National Park will:
1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 2. Promote the control and treatment of weeds on National Park Service (NPS) lands.
 3. Coordinate with and assist other agencies and interested parties in weed prevention and control to the extent possible.
 4. Identify and map priority weed infestations on NPS lands.
- J. The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) will:
1. Participate in seeking grants to fund weed management efforts in cooperation with the MWMA partners and other organizations attempting to manage weeds.
 2. Promote the control and treatment of weeds on MWA property.
 3. Support efforts to educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
- K. The San Bernardino County Farm Bureau will:
1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 2. Promote the control and prevention of weeds on private land.

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

- L. The San Bernardino National Forest will:
 - 1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 - 2. Promote the control and treatment of weeds on National Forest System lands.
 - 3. Support and assist other agencies and interested parties in weed prevention and control to the extent practicable.
 - 4. Identify and map all weed infestations on National Forest System lands as encountered.

- M. The University of California Cooperative Extension Unit will:
 - 1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control through development and distribution of publications, conducting educational workshops, and field consultations with land managers.
 - 2. Promote the control and prevention of weeds on private land through extension of research-based information on weed control.
 - 3. Conduct and/or report upon applied research on weed control to test management strategies including prescribed burning, approved herbicides, grazing, mowing, hand removal, and competitive vegetation.

- N. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service will:
 - 1. Work with the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District (MDRCD) to educate and assist landowners with the management of sensitive areas that may be prone to weed infestation.
 - 2. Utilize the appropriate Soil Survey of San Bernardino County Mojave River Area, California, in correlating weed areas within the MWMA with soil series to determine connections.
 - 3. Support the MDRCD's role in providing educational workshops on the management and vegetative control of sensitive areas.

- O. The United States Geological Survey will:
 - 1. Assist in designing scientifically sound weed management monitoring plans.
 - 2. Conduct applied research on factors contributing to the spread of weeds and the most effective methods for controlling noxious weeds, including prescribed burning, approved herbicides, grazing, mowing, hand removal, and biological controls.

- P. The California State Parks (Mojave Sector) will:
 - 1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 - 2. Promote the control and treatment of weeds on State Park managed lands.
 - 3. Support and assist other agencies and interested parties in weed prevention and control.
 - 4. Identify and map targeted weed infestations on State Park managed lands.

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

- Q. The California Department of Transportation will:
1. Educate its staff and the public about weeds, prevention, and methods of control.
 2. During project construction and maintenance activities, control and eradicate weeds, where feasible and resources permit, within California Department of Transportation right of ways.
 3. Support and assist other agencies and interested parties in methods of weed prevention and control.
 4. During biological surveys, identify and map, where feasible and resources permit, weed infestations in California Department of Transportation right of ways.
- R. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will:
1. Educate the public about weeds, their identification, prevention, and methods of control.
 2. Promote the control and treatment of weeds on CDFG and other lands.
 3. Support and cooperate with other agencies and interested parties in weed prevention and control.
- S. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will:
1. Provide technical assistance to partner agencies within the MWMA.
 2. Coordinate with and assist partner agencies and interested parties in weed prevention and control to the extent possible.
 3. Assist partner agencies in the identification and development of FWS administered conservation grants.

VII. Termination

Any partner may, in writing, terminate their participation in this instrument in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of renewal/expiration (see Section IX). This agreement may be terminated by majority and the MWMA thereby disbanded. In the event of termination, each party will assume financial and other responsibilities for the completion of required and agreed upon activities or such responsibilities must be modified by mutual written agreement.

VIII. Participation in Similar Activities

This instrument in no way restricts the cooperators from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

IX. Effective Date and Date of Renewal/Expiration

This instrument shall become effective upon the date that a simple majority of the parties signs the MOU and shall remain in effect for a period of 5 years, at which time it will be subject to review, renewal, or expiration.

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

X. Principal Contacts

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Rachael Scott

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

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Kathleen Franklin
California State Parks (Mojave Desert Sector)

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

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Kate Symonds
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003

XI. Non-Fund Obligating Document

This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the partners to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. Specifically, this instrument does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

XII. Modification

The MOU may be modified at any time upon written approval of all the parties.

XIII. Non Discrimination

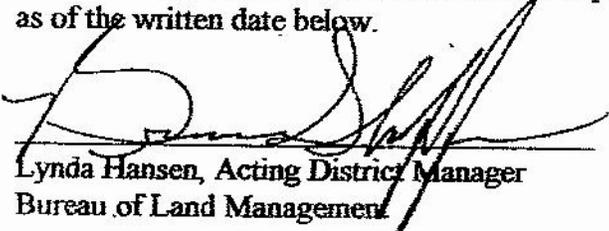
The programs or activities conducted under this agreement will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes: namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. They will also be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR-15, Subparts A & B), which provide that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the USDA or any agency thereof.

XIV. Signature

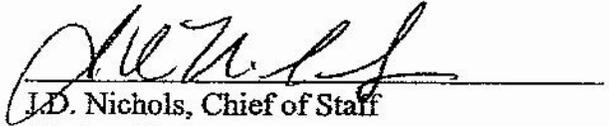
This MOU may be executed in counterparts, all of which together shall constitute a fully executed instrument. In witness thereof, the partners hereto have executed this agreement as of the written date below.

FOR 
Lynda Hansen, Acting District Manager
Bureau of Land Management

9/5/02
Date


Ernest Quintana, Superintendent
Joshua Tree National Park

8-2-02
Date


J.D. Nichols, Chief of Staff
Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command
MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms

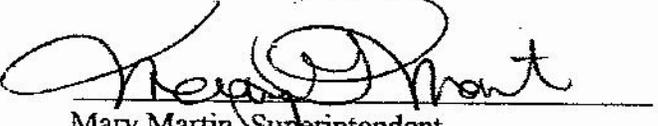
9/20/02
Date


Mary Ann Salyards, President
Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District

8-1-02
Date

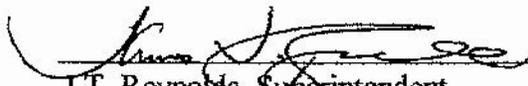

Peter Lounsbury, President
Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council

8/8/02
Date


Mary Martin, Superintendent
Mojave National Preserve

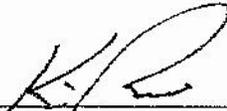
7/29/02
Date

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU



J.T. Reynolds, Superintendent
Death Valley National Park

30 July 02
Date



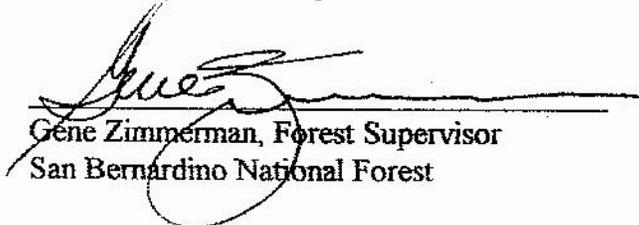
Kirby Brill, General Manager
Mojave Water Agency

8/9/02
Date



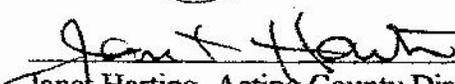
Rachael Scott, Executive Director
San Bernardino County Farm Bureau

9/6/02
Date



Gene Zimmerman, Forest Supervisor
San Bernardino National Forest

8.27.02
Date



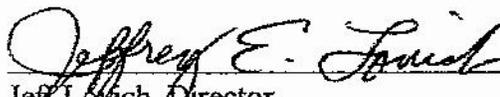
Janet Harting, Acting County Director
UC Cooperative Extension

July 31 02
Date



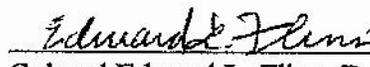
Charles W. Bell, State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

8/22/02
Date



Jeff Lovich, Director
Western Ecological Research Center
US Geological Survey

9/13/02
Date

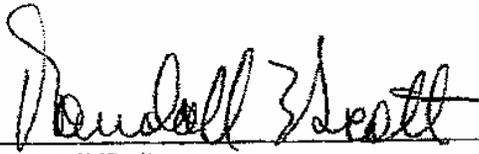


Colonel Edward L. Flinn, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff
NTC, Fort Irwin

19 Sep 02
Date

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU

Mojave Weed Management Area - MOU



Randall E. Scott
Director, Plans and Programs
Edwards Air Force Base

10 Oct 02

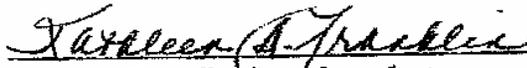
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Richard Doyle, Deputy District Director
Planning and Local Assistance, District 8
California Department of Transportation

7/29/02

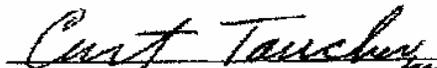
Date



Kathleen Franklin, Superintendent
Mojave Desert Sector
California State Parks

8/1/02

Date



Curt Taucher, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish & Game

7/29/02

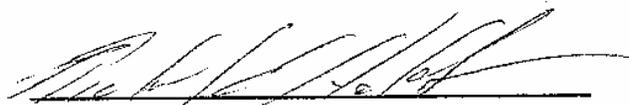
Date



Diane Noda, Ventura Office Field Supervisor
US Fish & Wildlife Service

9/17/02

Date



Richard Haldeman, Regional Director
Quail Unlimited

Aug 28, 2004

Date