



# Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

October 2011

## Parashant Partnership St. George, UT Workshop #3

The Parashant Partnership met for three days in early October to learn together in the field and to formalize their goals for working together.

The field portion of the workshop focused on the Mojave, with a day of introduction to aspects of this habitat, from grazing management to desert tortoise ecology. This was followed by a visit to the Pakoon Basin to observe and discuss plant communities and various treatments. The trip was cut somewhat short by the rare and beautiful occurrence of thunderstorms rolling across the desert.

The remainder of the workshop was divided between presentations on a variety of ecological and policy issues on the monument and discussions of the direction of the partnership.



Photo: Richard Spotts / BLM Arizona Strip District

### Presenters & Topics

- Clay Bundy (Rancher)—Grazing Management in the Pakoon Basin: Before and After the Monument
- Whit Bunting (BLM)—Grazing Exclosure Sites
- Dennis Curtis (BLM, retired)—Early Management of the Monument; New BLM and NPS Partnership
- Lesley Defalco (USGS)—Mojave Fire Rehabilitation Research; Seeding and Herbicide Treatments
- Todd Esque (USGS)—Desert Tortoise Ecology and Fire in the Mojave
- Scott Florence (BLM)—The Mojave Desert Initiative
- Clarence Johns (Paiute Tribe)—What the Pakoon Basin Means to the Native Americans
- Susan Meyer (USDA FS, RMRS)—Biological Brome Control Research
- Jim Moore (TNC)—TNC Mojave Assessment, December 2010
- Bob Sandberg (BLM, retired)—see Clay Bundy
- Brian Wooldridge (USFWS)—Desert Tortoise Mandates Status, ESA, Recovery Plan
- Elaine York (TNC)—Landscape Conservation Forecasting



For more information about the Parashant Partnership, contact:

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The group also formally adopted the name Parashant Partnership, and discussed the vision and mission statements drafted by a working group over the summer. Comments and concerns raised will be incorporated into new drafts to be considered at the next meeting of the Partnership.

### Draft Vision Statement

The vision of the Parashant Partnership is to provide a framework that facilitates collaborative dialogue from which sustainable care for and restoration of the remote, unspoiled and rugged character of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is maintained, ensuring its use and enjoyment for present and future generations consistent with the monument proclamation.

### Draft Mission Statement

To provide a foundation of trust and mutual respect among stakeholders in order to redefine relationships, share knowledge and learning, and help inform and provide council to proactively drive the decision-making process involving ecological restoration in the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

## Participating Agencies & Organizations

Arizona Game and Fish Department  
 Bar 10 Ranch  
 Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office  
 Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District Office  
 Citizens for Dixie's Future  
 Friends of Gold Butte  
 Friends of the Arizona Strip  
 Grand Canyon Trust  
 Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
 Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (Bureau of Land Management & National Park Service)  
 Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians  
 Mojave Sportsman Club  
 National Park Service, Lake Mead  
 National Park Service, Mojave Desert Monitoring and Inventory  
 Northern Arizona University, Ecological Restoration Institute  
 Shivwits Band of Paiute Indians  
 Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 The Wilderness Society  
 USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station  
 U.S. Geological Survey, Las Vegas Field Station



Plants of the Mojave evolved under a fire regime with low fire frequency and small size wildfires. Cheatgrass is a challenge and threat in the region, as it fills the interstitial spaces, creating a continuous fuel bed through which fire can spread. This is changing the the fire regime to one of high frequency, large size fires to which native plants are poorly adapted.  
 Photos: Elaine York / TNC



The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at [ldecker@tnc.org](mailto:ldecker@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524.



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