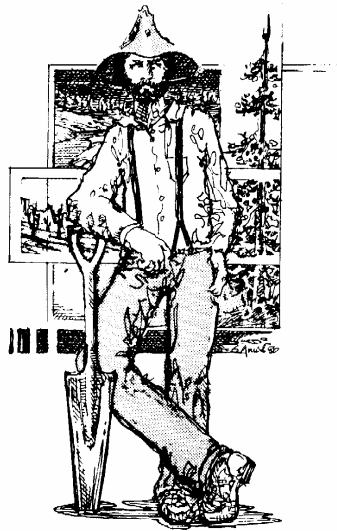


HOGBACK AREA INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT 2000 CONDITIONS

Prepared for:

LADWP and Inyo County



WHITEHORSE ASSOCIATES
Smithfield, Utah

Whitehorseassociates.com

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This inventory provides information for assessing the extent and condition of existing yellow-billed cuckoo habitat. Soil and hydrologic information useful for evaluating enhancement alternatives is also provided.

The Hogback area (2,183 acres) is about 6 miles northwest of the town of Lone Pine, on the east side of the Alabama Hills, in Owens Valley. Elevation ranges from about 4,260 to 4,600 feet. The area drains to Hogback Creek, which is captured by the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Soils were mapped at an Order 3 resolution by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Greenbook vegetation mapping was conducted 1983 through 1987. Two rare plants may occur in the area. The area includes the Hogback Creek Parcel (674 acres), which is part of the Mt. Whitney Pack Trains grazing lease.

Spring mapping conducted from 1:12,000 scale aerial photos dated 1996 was recompiled on a 2000 digital orthophoto and refined. On-site map verification and field descriptions of soil and hydrology were conducted September 26-27, 2003. A second botanical reconnaissance was conducted November 15-16, 2003. Map units denote areas of distinctive soil, hydrologic and vegetative character. This report is compiled as digital WORD (doc) and ADOBE (pdf) files on DVD. ACCESS tabular data, ARC-VIEW shapefiles and TIFF images are also on disk.

The Hogback area is divided into 375 parcels, each consisting of a dominant landtype, water regime and vegetation type. Landtypes are identified based on soil, morphology, and position relative to environmental gradients. Dominant landtypes are *floodplain*, *draw*, *alluvial terrace*, and *glacio-fluvial fan*. Water regimes are based on the frequency and duration of flooding, and/or depth to saturated conditions. *Saturated*, *seasonally flooded*, *seasonal high water table*, *seasonal low water table*, and *upland* regimes are identified. Vegetation types are based on community physiognomy and species composition. Vegetation types are *alkali marsh*, *alkali meadow (saltgrass)*, *coyote willow-rose*, *red willow/arroyo willow*, *red willow/coyote willow-rose*, *Fremont cottonwood*, *Fremont cottonwood/scrub*, *rabbitbrush-NV saltbush-riparian scrub*, *rabbitbrush-NV saltbush/saltgrass-alkali sacaton*, and *undifferentiated upland scrub*.

Preliminary assessments of YBC habitat were compiled for combinations of vegetation type, landtype, water regime, and recent fire regime. The preliminary results indicate about 122 acres of high suitability habitat and 60 acres of moderate suitability habitat.