



Briefing Statement

Date: November 30, 2010

Title: Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative Governance in the Mojave Desert

Issue: Existing partnerships can provide the framework governance for the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative in the Mojave Dessert.

Background

The Desert LCC (DLCC) includes all of the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Deserts (including Mexico). Due to the large geographic scale and the diverse issues between three very different ecoregions, it is logical to divide DLCC into subunits or subregions based on the three ecoregions. A Mojave Desert Sub-unit of the Desert LCC will better serve land and resource managers working in the Mojave Desert.

Within the Mojave Desert ecoregion, three existing landscape scale partnerships would frame the DLCC. Those partnerships are:

- The California Desert Managers Group (DMG) is a chartered partnership between federal (BLM, FWS, NPS, USGS, BIA, DOD, Forest Service), state (Fish and Game, State Parks, and Department of Transportation), and three county governments who share the vision of working together to conserve and enhance the California Desert for current and future generations. The Army funded Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) (mojavedata.gov) serves as a data repository for the DMG and the greater Mojave Desert ecoregion and manages data for DMG, SNAP, and MDI. DMG has fulltime DOI and DOD coordinators.
- Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) is a chartered partnership between BLM, FWS, NPS, and Forest Service primarily in Clark County (Las Vegas), Nevada. SNAP recently developed a science strategy. SNAP and DMG are developing an agreement for MDEP to manage all SNAP data. SNAP has two fulltime coordinators.
- Mojave Desert Initiative (MDI) is an existing ad hoc partnership among DOI and state land and wildlife managers in the Mojave Desert portion of Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. MDI's mission is to focus on the fire and invasive species cycle through collaborative efforts to: 1) Protect intact pieces of the ecosystem and 2) Strategically restore portions of the damaged ecosystem.

To be effective, a DLCC Mojave Desert Subunit will need to function as a network, linking DMG, SNAP, and MDI, with DLCC additional partners. DMG and SNAP Charters each allow the creation of workgroups. The DMG charter allows the group to involve stakeholders. The DMG defines stakeholders as anyone who is not a member of the DMG, however, distinctions are made between governmental stakeholder participation and the public participation.

Proposed Governance

- Form a Mojave Desert Subunit to the DLCC.
- Have DMG and SNAP co-convene and co-charter a joint LCC Work Group (LCCWG). LCCWG will initially consist of DMG and SNAP members plus BOR. MDI members, DOE, and Nellis AFB will also be invited to directly participate as members of the work group.
- LCCWG will consist of assigned agency staff from the above agencies wishing to participate in DLCC. One or more managers from DMG and SNAP will participate directly in the group to provide the leadership. The DMG and SNAP coordinators will also participate in the LCCWG.
- LCCWG members will select a chair and a co-chair to lead the work group and manage work group activities. The term of the chair and co-chair shall be one year.
- Decisions will be made by consensus of all LCCWG members present at each meeting and recorded in meeting notes.
- Representatives from the LCCWG will directly participate in the DLCC Steering Committee to represent the consensus of all participants in LCCWG. Depending on the ultimate size of the Steering Committee and the number of participants from other ecoregions, LCCWG participation can be expected include a manager representative, a SNAP or DMG coordinator, and the LCCWG chair or co-chair.
- While each member of the LCCWG will not be able to bring resources to the table every year, many resources for the LCCWG and generally the DLCC will come as in-kind services from the participating agencies. All DOI bureaus have money in the President's FY 2011 budget for LCC participation or climate activities. LCCWG should pursue DOI funding for its immediate needs such as data stewardship and science coordination.

Functions of the LCCWG

- Identify range-wide science priorities and related that lend themselves to LCC collaboration.
- Provide technology transfer from LCC products to member agencies.
- Work with the new newly forming SNAP-DMG Data Management Work Group, develop relevant data, provide data stewardship, and develop consistent databases and protocols.
- Coordinate among existing and planned science initiatives and plan collaborative initiatives.
- Serve as conduit between member agencies and the larger DLCC.

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