



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** July 21, 2011

**Title:** Mohave Ground Squirrel Update

- Work continues on the USGS habitat suitability model and UNR genetics study. The final model is due to be delivered to CEC by March 2012. USGS has indicated that they are willing to incorporate new information obtained in the 2012 field season into a model revision during the summer of 2012.
- Dave Delany and Phil Leitner completed a very successful field season of camera monitoring. Sixty study sites were sampled in six study regions (see attached map). The field crews are now reviewing the over three terabytes of photos to identify MGS detections. Very preliminary (<50%) results indicate MGS detections at fourteen sites. These detections are concentrated in the Searles Valley, Kramer Junction-Red Mountain, and South of Edwards regions. Data from all sites has not been reviewed yet but Phil expects this task to be complete by the end of July. Vegetation data was collected at all sixty sites.
- As a result of photo detections, it was possible to conduct focused trapping in key areas for the UNR genetic study and USGS model. Tissue samples from eighteen individuals were collected in the Kramer-Red Mountain region and eight from the South of Edwards region. Volunteers collected many of these samples. Kathy Simon organized the volunteer trapping effort this year.
- BLM was able to contribute \$100k for out year fieldwork and additional genetic analysis.
- Dave Delany was awarded a Legacy Program grant to conduct a MGS workshop. The intent is to assemble a group of MGS and small mammal experts to explore better ways to determine MGS distribution and density. A team is being assembled to plan the workshop (Russell, Dave, CDFG, Ventura FWS, and Fort Irwin). Target timeframe for the workshop is February 2012. The hope is that any new protocols could be implemented in the 2013 field season.
- Bronwyn Hogan (CDFG Renewable Energy Program) has applied for a State Wildlife Grant to support the development of the MGS conservation strategy. The objectives of the grant are to 1) compile scientific and management information on MGS; 2) conduct fieldwork and analyses to help fill information gaps; and 3) develop a comprehensive, collaborative, and implementable MGS conservation strategy for California.
- CDFG is reviewing the conservation measures developed for the DMG conservation strategy for CESA/policy consistency.

## **Contacts**

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