



**DMG Meeting**  
January 25, 2012  
Summary

**Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)-** Russell Scofield reported that DLCC is now chaired by Larry Voyles, Director of Arizona Game and Fish, and co-chaired by Duane Pool of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. DLCC is developing a comprehensive science needs assessment and setting a list of priorities for those science needs. DLCC priorities for FY 2012 are:

- Initiate projects that meet the identified science needs for 2012.
- Conduct a comprehensive science needs assessment to establish science priorities beyond 2012.
- Facilitate partnering opportunities.
- Provide opportunities to engage Tribal and other potential LCC partners.
- Develop and implement a communications plan, including a data portal.

A complete summary of DLCC's FY 2011 activities is available [online](#). The next DLCC meeting is April 10 and 11 in Las Vegas. Russell and Fon plan to attend.

**Action Item- Russell will send out the DLCC science priorities, needs, and criteria.**

**Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education-** Kyle Pong reminded managers that the [Mojave Maxine Contest](#) is underway once again. Please work with your public affairs staff to distribute the [press release](#). The regional Desert Tortoise Education Summit approved at the last DMG meeting is scheduled for February 16 at the USGS office in Henderson Nevada. This date and location is in conjunction with the Desert Tortoise Council Symposium to reduce travel for many. The goal of the summit is information exchange among various programs to identify redundancies and opportunities to share products, materials, and resources, and coordinate budgets.

**Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG)-** Russell Scofield updated the group on the CLAWG's recent meeting. Staff from the [National Park Service Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance \(RCTA\) Program](#) attended the meeting to learn more about the CLAWG and possibly help refocus CLAWG to new opportunities and priorities. RCTA can grant technical assistance to conservation programs. The Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor acquisition project could benefit from RCTA facilitation and Russell will work with Edwards and RCTA scope possibilities for moving the project forward. The next CLAWG meeting is scheduled for April 5 at Mojave National Preserve Headquarters.

**Raven Mitigation Funding-** Chris Mullen with Desert Tortoise Recovery Office is the new raven coordinator. Chris is moving forward to establish the agreement with Wildlife Services for monitoring and removal. Focal areas were selected by the Raven Work Group last fall:

- Chuckwalla Bench, Ivanpah Valley, and Joshua Tree National Park in the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert

- Mojave National Preserve and the Desert Tortoise Natural Area in the West Mojave Russell is working with Chris and the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) to fund development of the raven documentary. Chris is also exploring raven research and efficacy monitoring and how to ensure equality between the renewable energy mitigation fund and the general development mitigation fund. Chris will be convening a Raven Work Group this winter.

**Action Item-** managers should send [Chris](#) staff names that should be included in the Raven Work Group. The current list is outdated.

**Mojave Ground Squirrel (MGS) Update-** Russell Scofield said that planning continues for the MGS Science Workshop. The goal of the workshop is the development of guidelines and protocols for data collection and reporting. Dave Delany is finalizing the list of invitees and has retained a professional facilitator. The workshop is scheduled for February 21 through 24 in Barstow.

Russell also said that field monitoring in spring is on track both for the camera trapping project and the volunteer trapping effort. The object of the volunteer effort will be tissue collection for genetic work. The object of the camera trapping will be to provide additional presence data to USGS for habitat suitability modeling. Please contact [Russell](#) if you are interested in the specific areas targeted for monitoring.

**Golden Eagle Update-** Russell Scofield attended the fall meeting of the California-Nevada Golden Eagle Working Group. There is still much confusion as to work the work group's needs and how DMG can assist. Russell intends to continue discussion with CDFG and FWS on DMG's role in coordination of golden eagle conservation actions.

**Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program Status-** Fon Duke informed managers that the Army is unable to fund the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) beyond June 30. Absent additional funding MDEP, [mojavedata.gov](http://mojavedata.gov), the former [deserttortoise.gov](http://deserttortoise.gov), [californiadesert.gov](http://californiadesert.gov), and [dmg.gov](http://dmg.gov) will go away. MDEP also host data for the [Southern Nevada Agency Partnership \(SNAP\)](#) and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG).

**Decision-** managers decided that Russell and Fon should draft two letters, one for signature by DMG managers and another for signature by DMG executives, to encourage DOD funding for MDEP.

**Western Regional Partnership (WRP) Mojave Policy Initiative-** Fon Duke explained that WRP would like to work with regional/local managers to initiate efforts that would help shape policy within higher levels of leadership. The Mojave Desert is their focal area and WRP intends to convene a meeting to gather input for this effort. WRP has asked for DMG participation in the initiative. There was discussion on the types of policy WRP is attempting to influence, to whom would policy ideas be presented, and how would policy ideas be vetted up the chain. To our knowledge, WRP has not addressed any of these questions but Mike Hamilton will work with WRP and get answers along with more detailed information prior to the April DMG meeting.

**Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Update-** Jack Hamby said that DRECP is framing alternatives for the EIS/EIR. Currently a straw man reserve design is being developed.

Energy zones will also be developed. There is now a DRECP Transmission Work Group because the utilities desire highly focused transmission zones. Tribal outreach is on-going.

**Energy Project Map-** Fon Duke said that at the request of MCLB at the last meeting, MDEP put together a [map of active and pending energy projects](#). The map reflects current BLM projects and some private land projects. *The map should not be considered a comprehensive view of all pending projects* but a living document to refer to as needed.

***Next DMG Meeting: April 18 and 19***

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Barbara Rice	NPS Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program
Bob Bryson	Mojave National Preserve
Carl Benz	Ventura Fish and Wildlife Service
Chris Mullen	Desert Tortoise Recovery Office
Clarence Everly	Fort Irwin
Danny Reinke	Edwards Air Force Base
DeEllen Brasher	Navy Region Southwest
Fon Duke	DOD DMG Coordinator
Gerry Hillier	San Bernardino County
Joe Cook	MCLB Barstow
Karin Messaros	Joshua Tree National Park
Kyle Pong	Desert Tortoise Education Coordinator
Larry LaPre	California Desert District BLM
Mark Sogge	USGS
Mike Hamilton	Marine Corps Installations West
Russell Scofield	DOI DMG Coordinator
Sarah Craighead	Death Valley National Park