



Hold That Date!

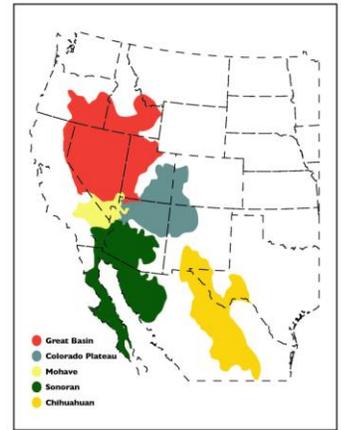
Wildfires and Invasive Plants in American Deserts

December 9-11, 2008

Reno, Nevada

The Grand Sierra Resort and Casino

rangelands.org/deserts



You are invited to participate in an innovative symposium and workshop that will explore the interactions among exotic invasive plants, native plants, and changing wildfire regimes on the Colorado Plateau and in the Sonoran, Chihuahuan, Mojave, and Great Basin deserts of North America. Invasive plants are changing the ecology of the American Deserts, resulting in profound impacts to social, economic, and natural resource values. Examples of exotic invasive plants that change wildfire regimes include, but are not limited to, cheatgrass, red brome, buffelgrass, and medusahead wildrye. Complicating the exotic invasive species/wildfire cycle is the encroachment and potential dominance of invasive native plants such as juniper and pinyon pine in the cold deserts and mesquite and creosote bush in the hot deserts.

The primary goal of this program is to further develop practical frameworks for managing exotic invasive plants and wildfires. To do that, we intend to find out what scientists have learned and what needs further study; what managers in the different desert regions have tried; what on-the-ground management has worked and what hasn't; and identify needs and solutions for effective management.

The timing of the program is intended to help heighten the awareness, under a new administration, of these critical issues that can have major impacts on socioeconomic aspects of the American society.

The major topics covered in the symposium and workshop will include:

- 1) Historical fire regimes, desert ecology and current management.
- 2) Invasive plants/wildfire status and predicted trends (includes climate change).
- 3) Fire and fuels management strategies.
- 4) Control techniques for key invasive plants including but not limited to biological (livestock and natural enemies), mechanical, chemical, and cultural (prescribed fire and grazing) treatments.
- 5) Contemporary post-fire restoration practices and effectiveness in the short and long terms.
- 6) Case studies in adaptive management of fire-prone landscapes.
- 7) Social and economic impacts on and from ecological and fire regime changes.

Sponsorship and support (to date) for this effort comes from:

Society for Range Management (SRM), Center for Professional Education and Development (CPED)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP)
University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Arizona State Parks, Resource Management Section Heritage Program

Our list of supporters is growing! For more information on opportunities for sponsorship or participation, please contact:

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