Webinar to the Owens Lake Scientific Advisory Panel

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Biological Soil Crusts
Biological Soil Crusts (Biocrust)

- Crusts may consist of cyanobacteria, algae, fungi, bacteria, lichens and mosses
- Organisms that occur on the top and within the top few centimeters of soil
- Community assemblages consist of many different species and genera
- Desiccation tolerant
- When established stabilize soil and can facilitate dust capture

- No testing on Owens Lake but biocrusts have been identified on and around Owens Lake
- GBUAPCD started preliminary investigations
## Biocrust Cost, Water Use, Energy Requirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Biocrust</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Use</td>
<td>Some but quantity unknown</td>
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<td>Energy</td>
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Biocrust
Applicability and Other Considerations

Applicability:
• Potential use for Environmental Sensitive Areas, Keeler Dunes, other off lake areas, and/or BACM Managed Vegetation Dust Control Areas

Other Considerations:
• Vulnerable to disturbance, especially compressional damage
• Sensitive to burial and abrasion
• Can experience rapid change