

MBCA



morongo basin conservation association

MBCA advocates for the healthy desert environment that nurtures the region's rural character, cultural wealth and economic well-being.

April 22, 2019

Sharon Roberts, Program Analyst
USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Office of National Programs
Crop Production and Protection
5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Room 4-2224D
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5139

Dear Ms. Roberts,

The assault by Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) on the health of our desert demands that it be considered a “weed of interest” and be included within the USDA-ARS 2020-2025 Action Plan.

The presence of Sahara mustard continues to expand and cause severe damage to this diverse and vital desert ecosystem and to the thriving tourism based economy that it supports. The many visitors flocking to this year’s ‘super-bloom’ provides ample proof of the economic value of this intact landscape!

MBCA, with its over 1200 members and supporters, urge the USDA-ARS to take swift and decisive action to combat the continued spread of this unwelcome interloper.

I have provided a link to our web site that describes the danger that this plant presents: https://www.mbconservation.org/invasive_plants_2

Thank you for your attention and consideration.



Steve Bardwell, president

Post Office Box 24, Joshua Tree CA 92252 – www.mbconservation.org

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