



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Title:** Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program update

### **1. Education Collaboration Program (ECP):**

ECP is in its second year of operation with now two students currently involved in projects and with up to eight more planned to join in the next few months. The following are the three programs either underway or planning to start by this summer.

#### **a. Ft. Irwin Net Zero Water Study**

One student from the University of Redlands has made this effort his master's project which will result in the production of a report using GIS and various hydrological factors to test methods for improving the water retention on Ft. Irwin.

#### **b. National Park Service Base Map Program**

Up to eight students from California State University at San Bernardino will work on four National Parks in the Mojave to help produce map products that will be uniform in their look and will be able to be published out on the web through NPS Denver for public use. The NPS Denver office has over 400 parks to work on with a very limited staff so this project will continue for many years allowing many students to work remotely developing data for each of the parks for all to benefit from.

#### **c. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Aviation Crash Site Tool**

One student from the University of Redlands has made this effort his master's project which will result in the production of a tool that first responders can use at the crash site of any airplane and quickly get an estimated debris field to improve the time to find injured among the crash or find all of the debris for a complete site cleanup and restoration. The tool will be completed and presented by this June and NTSB, U.S. Air Force and FAA have shown an interest in the tool and its results. This tool will be free for download and is planned to work on commonly used GPS devices owned by many government agencies.

The three examples above are just the current programs under management at MDEP. NASA and others have provided ideas for presentation to the many schools that collaborate with MDEP in the ECP. There are only two times a year that MDEP can present ideas to the various schools. MDEP is always looking for agencies that have ideas they would like to see developed but lack the resources to develop those ideas on their own. Please talk with your folks who work with GIS data to see if they have ideas they would share with MDEP for future development.

## **2. National Park Service ATLAS Program**

NPS Denver has launched a national program that will develop GIS maps online for all of the 400 some park units within the NPS. The Mojave Preserve was one of a handful of parks chosen to participate in this pilot program. By working with MDEP the Preserve will avoid any significant costs that would be normally be associated with this effort that other Parks will need to fund. Also ATLAS and the Preserve are taking advantage of various MDEP solutions such as the hosted Cloud environment, ArcServer services function and data development which is seen a significant benefit for this effort. The effort will allow the ATLAS program focus on units around the nation who lack these resources for a faster result.

## **3. Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) SharePoint Launch**

SNAP has completed their review of the updated SharePoint solution hosted at MDEP which will allow the group to move away from a third party solution and move between 50 and 150 estimated individuals to share data and work collaboratively across 60 individual SharePoint sites. MDEP hosts SharePoint 2010 Enterprise solutions which is a very powerful and highly functional solution to allow a large number of users to work with various types of data and information in a secure and collaborative environment. This effort has helped MDEP's gain a greater understanding of the product along with how agencies can use this tool with other agencies, NGO's and the public as needed. The launch will take place at the end of March 2012 and full operation for all will complete by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **4. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Desert Tortoise Monitoring Program 2012 Season**

MDEP has begun the 2012 season in supporting the various teams under the DTM program with U.S. Fish & Wildlife. This effort involves supporting the teams in their development of transect, hosting SharePoint solutions for collaboration and participating in the QA/QC process of the data. This is the first year with the implementation of SharePoint and all who have been involved are commenting on improved communication, data sharing and ability to access data quicker.

## **5. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Recovery Implementation Teams (RITS)**

The DTRO has been in contact with MDEP to begin the process to prepare the online meeting solutions for the various members of the RITS to work together virtually. DTRO is working with Univ. of Redlands and had planned on using SharePoint which MDEP is hosting and supporting upon their request.

### **Contacts**

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