

RAC briefing 10/26/2016

Data gathering in preparation for the planning effort and resource assessment:

AIM Crew inventory on OMDP

AIM = Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring

Consist of data collection for managing ecosystems

Base line surveys of soils and soil stability

Measuring the vegetation composition, what plants are there?

Noting species of management concern (e.g. night blooming cereus) and nonnative species

And, supporting the Seeds of Success program, which collects seeds of native vegetation should there be a need for restoration after a fire or other need.

Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with New Mexico State for support in the OMDP planning effort.

Agreement with New Mexico State for Vegetation mapping

This work goes hand in hand with the AIM crew fieldwork.

NMSU will look at databases of existing vegetation data; create maps and predictive models of where different vegetation could occur. This is not so much as a predictive model of the future but of current places we may look at with aerial photography.

The AIM crew data can be used to ground truth the predictive maps.

The information can be used to help us plan for vegetation treatments; it will give us information on where treatments will be successful and where they might not.

Archeological Survey

Through contract and volunteers, we've completed 100,000 acres of archeological survey locating 10 previously undocumented cultural resource sites.

Agreement with NMACD

New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) under the Restore New Mexico initiative.

This is for species data mining, mapping and habitat analysis. To determine where animals have been, are, and could be.

Questions being asked include;

- Does the species occur in the monument at present?

- Did the species occur in the monument in historic times but is now extirpated?
- What are the habitat requirements of the species?
- Where in the monument are species known or expected to occur?
- What are the threats to the species?
- Does the species occur year round, breeding season, winter?

Agreement with the University of Alaska with a subcontract to New Mexico State

For recreation and visitor service – they are developing a survey and focus group questions to learn about where and how the public likes to recreate in the National Monument.

End of report.