



desert conservation  
PROGRAM

Date October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION NOTIFICATION:  
**EFFECTIVE MONITORING of WETLANDS & RIPARIAN RESTORATION TREATMENTS  
2005-UCSB-552**

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:**

Tamarisk and other invasive weeds have been targeted for control in southern Nevada through numerous Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Conservation Actions, and previous control programs have been undertaken in the region. This project involves an extensive survey and effectiveness monitoring program of sites where control measures, particularly against tamarisk, have been applied in Clark County and adjacent regions to determine what methods yielded desired results (recovery of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, improved soil condition, reduced wildfire risk) vs. methods that were ineffective in meeting goals.

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

- Mechanical removal of tamarisk often leads to establishment of exotic weeds.
- Wildlife does use tamarisk for habitat and therefore complete removal of a tamarisk grove adversely effects wildlife.
- Herbicides using aminopyralid as the active ingredient provided superior weed control of Russian knapweed.
- Native species are less able to recover from fires as the proportion of vegetation comprised by tamarisk increases.
- Tamarisk is a wildfire hazard and only slightly more hazardous when infected by the tamarisk leaf beetle (*Diorhabda carinulata*).
- The tamarisk leaf beetle; which has proved to be very effective in eliminating tamarisk, has evolved to exist and prosper below the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

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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 John Brekke at (702) 455-2722.

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

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