



Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group Meeting Notes

April 23, 2009

Action Items are highlighted in bold italics

- Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) volunteered to serve as the CLAWG chair. Dan Reinke and Sam Cox will be point of contact. ***Sam and Dan will be calling the next meeting and putting together the agenda.***
- Sam Cox provided a Power Point presentation on the interagency Readiness and Environmental Stewardship Initiative (REPI) aka as the Purple REPI (purple is military speak for interservice) which EAFB is proposing. Purple REPI would include the entire desert with the goals of maintaining biodiversity so that the installations do not become “islands of biodiversity”. The intent is to create wildlife migration corridors from China Lake through wilderness and Park Service units to Chocolate Mountains. DMG would act as an advisory board and the CLAWG would manage the program.
- It is too late to put together a purple proposal for FY10 but EAFB suggested each installation should coordinate REPI proposals as if they were purple and plan to put together a truly purple proposal for FY11. Installations would also continue in their current installation specific REPI programs in addition to the Purple REPI. ***Sam will put together a straw man coordinated purple proposal for the installations.*** Due date is August. ***Conservation priorities need to be communicated to Sam/Dan.***
- To Plan the Purple REPI, we need all corridor information. ***Please send Dan/Sam/MDEP any data you have. Karin will make sure we have all the South Coast Wildlands data.*** A current major data gap includes the corridor information between Joshua Tree and Mojave Preserve.
- The group discusses some species to focus on and debate ensued between the value of a lengthily list versus only focusing on a few species. Sam will check with DOD higher up and get advice on what approach will be more competitive. Species discussed were:
 - Big horn sheep
 - Tortoise
 - Listed/sensitive plants
 - Mohave ground squirrel
 - Desert Cymopterus
 - Lane Mountain Milkvetch
 - Bats

- Caltrans is doing work along I-15 that requires acquisition as mitigation. Mojave Land Trust, Caltrans, and Mojave Preserve discussed how acquisitions might progress so that the agencies will not be in competition for the same parcels or better yet, how Caltrans can target parcels that are a priority of the Park Service.
- Joshua Tree is perusing the transfer for some isolated BLM parcels of the north side of the park to the park. The transfer will be legislative. The park is also pursuing the acquisition of some private parcels adjoining the north side of the park.
- *Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9 at Mojave National Preserve*