



A Workshop on the Strategic Management of Invasive Species in the Southwestern U.S.

Project # 09-455

Background:

Invasive species management requires strategies and tools for prevention, early detection-rapid response, control, and restoration. Selection of strategies and tools depends upon overall land or water management goals such as land-use activities (e.g., military training) and natural resource conservation (e.g., biodiversity, threatened and endangered species). An ecosystem approach to invasive species management is ideal for military installations covering large landscapes. Such an approach is also well suited for partnerships that can bring together individual projects to address region-wide problems. By incorporating ecological concepts into invasive species management strategies and fostering local and regional partnerships, installation personnel will have greater success in achieving their management goals.

Objective:

The overall purpose of this workshop was to provide military installation personnel and other natural resource professionals with knowledge and resources that they can use to prioritize and solve invasive species problems on installations and adjacent lands in desert ecosystems of the Southwestern U.S.

Summary of Approach:

The Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) offered a five-day workshop, October 26-30, 2009, at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, AZ, which presented a variety of topics to help participants achieve installation goals for military training and land stewardship. These topics included invasion ecology, a framework for invasive species management, specifics of control strategies, species identification, restoration, and building partnerships. While the focus was on terrestrial invasive plants of southwestern desert ecosystems, aquatic nuisance species and insects were also covered. Daily classroom sessions based on defined learning outcomes, included presentations and hands-on activities such as a species identification lab and small groups working on problem-based scenarios followed by feedback from participants and instructors. A full day was spent in the field learning about restoration of a riparian area and of sites burned by wildfires. The diversity of instructors and presenters (24 individuals) and participants (22 DoD personnel and 21 representatives from government agencies, tribes, and non-profit groups) allowed for the contribution of insightful experiences and perspectives.



Small working groups tackle problem-based scenarios.
Photo: Janet Clark, Center for Invasive Plant Management

Benefit:

This workshop provided a platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and resources among participants and with the instructors. The knowledge gained by participants will help them make more informed decisions when developing and implementing invasive species management strategies to achieve overall goals on installations and through partnerships on adjacent lands.

Accomplishments:

In addition to developing the five-day workshop, which was highly successful as indicated by the participant evaluations, CIPM created two other products. We compiled a resource notebook that was given to participants at the start of the workshop. The notebook contents included copies of the PowerPoint slides, lists of resources relevant to the session topics that were compiled by instructors, and a list of Legacy Program and SERDP products. We also recorded all presentations and posted them online, which makes the information readily available to more installation personnel and potential partners. To view the recordings visit: <http://www.weedcenter.org/dodworkshop/2009>.

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