An Overview of the Vegetation Research Program: Knowledge Services for Land Management

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An Overview of the Vegetation Research Program: Knowledge Services for Land Management

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What we do

• We provide knowledge services about the ecology and management of southwestern dryland ecosystems

• We specialize in working with resource managers to conduct applied research

• We conduct and provide research, monitoring, scientific literature synthesis, and technical assistance
Who we are

• PhD PI integrated with UNLV academic department

• Four M.S.-level and two B.S.-level full-time Research Assistants

• Two graduate students and one student worker

• Expertise in botany, fire ecology, restoration ecology, exotic species, monitoring design, and synthesis
Project Examples

1948
Desert National Wildlife Refuge – Rye Patch Spring

2007
Assessing Vegetation of Grassy Remnants in the Las Vegas Valley and Plant Salvage Techniques
Experimental Manipulations of Vegetation Structure at Lake Mead NRA Springs
Monitoring Vegetation Recovery and BLM Seeding Effectiveness on Desert Burns (joint Life Sciences and PLI project)
2005 Fires Sampled on BLM Land

- Red Rock Canyon NCA
- Sloan Canyon NCA
- Lake Mead NRA
- Red Rock
- Arden
- Overlook2
- Diamond
- Loop
- Sloan2
- Tramp
- Fork
- River
- Pitt

Legend:
- 2005 Fires
- NCA’s
- BLM Land

Scale:
0 2.5 5 10 km

Legend:
- 2005 Fires
- NCA’s
- BLM Land

Scale:
0 5 10 20 km
Identifying candidate species for burn reveg – Abella, Smith, Newton, Lund co-PIs

Donovan Craig, UNLV, Lake Mead nursery
Comparing species performance, seeding vs. planting effectiveness
A Systematic Review of Wild Burro Grazing Effects on Mojave Desert Vegetation, USA

Scott R. Abella

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Examples of Accomplishments: 2007

• 11 peer-reviewed articles published
• 10 conference/formal presentations (one won Ecological Soc. America award in statistical ecology)
• Awarded $179,000 nationally competitive Joint Fire Science grant
• Involved 24 UNLV students in restoration ecology research projects
Questions?

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