



## EM-Assist Applies Innovative Green Practices at Department of Energy Conservation Site

**SACRAMENTO, CA – June 20, 2008** – EM-Assist, Inc., a leading provider of environmental services and training solutions to government clients, is applying innovative green practices at a 27-acre Western Area Power Administration (Western) conservation site located in the American River Parkway in Rancho Cordova. The ecological restoration and mitigation project led by EM-Assist safeguards the habitat of the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, which is protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

EM-Assist is introducing a small herd of goats to use natural grazing instead of traditional mowing to control noxious weed growth at the conservation site. “This is the first time Western has used grazing to control noxious weeds. It has the potential to be more environmentally friendly and better for long-term reduction of non-native vegetation and seed bank control than is traditional mowing,” said Ami Goerdts, a biologist with Western. The goats eat the noxious weeds first and allow the native grasses to grow, resulting in a higher proportion of native plants growing at the site. With grazing there is no pollution or noise from traditional mowers, and no impact of mowers to the threatened species that populate the conservation site.

The grazing plan received approval and enthusiastic support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the County of Sacramento Department of Regional Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, and residents living near the conservation site. Adam Harvey, EM-Assist’s program manager overseeing the Western project, commented, “This is a win-win success story for all stakeholders. Our close partnership with Western, as well as the solid relationship we have built with our teaming partners, enables EM-Assist to implement innovative solutions that deliver the right results for our client and our community. Our solution is environmentally-friendly, cost-effective, and favored by all constituencies.”

EM-Assist teamed with EcoSystems Restoration Associates to provide ongoing maintenance at the conservation site, and with Goat Central to manage herd grazing activities.

### **ABOUT EM-ASSIST**

EM-Assist, Inc. is government’s trusted partner for environmental program management, technical support, and training solutions. The company helps clients cost-effectively address their most challenging environmental compliance, information management, conservation and planning, and restoration needs. EM-Assist also helps clients deliver the right training to the right people at the right time by blending custom eLearning courseware with instructor-led training, and by providing efficient training program administration through powerful, easy-to-use learning management systems. EM-Assist, founded in 1996, is headquartered in Folsom, CA and has 120 professionals in multiple offices throughout California, Utah, and Colorado. Additional information can be found on the company’s Website located at [www.EM-Assist.com](http://www.EM-Assist.com).



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### **ABOUT WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION**

Western Area Power Administration (Western), an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), markets and delivers reliable, cost-based hydroelectric power and related services within a 15-state region of the central and western U.S. Western is one of four power marketing administrations within the DOE, and its transmission system carries electricity from 57 power plants operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the International Boundary and Water Commission. Together, these plants have an installed capacity of 10,395 megawatts. Additional information can be found on the agency's Website located at [www.wapa.gov](http://www.wapa.gov).

### **ABOUT ECOSYSTEMS RESTORATION ASSOCIATES**

EcoSystems Restoration Associates, a division of Turner Collie & Braden (TCB) AECOM, provides ecological restoration and management services that create functional and self-sustainable habitats. Additional information can be found on the company's Website located at [www.TCB.AECOM.com/About/41/33/Index.html](http://www.TCB.AECOM.com/About/41/33/Index.html).

### **ABOUT GOAT CENTRAL**

Goat Central is a California-based company whose mission is to provide a green alternative method to reducing unwanted vegetation for property owners throughout Northern California. Additional information can be found on the company's Website located at [www.GoatCentral.com](http://www.GoatCentral.com).

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