



**DMG Meeting
Meeting Notes
March 23 and 24, 2011**

Action Items/Upcoming Meetings

- *Registration for July 13 and 14 restoration meeting is available at the [DMG website](#)*
- *The DMG GIS meeting will be held ESRI in Redlands on June 1, 2011. The meeting's goal is to enhance collaborative conservation data sharing.*
- *DMG managers should brief their executives on the Desert LCC and the DMG position in preparation for the April 27 and 28 interim steering committee meeting in Phoenix.*
- *The Raven Work Group is scheduled to meet May 11.*
- *Public workshops for the MCAGCC expansion DEIS are scheduled for the week of April 11 and the public comment period closes May 26. The DEIS and comment opportunities are available [online](#).*
- *The next DMG meeting is scheduled for July 21 at 10:00. This meeting will be a conference call/web meeting.*
- *The following DMG meeting will be October 19 and 20.*
- *The DRECP stakeholders' meeting is scheduled for May 17 and 18 in Ontario.*

Wednesday, March 23 (open to stakeholders)

Overview of Tehachapi District- Russ Dingman, California State Parks Tehachapi District Planner welcomed everyone to Palmdale and apologized that District Superintendent Kathy Weather had been unexpectedly called to Sacramento. Russ provided a [slide presentation](#) that highlighted the parks and issues of the Tehachapi District. Of particular concern to State Parks is the proposed development of wind resources on lands adjoining the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve.

Mohave Ground Squirrel Work Group- Russell Scofield, DOI Coordinator provided a [slide presentation](#) update of Mohave ground squirrel activities. The contract between USGS and the California Energy Commission (CEC) is established and model development is in the early stages of assembling data layers. The camera monitoring project is also underway and a draft report is expect by September 30, 2011. Sixty randomized plots are being monitored. Development of the conservation strategy continues with CDFG conducting internal review of the latest conservation measures.

Habitat Restoration Meeting Update- An organizing team of Josh Hoines and Miriam Valmstead of Joshua Tree, Russell Scofield, Ilima Hawkins of NRCS, and Chris McDonald of UC Extension are working on the meeting. The meeting will be held July 13 and 14 in Barstow at Hampton Inn. The meeting is free and the agenda designed to accommodate daily travel for many attendees. The meeting's goals are:

- Provide restoration practitioners with an update of recent studies relevant to successful restoration projects
- Challenge participants to carefully plan projects for a changing climate
- Share knowledge, experience, and lessons learned
- Identify opportunities for future collaboration and knowledge sharing

Registration is now available at the [DMG website](#).

Tortoise Education Update

- Russell Scofield is helping The Living Desert (TLD) conduct interviews the new program coordinator in April. It is expected that person will start shortly after a selection is made. A workgroup meeting will be scheduled for June.
- Mojave Max emerged from her burrow Saturday, February 19 at about 11:30 AM. TLD is contacting winners and issuing press releases.
- TLD submitted an OHV grant to develop and install desert tortoise interpretive displays in the BLM's El Mirage OHV Area visitor's center. If this grant is awarded, out-year grants will include other facilities that target desert residents and/or motorized recreation.

California Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Team Execution- Cat Darst, Desert Tortoise Recovery Biologist, provided a [slide presentation](#) summarizing the recent Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group (MOG) meeting held in Las Vegas. There was discussion of DMG's role in the proposed Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs). There was overall agreement that DMG managers would:

- appoint staff to participate in RITs;
- ensure recovery action plans are implementable according to agency policy, regulation, etc;
- collectively seek and support the recovery action plans' coordinated implementation and develop coordinated traditional and nontraditional funding request and strategies.

Data Management- Fon Duke provided a slide presentation overview of Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP), which is DMG's digital arm. MDEP can provide online data sharing tools for DMG managers to take advantage of to save costs and reduce duplicative effort. DMG will be hosting a GIS meeting at ESRI in Redlands June 1, 2011. An agenda will be forthcoming but the meeting's goal is to enhance collaborative conservation data sharing. Please encourage your GIS staff to attend this meeting.

America's Great Outdoors- Russell Scofield passed out a [briefing document](#) discussing America's Great Outdoors (AGO) and the common themes between AGO and the new DMG Strategic Plan. Fon Duke also discussed the new San Bernardino County Museum in Apple Valley opportunities to collaborate. It was decided to hold a meeting between agency outreach staff and the Museum to work on collaborative outreach that could be tied to AGO. If you would like someone from your office to attend this meeting, please contact [Russell](#).

Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative Update- The LCC Core Committee met in Phoenix in January to finalize drafts of the LCC governance document and interim steering committee membership. Much discussion was given to regionalization as proposed by Russell and supported by the DMG. The LCC Core Committee was leaning towards the regionalization proposal but group felt that an interim steering committee of executives should make the decision. The result is that that agency executives will receive an invitation to an interim steering committee meeting in Phoenix April 27 and 28. All tribes and some NGOs will also receive the invitation. Russell asked that DMG managers brief their executives on the LCC and the DMG position in preparation for this meeting.

Thursday, March 23 - DMG Executive Session closed to stakeholders

DMG FY 2012 Work Plan Emphasis Areas- Russell and Fon discussed the areas of emphasis for the DMG's FY 2012 Work Plan. Key areas are:

- Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education- Once the new coordinator is onboard, she will be tasked with development of a detailed work plan.
- Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams- The basic workflow has been identified and Russell and Fon will work with the Desert Tortoise Recovery Office to develop a work plan element for the DMG.
- Raven Work Group- *The Raven Work Group is scheduled to meet May 11.* Work plan items will be developed in that meeting.
- Amargosa Basin- Russell will work with the DOI Amargosa group to develop work plan items.
- MGS
 - Conservation Strategy
 - Science Strategy- Future research will be predicated by additional funding.
- Data Management- A work plan will be identified by the Data Management Work Group and MDEP.
- Restoration- A work plan will be determined by the July restoration meeting.
- AGO/Outreach- Fon and Russell will work with staff identified to contribute to the collaborative outreach effort to develop a detailed work plan.
- Coordinate DT Monitoring- The Desert Tortoise Recovery Office will the lead for development of a detailed work plan.
- LCC Involvement- Russell will continue to work with the LCC and a work plan will be developed in coordination with the LCC Core Committee.
- Science Work Group- Development of a DMG “science strategy” that complements the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership science strategy.

If you have additional items for the DMG's FY 2012 work plan, please contact either [Fon](#) or [Russell](#).

NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program- Nita Tallent-Halsell, the Mojave Program Coordinator, provided a [slide presentation](#) explaining the history of the network and its status. Protocols are being developed for carbonate valley fill aquifers, integrated upland, invasive plants, riparian vegetation, air quality, weather and climate, fire and fuels landscape dynamics, riparian birds.

DMG agencies can utilize these protocols and their related databases. For more information, please contact [Nita](#).

MCAGCC Base Expansion DEIS- Chris Proudfoot, Project Manager, provided a [slide presentation](#) discussing the DEIS's purpose and need and its alternatives. ***Public workshops are scheduled for the week of April 11 and the public comment period closes May 26.*** The DEIS and comment opportunities are available [online](#). MCAGCC hopes to publish a final EIS by December 2011 with commencement of training in the expansion area by 2015.

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

- Scott Flint with the California Energy Commission (CEC) requested that the CEC be allowed membership to the DMG. There was consensus among the managers that CEC should be allowed to join DMG and Russell requested a letter of intent from CEC that could be attached to the Charter.
- Scott presented a series of maps resulting from the development of the DRECP's Interim Conservation Framework (ICF). Areas are being classified relative to biologic value and energy development potential. The ICF is now expected to be released at the ***DRECP stakeholders' meeting scheduled for May 17 and 18 in Ontario.*** Additional information on the meeting and the ICF will be provided via the email lists as it becomes available.
- The DRECP is working with MDEP to develop a predictive model for cultural resources. The modeling approach is similar to wildlife habitat suitability models and has been piloted with success at Fort Irwin. When developed, this will be a powerful tool for DMG managers.

Upcoming DMG Meetings

- ***The next DMG meeting is scheduled for July 21 at 10:00.*** This meeting will be a conference call/web meeting. Call in information will be sent out one week prior to the meeting.
- ***The following DMG meeting will be October 19 and 20.*** This will be an in-person meeting. A venue will be scheduled by August.