



desert conservation  
PROGRAM

Date: March 20, 2012

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION NOTIFICATION:  
**THREATS RESEARCH AND MONITORING ON  
INVASIVE SPECIES SAHARA MUSTARD  
2005-NPS-532**

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Please see the attached for all project related information.

**The purpose of the above referenced project was:**

To gain knowledge about the Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) plant and devise efficient methods of control and removal in order to better protect the MSHCP covered species and the habitat that supports them.

**The major accomplishment or findings of this project include:**

This study provided beneficial information for land managers by increasing the knowledge of the biology and ecology of Sahara mustard to aid in efficient eradication and management of this species. The NPS conducted six experiments testing specific treatment techniques at various stages of plant development. Due to unexpected germination difficulties, two of the six experiments were not completed and the contract was amended to reduce the scope. Although only four of the six experiments were completed, valuable information was gained that will help land managers develop more efficient and effective control methods for Sahara mustard across the landscape.

- Herbicide applications are successful in all three stages of seed development. However, monitoring of treatments should occur for herbicide resistance.
- Hand pulling, although not practical on a large scale basis, can be somewhat successful prior to seed germination
- Seeds on soil surface will germinate at very low rates or not at all. Seeds must be buried below soil surface or covered to germinate.
- Soil seed banks appear to be short lived at shallow depths for up to 18 months. Deeper burial increases seed persistence.

respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our website at: <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/dcp/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Bickmore at (702) 455-2972.

Sincerely,



Marci D. Henson  
Program Manager

cc:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Board of County Commissioners (7)
- Permittees' Executive Committee
- Permittees' Process Management Group
- John Hill, Purchasing
- Catherine Jorgenson, District Attorney – Civil Division
- Desert Conservation Program Community Advisory Committee
- Desert Conservation Program Interested Parties List
- Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Implementing Agencies
- Science Advisor
- SNPLMA Office (for SNPLMA projects)
- Congressional Office
- All Environmental Management Staff Distribution