May 13, 2026

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY
**Evaluation of Herbivore Deterrent**
**2021-ECOCULTURE-2050C**

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Below is a summary of project related information.

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

As part of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and the associated Incidental Take Permit, the County acquires, restores, and manages riparian property along the Muddy and Virgin Rivers. The County is working towards the restoration and/or enhancement of native habitat on County properties. However, cattle roam the properties, causing severe damage to the landscape. The County is testing available methods to reduce herbivore damage to plants. Repellents were tested to determine the effectiveness of deterring browsing of desirable vegetation by trespass cattle.

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

Two commercially available herbivore deterrents (Plantskydd and Trico Pro) were tested on 1,500 native plant species propagated by Song Dog Nurseryand planted in 60 plots along the Virgin River at Bunkerville East and West, and Mormon Mesa. Pellet counts were conducted for all plots. Plots were monitored for browsing damage and herbivore deterrent reapplied throughout 2024 and 2025.

Due to harsh conditions from record temperatures and lack of precipitation, high mortality rates occurred in the plants despite supplemental watering. With high temperatures, it was difficult to determine the cause of disappearance for many plants with certainty from the harsh conditions or cattle grazing. The Contractor recommends that future monitoring efforts could include a subjective categorical measure of plant health and avoid planting in areas with tall, fast-growing riparian plants. Monitoring data was collected throughout 2024 and 2025 and will be analyzed by the Science Advisors.

For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our website.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Caryn Wright, at (702) 455-2972.