

## Report for Mojave Weed Management Area

### **USFS**

\*Completing environmental analysis to remove Spanish Broom along the State Highways 18, 28, 330, and 138 through the San Bernardino National Forest. A decision is expected September 2008. Caltrans will assist in the removal.

\*Removal of Tamarisk annually in Arrastre Creek and Old Woman Springs (Arrastre Creek population 1 now eliminated as of last month).

\*Annual hand removal/monitoring of Yellow Star Thistle from Rock Camp area.

\*Annual hand removal/monitoring Cheatgrass and mustards in our desert restoration sites.

\*Noxious weed surveys, hand removal of *Cirsium vulgare*, *Verbascum thapsus* and post removal monitoring in Pinnacles burned area.

\*Monitoring for tamarisk in Deep Creek (several plants were removed in 1990s).

\*Completing noxious weed risk assessments for each proposed project on the forest and making recommendations to reduce introduction or spread.

\*Planting native species in burned areas to reduce weed potential (Highway 173).

### **Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District**

The MDRCD is currently working on the eradication of Tamarisk, *Arundo*, and Russian Olive in/along the Mojave River. The RCD staff and Pilot Rock treated about 35 acres of weeds from the headwaters by Las Flores Ranch, to Bear Valley Rd. in Victorville. SWEAT was hired to work from Bear Valley Rd. to just south of the Victorville Wastewater Reclamation Authority. They have completed approximately 118 acres of weed treatment from February 2008 to March of 2008, totaling 153 acres in the first phase. It is in the plan to retreat for three years. The project will begin again, after a biologist surveys for nesting birds, on August 19. SWEAT plans to complete eradication on an additional 300 acres with this year's funding, as well as retreat the previous weeds they have removed. This project is being funded by the Mojave Water Agency and through mitigation funds received by developers and San Bernardino County Flood Control.

### **UC Cooperative Extension**

Karl McArthur has been working with UC fire experts in the forested areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties for several years. There will be an event in Yucca Valley on August 22nd and one in Apple Valley on August 23rd. This educational program seeks to

integrate multiple values, water conservation, watershed protection, fire protection, wildlife, and plant conservation, into the fire prevention effort.

### **BLM in Barstow**

BLM will resume its on-going Tamarisk control project (initial) along the Amargosa River in November. Primary funding will be from Cal-Trans this year. After-treatment maintenance on Tamarisk and Arundo will occur sometime this "treatment year" in Shoshone (Amargosa), Afton Canyon and at Point of Rocks. The level of maintenance will be funding dependent. BLM estimates that they will initially treat or perform maintenance on approximately 200 acres this coming year.

### **National Training Center – Ft. Irwin**

Ft. Irwin is currently working on creating a map of location and density of the invasive and noxious species *Brassica*, *Salsola*, *Bromus*, and *Amsinckia*. Data was collected using aerial and satellite imagery along with ground sampling. Final maps, a list of factors, such as soil type and elevation, and potential future species of concern are in progress.

### **San Bernardino County Dept. of Agriculture/Weights and Measures**

SB County AW&M is currently working on treating Perennial Peppergrass at the N&M Dairy in Helendale. The gross acreage for this project is roughly 20, with about 10 acres net that is actively being treated. Initial treatment was in April and they have recently done their second major treatment, observing a significant difference.

Treatment will begin on Halogeton at Cima Rd. off the I-15 on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> of this year. There is a co-operative agreement with National Park Service, Cal-Trans, and private land owners to cover 90+/- gross acres. Last year the net acreage treated, figured from the amount of chemical used, was 11.5 acres.

Halogeton is also being treated in the Barstow/Hinkley area at the interchange of I-15 and Hwy 58. So far this year, there has been 1.5 net acres treated. In 2005, the net acreage of this same area was 50.

### **Tamarix Biocontrol Research Consortium**

Tom Dudley reported that the Tamarix Biocontrol Research Consortium has completed the trials on different genetic strains of *Diorhabda elongata* against different Tamarix spp. to determine the most effective treatment for each geographic location. Supported by the USDA National Research Initiative, the Forest Service Forest Health Protection Program and other co-operating units, the results have been gathered and it is concluded that *Diorhabda elongata carinata*, from Uzbekistan, is most compatible with the Mojave River ecosystem. Letters of support for this project have been collected and the APHIS permit process for open release at Camp Cady has begun. APHIS approval is anticipated some time soon.

