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SPECIAL ISSUE: Strategies, Challenges and Lessons for Enhancing Desert Restoration

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Front Cover Feature:
A stand of Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) and Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) at mid-elevation outside Joshua Tree National Park. Stands of Joshua trees with dense shrub layers that commonly characterize modeled climate refugia may face increased fire severity, and these areas may be priorities for fire prevention and restoration efforts. Photo Credit: Lynn C. Sweet

Back Cover Features:
Top: Five years after management restoration treatments along a decommissioned road in the Dead Mountains Wilderness Area, California, USA. A surface pitting-vertical mulch treatment with litter transfer, shown in the foreground, facilitated the establishment of native shrubs, including *Larrea tridentata* (creosote bush), *Ambrosia dumosa* (white bursage), and *Encelia farinosa* (brittlebush), as well as native annual plant communities comparable to adjacent undisturbed areas. Native annuals included *Chorizanthe brevicornu* (brittle spineflower), *Chorizanthe rigida* (devil's spineflower), *Chamaesyce polycarpa* (smallseed sandmat), and *Lupinus arizonicus* (Arizona lupine). Vertical mulch structures were created by placing dead *L. tridentata* branches upright in the pitted substrate to mimic standing shrubs, and litter collected from beneath nearby undisturbed *L. tridentata* shrubs was incorporated into the soil surface around the structures. Photo credit: Lindsay P. Chiquoine
Middle: A researcher documents the height of eastern Joshua tree (*Yucca jaegeriana*) basal resprouts four years after the 2020 Dome Fire in Mojave National Preserve. Fire causes high mortality in Eastern and Western Joshua trees, and the surviving trees normally persist by resprouting at the base of the burned stem. Photo credit: Lynn C. Sweet
Bottom: Acton's brittlebush (*Encelia actoni*) being grown from a BLM Seeds of Success wildland seed collection for seed bulking by Victor Valley College Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Photo credit: Judy Perkins