

# CNPS Field-Based Rare Vegetation Sampling/Mapping Workshop in East Riverside County February 5-6, 2011

## Workshop Goals:

- Learn about the diversity of desert plant assemblages
- Provide tools for chapter members and the public to sample/map vegetation in priority areas that need additional inventory
- Use existing CNPS/DFG protocols to collect new data on rare vegetation types
- Use aerial photos to discuss mapping of rare vegetation and other special features
- Discuss how data can be utilized in conservation planning and other efforts
- Discuss needs/plans for future vegetation surveys/mapping in the desert

## Directions:

Take Interstate 10 East towards Palm Springs, and continue East past Indio approximately 50 miles to Desert Center, at the junction of Interstate 10 and Highway 177. Turn left (north) on Hwy 177/Desert Center-Rice Rd, proceed approx. 0.2 mi. and turn left on Ragsdale Rd to the cafe. There's no gas in Desert Center; we suggest filling up at Chiriaco Summit, approx 9 miles west of Desert Center.

***If you are meeting with us Friday evening:*** Meet at 5:00 in front of the Desert Center Café on the north side of Interstate 10 at the turnoff to Highway 177. From here we will caravan to a nearby campground or camp site (tentatively, the Corn Springs Wash Campground) for a group pasta dinner. Please bring a side dish to pass!

If you are late, you can get to Corn Springs Wash Campground by continuing East on Interstate 10 to the Corn Springs Rd. exit. Turn right onto Chuckwalla Valley Rd. and then make an immediate left to stay on Chuckwalla Rd. Continue 0.63 mile East to Corn Springs Road. Turn right (South) and continue approximately 5 miles to the Corn Springs Campground.

***If you are meeting up with us on Saturday morning:***

We will meet at the Desert Center Cafe at 9:00 a.m. to depart to our field location near the Palen Lake dunes for the day.

## Preliminary Agenda:

### Fri. February 4<sup>th</sup>

- **5:30 p.m.** Arrive at Desert Center Cafe (if camping) and caravan to Corn Springs Wash Campground, approximately 10 miles to the east.
- **6:30 p.m.** Enjoy a group dinner (pasta meal provided, and bring your own beverages and appetizer or side dishes)

### Sat. February 5<sup>th</sup>

- **9:00 a.m.** Meet at designated location to meet participants
- **9:45 a.m.** Begin sampling in a rare desert vegetation type (review CNPS vegetation sampling protocol near Palen Lake)
- **12:00 p.m.** Lunch (bring your own food and beverages)
- **1:00 p.m.** Complete field survey and discuss stand delineation/mapping using aerial photographs and other techniques
- **3:00 p.m.** Break-out into groups to sample additional sites containing rare vegetation
- **5:00 p.m.** Meet up to talk about findings and about next day's plans

### Sun. February 6<sup>th</sup>

- **8:30 a.m.** Meet at designated location to meet participants
- **9:00 a.m.** Break-out into groups to continue sampling/mapping rare vegetation features in the field
- **1:30 p.m.** Meet to talk about findings and depart from site

## **Here's what to bring:**

Please bring the following equipment/supplies:

- Clipboard
- Notebook and pencils
- Sturdy boots and field clothes appropriate for conditions
- Water bottles and water
- Sunscreen and hat!
- Bag lunch for 2 field days
- Snacks
- Appetizer or side dish to share during Friday pasta meal (if camping with us)
- Downloadable species lists (Palen Solar Power Project and the Genesis Solar Energy Project plant lists)
- ***If you are camping:*** In addition to your camping gear, also bring what you need for 2 breakfasts (Saturday and Sunday AM) and Saturday night dinner.

Optional Items:

- Compass and/or clinometer
- Binoculars
- Digital camera
- GPS unit

## **Lodging options:**

Many of us will be camping at Corn Springs Wash Campground. Other lodging options include the following:

### **In Blythe:**

Hampton Inn - \$116 AAA rate, \$84 state gov't rate; there is a Starbuck's across the street

Best Western Sahara – \$85 gov't and AAA rate

America's Best Value Inn - \$52 AAA/AARP rate

### **In Indio:**

Best Western Date Tree - \$84-94 gov't and AAA rates

Royal Plaza Inn - \$75-86

Quality Inn - \$71-\$84