

From: [Melissa Pitkin](#)
To: [Dan Grout](#); Gerry_McChesney@fws.gov; [Russell Bradley](#)
Subject: RE: Desecheo NW Refuge Restoration
Date: 06/21/2012 09:54 AM

That's a great restoration/eradication success story to have in our list of examples!

Thanks for sharing,

Melissa

Melissa Pitkin

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From: Dan Grout [mailto:dan.grout@islandconservation.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 9:40 AM
To: Gerry_McChesney@fws.gov; [Russell Bradley](#); [Melissa Pitkin](#)
Subject: FW: Desecheo NW Refuge Restoration

Gerry, Russ:

I wanted to pass on some more good news coming from Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge on one of the focal species for recovery, the threatened cactus Higo Chumbo (*Harrisia portoricensis*).

Higo Chumbo is restricted to the islands of Desecheo, Monito and Mona, and listed as Threatened under the US Endangered Species Act. On Desecheo, these cactus were previously known to occupy one third of the island, with the number of known individuals declining from 550 to 9 between 1994 – 2003. The most recent estimate is now 54 individuals. Importantly, since removal of goats and now macaques, we are now seeing consistent growth of monitored individuals and for the first time since 1994 in 2012 fruiting was observed – the first recorded since 1994 – demonstrating reproduction required to begin recovery.

The trip report attached is not for public circulation yet, but wanted you to see some of the preliminary results of our monitoring.

Dan