



## DMG Highlights and Accomplishments for FY 2011

- DMG co-sponsored *Information Management for Regional Conservation Planning- Building Connections*, a data management and GIS meeting intended to enhance data sharing by the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP). MDEP is the digital arm of DMG and maintains DMG's data repository at [www.mojavedata.gov](http://www.mojavedata.gov).
- DMG continued its Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE) Program. Key accomplishments include:
  - public outreach and education material on [www.deserttortoise.gov](http://www.deserttortoise.gov)
  - printing and distribution of brochures
  - one teacher training for the primary school desert tortoise environmental education kits which are tied to State education standards
  - the Mojave Max Emergence Contest annual contest for students in eight southern California counties
  - the successful transition of the DTIYE program coordination and daily management from JOTR to our nonprofit partner, The Living Desert (TLD)
  - working with TLD to recruit, hire, and train a new program coordinator who is employed by TLD
- DMG agencies participated in the Mojave and Low Desert Weed Management Areas to collaboratively address local invasive species issues.
- MDEP designed a smart phone application that allows visitors to document desert tortoise sightings. The app both serves as an educational tool for the users and crowd sourced data for scientists.
- MDEP maintained [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov) as a seamless online visitor's center for the California Desert.
- MDEP has expanded its capacity to manage data for the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) and the Coachella Valley thus creating a Greater Mojave Desert data repository.
- DMG is implementing its research strategy for the State endangered and federally petitioned Mohave ground squirrel. Key components of the strategy include development of a habitat suitability and corridor model, data collection, and model validation.
- DMG is coordinating the development of a conservation strategy for the Mohave ground squirrel that could avert federal listing. The conservation strategy will also be used in the DRECP. California Department of Fish and Game recently received a State Wildlife Grant to help fund the conservations strategy's development.

- DMG sponsored a habitat restoration workshop in Barstow July 13 and 14. Goals of the workshop were:
  - Provide new information from 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.

The workshop had over one-hundred attendees and the average of *overall quality of the workshop* was 8.7 in the workshop evaluation and the most frequent comments were that the workshop was overdue and to have similar workshops more often.

- DMG worked with the newly forming Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC) to engage DMG members and ensure adequate representation for the Mojave ecoregion. Both DMG Coordinators sit on the DLCC steering committee and the DOI Coordinator sits on the administrative workgroup. The DOI Coordinator was heavily involved in development of the DLCC's governance, operational plan, and annual work plan. The DLCC currently has \$1m (Reclamation budget) for DLCC research.
- DMG is working with the NPS Vital Signs program, FWS, and BLM to develop a collaborative monitoring program using MDEP as the central data hub.
- DMG held two raven work group meetings to develop an out year plan to use mitigation money for raven surveys and removal.
- The environmental assessment (EA) for the establishment of new populations of Mohave tui chub was finalized.
- The Renewable Energy Raven Mitigation Plan was revised to include all development projects.
- MDEP established an agency Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) mapping work group to ensure data adequacy and QA/QC. All DRECP spatial data will be hosted by MDEP on [www.mojavedata.gov](http://www.mojavedata.gov).
- The DOI Coordinator facilitated five Amargosa Basin DOI Coordination (ABC) meetings (two in person and three conference calls).
- The ABC Work Group implemented a groundwater monitoring network in the Devil's Hole region to replace the former Yucca Mountain monitoring network.
- The ABC Work Group is coordinating ground water data collection and modeling in the lower Amargosa and Amargosa Wild and Scenic River.
- The 2010 [DMG Strategic Plan](#) was finalized and published electronically
- The DMG met in-person DMG twice and had two conference calls
- The DMG welcomed Inyo County and the California Energy Commission (CEC) as members.