



Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group Meeting Notes

July 9, 2008

**Mojave National Preserve Headquarters
2701 Barstow Road, Barstow**

After introductions, Russell discussed the status of the CLAWG white paper (see attached white paper meeting notes). The white paper will consist of three sections: agency policy, procedures, etc; funding and partnership opportunities; and a section that daylight issues. Appendices will discuss best management practices, payment in lieu of taxes (PILT), and post acquisition management. There was discussion around post acquisition monitoring, both land use and biological. Mojave Desert Land Trust had developed a volunteer based monitoring program and Nancy Karl will contribute information from that to the white paper. The need to coordinate monitoring, especially if remote sensing is used was discuss. Monitoring will be included in the white paper in the post acquisition appendix. Don Maben also hoped that exchanges would be addressed as a tool in the white paper.

Russell briefly updated the group on energy coordination processes. The California Energy Commission (CEC) has two processes: the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) and a coordination process to provide review and comments from California to the Solar PEIS. DMG members are invited to participate in both.

Russell also talked about a recent meeting convened June 25, 2008 by James Peterson, Senator Feinstein's Deputy State Director with BLM, the DMG DOI Coordinator, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties, and several NGOs including local TNC staff (attachment 1). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible ways to improve coordination among conflicting land use in the desert. James suggested a desert-wide approach to land use be considered, which the group strongly supported in concept.

There are currently a number of ongoing processes that the DMG could integrate. CLAWG should be integrated with the forthcoming Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs). These conservation processes must be considered in the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) and the Solar PEIS. The Morongo Basin Open Space Committee (MBOSC) involves many DMG agencies and is coordinating land use on a more local scale.

Russell pointed out that CLAWG is well on its way to developing the simplest form of a land use model, a spatial depiction of land use and priority conservation areas.

Clarence once again asked people to review the CLAWG map to see what data they would like to see there and what data they could contribute. There have been lots of updates since the last meeting. Dennis suggested that we include Clark County data in the Ivanpah Valley. Morongo Basin Open Space Committee (MBOSC) has a mapping subcommittee.

Sam Cox provided a brief update of REPI. Air Force, Navy, and TNC are finalizing detail of the cooperative agreement. Once finalized, the project will move forward. They are hoping to get the project funded by the end of FY08. Funds could then be placed in an escrow account and used for five years.

Next meeting will be held October 22 at 10:00 in the Barstow BOM main conference room.