

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Conversation With:	Kent Ostler, plant ecologist	Date:	07/12/05
Company/Agency:	Jason Associates	Time:	1550 - 1645
Address:		T-DCC Number:	G0090E-C03-BIO-T-066
	ostlerkent@earthlink.net	Reference No:	
Personnel Present:	Larry Thebeau - AGEISS Rich Huenefeld - AGEISS	Phone Number:	702.459.4856 (home) 702.295.0393 (work)

SUBJECT: Technical review of RA-EIS section 3.7 and advice on treatment of plant taxonomy

Mr. Ostler joined Mr. Thebeau and Mr. Huenefeld on a conference call to discuss Mr. Ostler's technical edits and comments to the draft of section 3.7 that he received on 7 July 2005. Mr. Ostler had forwarded to Mr. Thebeau an electronic version of 3.7 with some edits and comments, and we all discussed those comments.

Other points that Mr. Ostler addressed in this call:

1. Mr. Ostler said to make 61 meters the standard conversion from 200 feet (we had a lot of 60's).
2. Mr. Ostler said that we need to include a description of Endangered Species Act candidate species in the text box in the first section.
3. Mr. Ostler said that language from the first section, regarding Threaten & Endangered and sensitive species, is repeated in section 3.7.1.2.2. Delete or modify one or the other.
4. Mr. Ostler noted that plant nomenclature in the "species information" section of table 3.7-3 was not yet updated. However, this was done by the time this meeting took place.
5. Mr. Ostler noted that we have several references to black cottonwood, which does not occur in our area. Change to Fremont cottonwood. He supposes that the reference to *Populus trichocarpa* came from SW ReGAP descriptions, which may have been affected by changes in taxonomy.
6. Mr. Ostler said that language regarding Meadow Valley Wash is confusing in section 3.7.1.2.4, near the end of paragraph 4. Mr. Thebeau is to ask Ms. Marlene Cole about this.
7. Mr. Ostler had a question regarding pinto beardtongue on the Caliente/Las Vegas heavy haul route...he gave his input and Mr. Thebeau verified and gave me updated location info.
8. Mr. Ostler said we need to make more clear the fact that table 3.7-3 only includes species potentially affected by the proposed action, as the species affected by the no-action alternative aren't included in the table.

9. Mr. Ostler said that there are 2 or more species of Russian thistle in our area, the distinction between which is inconsequential, and their nomenclature is fluid. We should just refer to *Salsola* spp. throughout.

10. Although the USDA PLANTS database recognizes *Sarcobatus baileyi* as a synonym for the currently-accepted *S. vermiculatus* (greasewood), KO sees them as distinct species, and pointed out places in the text where *baileyi* belongs.

11. Mr. Ostler provided language to use to describe our presentation and treatment of plant common and scientific names. He said it was good that we had standardized both common and scientific names to the USDA PLANTS database, and that we need to cite that database as our source of nomenclature. He also stated that he and his colleagues had been trying recently to get the USDA to change some of the common names presented in the database because they were too confusing. He gave the example of *Ambrosia dumosa*, the common name for which is listed by the USDA as burrobush. He noted that *Hymenoclea salsola* also occurs in the area, and its standardized common name is burrobrush. He therefore agreed that, because we were using common names of plants once they have been identified by scientific name, we should refer to *Ambrosia dumosa* as white bursage to avoid confusion to readers of the document. He also said we should refer to both *Sarcobatus vermiculatus* and *S. baileyi*, despite the fact that the USDA lumps the two together, and that we should refer to *Halogeton glomeratus* as halogeton rather than salt lover, which is the standard common name presented by the USDA.

12. Mr. Ostler said that the teddybear cholla, *Opuntia bigelovii*, only occurs south of Las Vegas, and that we're dealing only with *O. echinocarpa* in the area with which we're concerned. KO also said that we should refer to ALL prickly pear cacti as "*Opuntia* sp."

Completed by: Richard Huenefeld, 07/15/05