



Briefing Statement

Date: April 19, 2012

Title: Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education Program Update

- DMG hosted the Desert Tortoise Outreach Summit in Henderson February 16. Fourteen tortoise education programs from throughout the four-state range of the tortoise participated. The goal of the summit was information exchange among the various programs to identify redundancies and opportunities to share products, materials, and resources. Participants of the summit continue to share information and ideas via a MDEP hosted SharePoint site. A follow up conference call is planned for the summer with another meeting next winter.
- The Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education Coordinator attended five events the past quarter.
- Prototype development of a ‘tortoise trunk’ environmental education kit for kindergarten through second grade was started with a workshop of teachers that will develop content for the trunks.
- Mojave Maxine Emergence Contest Results
 - Mojave Maxine emerged on February 25th at 11:37 AM.
 - There was a four-way tie in San Bernardino County and a tie in Los Angeles County! Winner parties are being scheduled for April and May in all nine counties.
 - Over 1600 entries were received. This year there were 500 more entries than last year and entries were received from each of the nine counties.
- Kyle has applied for a number of grants to fund the program. Grants include:
 - Captain Planet
 - Association of Zoos and Aquariums- Conservation Education Fund
 - Honda Foundation
 - California Off Highway Motor Vehicle RecreationGrants will fund web cameras for Mojave Maxine’s burrow, Kyle’s expenses, brochures, coloring books, development of middle and high school tortoise trunks in partnership San Diego Zoo, interactive kiosks, and event and contest support
- NFWF grant deliverables update
 - Wayside exhibits are being completed and locations for installation are being identified. If your office would like a wayside exhibit, please contact Kyle.
 - A public relations firm is developing and marketing radio and television public service announcements (PSA). Agency ‘actors’ may be needed for the PSAs.

Contact

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