**Meeting the Need for Ecologically Appropriate Native Plant Materials in the Mojave Desert**  
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**Co-Presenter's Company/Employer:** US Geological Survey  
**Co-Presenter's Title:** Research Ecologist  
**Topic:** Development and use of native seed in natural areas management  
**Proposal Type:** Individual Presentation  
 **Abstract:**Judy Perkins\*1, Lesley A. DeFalco2, Dan Shryock2, Nila Le3, Sarah De Groot3, Amy Vandergast4, and Elizabeth Milano4. 1Bureau of Land Management, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92256. jlperkins@blm.gov. 2U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, 160 North Stephanie Street, Henderson, NV 89104. ldefalco@usgs.gov. dshryock@usgs.gov. 3Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711. nle@rsabg.org. sdegroot@rsabg.gov. 4U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, 4165 Spruance Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92101. avandergast@usgs.gov. emilano@usgs.gov. Native plant restoration in the Mojave Desert depends heavily on wildland collection seed. This is partially due to the lack of Mojave appropriate cultivars and partially due to the challenges of commercially growing and harvesting seed for many of the species needed. The Mojave Desert Native Plant Program, working with partners, is improving the availability of appropriate native seed for restoration. The U.S. Geological Survey has completed provisional seed transfer zone development, and their associated Climate Distance Mapper tool, to improve seed sourcing relative to restoration sites, and is working with Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to develop genetic seed transfer zones for select species. Priority restoration species have been identified to guide seed collections and increase grow-outs. Pilot seed increase projects include challenging annual forb species, valuable for Mojave desert tortoise habitat restoration, to develop growing and seed harvest techniques. The overall program goal is to increase ecologically appropriate seed availability for restoration across the Mojave Desert.