

BRIEFING STATEMENT

Date: September 12, 2002

Title: 2003 Habitat Restoration Conference

Issue: Status of DMG 2003 Habitat Restoration Conference

Background:

Almost all of the agencies participating in the DMG conduct some form of habitat restoration or weed control. Due to changing restoration and weed control technologies, the opportunity for networking that leads to collaboration, and the ecological complexity of the California deserts, the DMG has identified the need for a restoration conference focusing on the California deserts. A similar conference, hosted by the DMG in 1994, was a huge success.

Current Status:

- **Purpose:** To provide a technology transfer of state of the art restoration techniques to restoration specialist and interested managers. Networking and collaboration is a secondary purpose.
- **Participants:** Attendees at the DMG restoration conference would come primarily from DMG partner agencies. USGS is combining an RVDE workshop into the conference. NPS would like to invite restoration specialist from parks throughout the arid southwest. Other interested parties such as non-governmental organizations, tribes, and contractors would be invited if space were available.
- **Schedule:** The conference will start at noon on Monday with USGS RVDE presentations. RVDE presentations will continue through noon Tuesday. NPS will also hold a breakout session Tuesday morning. There will be three field trips Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning will be dedicated to restoration topics. A networking mixer will occur Wednesday evening. The conference will end at noon Friday.
- **Target Audience:** The resource specialist and staff that design and implement habitat restoration and weed control projects and their managers.
- **Topics:** The conference will be related to on the ground habitat restoration and weed control. With the exception of RVDE, scientific papers will not be presented unless they have specific on-the-ground implications. Some of the topics will include:
 - riparian restoration
 - restoration monitoring
 - fire restoration
 - tamarisk control
 - restoration of rights-of-way and old roads
 - restoration methods
 - seeding
 - upland weeds
 - partnerships and grants

- **Location/Dates:** March 3-7, 2003. Doral Palm Springs Resort (www.doralpalmsprings.com)
- **Funding:**

Edwards	\$20,000
Fort Irwin	In-kind services through Charis Corporation
NPS (WASO)	\$7,500
USGS	yet to be determined
BLM	yet to be determined

Proposed Actions:

- Continued support for the conference.
- Include the NPS (beyond the DMG) and RVDE in the conference.
- Continue the conference planning with the ad hoc committee consisting of: Scofield (BLM), Burns- Chair (BLM), Collis (Edwards), Busch (MCAGCC), Weigand (BLM), Frazier (USGS), Eckert (NPS-WASO), Rodgers (NPS), and Dice (CASP).

Contacts:

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