

MOJAVE DESERT INITIATIVE MDI



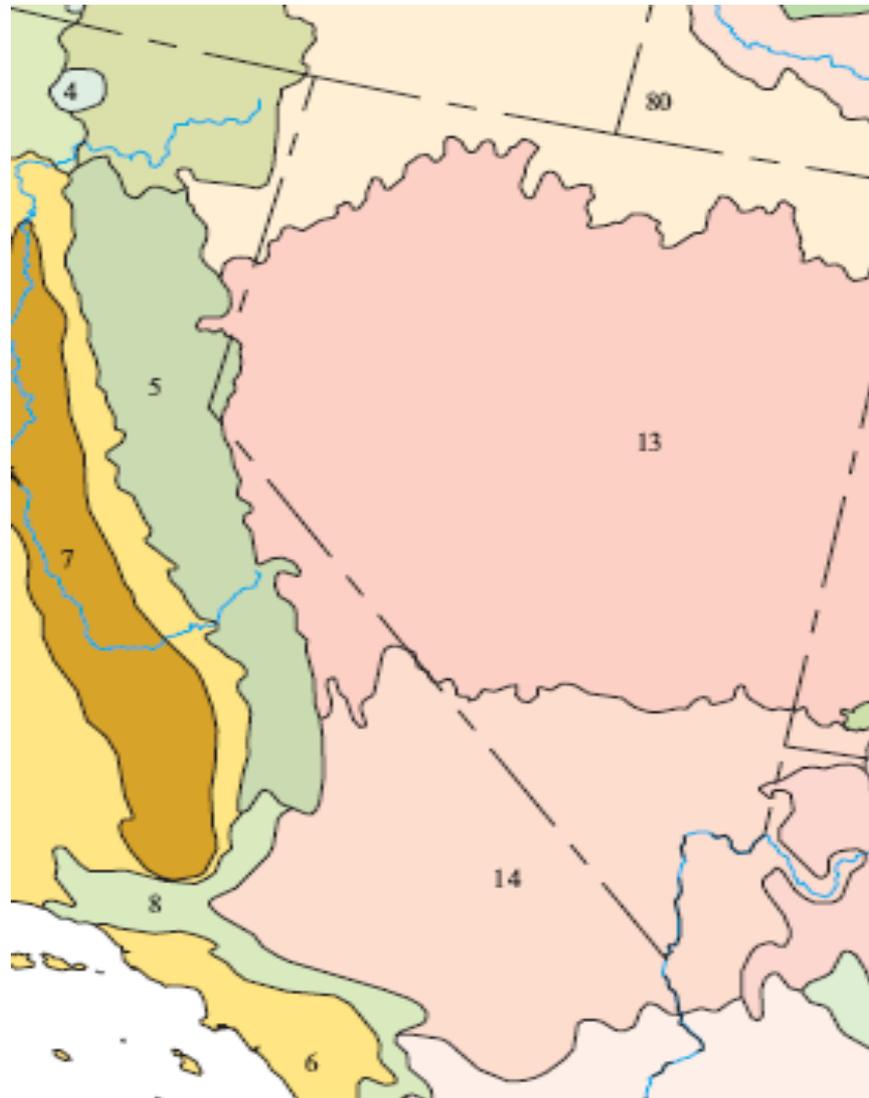
INTRODUCTION

The Mojave Desert Initiative was established in 2007 as a forum for government agencies and other partners to collaboratively address wildfire and invasive species issues within the northeast Mojave Desert in Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE – NV TEST SITE
- NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
- UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES
- ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
- NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Level III Ecoregions of the Continental United States



STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

- Prepared in 2007
- Currently being revised
- Outlined Goals and Actions
- Provided the basis for identifying immediate priorities

GOALS

- **Protect** Remaining Unburned Mojave Desert Vegetation and Reduce Re-burning.
- **Restore** Strategically Located Islands, Key Habitat Areas, and Corridors.
- Improve Communication, Collaboration, and Coordination.
- Maximize Leveraged Funding.

INITIAL ACTIONS (PRIORITIES)

- Develop regional guidance for Incident Commanders to minimize or avoid further habitat loss to fire (applies to entire Mojave not just the NE region). Re-issued annually.
- Complete regional assessment to identify priority areas of work, and develop project ranking and selection criteria.
- Assessment updated as needed to include new information, reflect changes in conditions, etc.

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

- Geospatial component includes overlays of burned and unburned habitats, critical habitat, special designations, etc. resulting in priority protection and restoration areas.
- Protection areas focus on unburned desert tortoise and other listed species habitats.
- Restoration areas focus on establishing strategically located islands and corridors connecting intact habitats.
- Maintaining or establishing corridors is key for plants and animals to adapt to changing climate.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Identify, prioritize, and develop projects across the MDI eco-region.
- Projects include fuel breaks and green stripping to protect unburned areas, seeding and plantings to establish islands and corridors.
- A number of projects are currently being planned and implemented across the region.
- Major new project just underway with USGS/ARS will establish a regional system of plots to test plant materials that are competitive with invasive annuals.

QUESTIONS?

