



**DMG Meeting
Meeting Notes**
April 19, 2012

Action Items

- Please review the Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Team (RIT) membership and provide suggestions to fill vacancies to [Desert Tortoise Recovery Office \(DTRO\)](#).
- If your office has additional projects to include in an AGO proposal, please contact [Russell](#).
- Contact [Chris Mullen](#) with DTRO to report offending ravens, raven predation upon tortoise, or raven removal activities. For funding and mitigation credit to occur, it is critical that each of these activities are tracked.
- Russell will schedule and facilitate a call with DOD members to develop a solution for MDEP.
- The coordinators will publish the DMG Annual Work Plan electronically.
- Russell will clarify questions related to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation MOA, revise the MOA appropriately, and send back out for manager review. Managers agreed to begin legal review process on the revision.

DMG Decisions

- There was consensus to set up a meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Office to discuss golden eagle coordination.
- Doctors Danny Reinke (Edwards) and Debra Hughson (MOJA) were volunteered to serve on the Desert Landscape Conservation (DLCC) Cooperative Science Work Group.
- There was consensus for DMG will work with the Sothern Nevada Agency Partnership and the Mojave Desert Initiative to form a DLCC Work Group.
- The group did not want to initiate any new America's Great Outdoors (AGO) projects at this time, however there was consensus that we should fold existing projects into an AGO proposal for FY 2014.
- There was consensus that the Amargosa Basin Coordination MOU should be reauthorized and Russell will work with the participating offices on any further edits and route for signature.
- Managers expressed a strong consensus to continue MDEP.
- There was consensus to approve the DMG Annual Work Plan with minor clarification.

Calendar Items

- The Western Regional Partnership Mojave effort meeting will be held at California Department of Fish and Game in Ontario May 23 and 24, 2012. Russell and Fon will attend this meeting on behalf of DMG.

- A webmeeting with Kristeen Penrod, principle investigator for the South Coast Wildlands California Desert Connectivity project, will occur May 29 at 9:00. Kristeen will provide an executive summary of methods and results and answer questions. The webmeeting can be accessed by [clicking](#) and then dialing into the conference call at 888-790-2388; Pass code: 2972879#.
- The next Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group meeting will occur June 19, 2012 at Mojave National Preserve.
- A meeting to discuss golden eagle coordination will occur June 21, 2012. The meeting will be held in Moreno Valley.
- There was consensus that the summer DMG meeting should be in person and several members suggested low cost costal venues be explored. The meeting will be one-day with an optional field trip. Dates are: August 22 and 23, 2012
- The fall DMG meeting will be October 10 and 11, 2012. The format and venue were not decided.

Meeting Notes

- **Coordination of Golden Eagle Conservation-** Russell Scofield provided a [handout](#) updating the group on the status of golden eagle coordination. Questions raised related to what constituted conservations actions and take. There was also discussion if take coverage was needed for routine operations. *There was consensus to set up a meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Office to discuss coordination. A meeting has been schedule for June 21, 2012 in Moreno Valley.*
- **California Desert Connectivity Study-** The South Coast Wildlands California Desert Connectivity report is available [online](#) and all data is on www.mojavedata.gov. The primary goal of the project was to identify areas where maintenance or restoration of ecological connectivity is essential for conserving the unique biological diversity of California's deserts. Another goal of the project was to produce implementable linkage designs and provide the necessary data and information to inform land management, land acquisition, restoration.

A webmeeting with Kristeen Penrod, principle investigator for the project, will occur May 29 at 9:00. Kristeen will provide an executive summary of methods and results and answer questions. The webmeeting can be accessed by [clicking](#) and then dialing into the conference call at 888-790-2388; Pass code: 2972879#.

- **Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)-** Russell Scofield distributed a [briefing package](#) on the status of the DLCC. Russell identified two issues:
 1. DMG and the California deserts need more representation on the Science Work Group (SWG). *Doctors Danny Reinke (Edwards) and Debra Hughson (MOJA) were volunteered to serve on the SWG.*
 2. DMG needs to identify and refine science projects that fit BOR's water related funding criteria.

Russell proposed that DMG form a joint DLCC work group with the Sothern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) and Mojave Desert Initiative (MDI). *DMG approved this proposal by group consensus.*

- **Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE)**- Russell Scofield provided a [brief update](#) of the DTIYE Program. Funding for the coordinator's salary is still an issue but no solutions aside for the current grant strategy were identified.
- **Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG)**- The CLAWG last met January 19, 2012. Meeting notes are [available online](#). MDEP continues to improve the CLAWG map and CLAWG will be establishing a mapping subgroup to define additional functionality to the map. The National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program attended the meeting and is interested in working with the CLAWG on specific acquisition projects if it would add value. Russell has pulled together Edwards, CDFG, Navy, and Transition Habitat Conservancy to make one final attempt to execute Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor REPI project. It looks like the project will go this time! *The next meeting will occur June 19, 2012 at Mojave National Preserve.*
- **Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP)**- Fon Duke provided a [handout](#) updating the group on recent MDEP activities.
 - Additional details and questions came up about NPS Atlas and Base Maps. Fon will follow up with each park to work with their individual efforts on Base Maps with California State University San Bernardino students and any Atlas efforts the park would like MDEP's help with.
 - The Aviation Crash tool, once completed, will be sent out to agencies for use.
- **Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams (RIT)**- Russell Scofield distributed an [update](#) prepared by the Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO). All DTRO staff were attending a previously scheduled Science Advisory Meeting in Tucson. *Please review the RIT membership and provide suggestions to [DTRO](#) to fill vacancies.* There is now a link to the RIT website on www.dmg.gov.
- **America's Great Outdoors (AGO)**- Russell Scofield provided a [brief and proposal](#) to the group to implement a DMG AGO program. The proposal builds upon the [crosswalk](#) between the DMG Strategic Plan and the AGO Report that was presented at the March 2011 DMG meeting.

Russell explained that the two projects in the brief were placeholder projects but could be substituted with any number of DMG efforts. *The group did not want to initiate any new AGO specific projects at this time, however there was consensus that we should fold existing projects into an AGO proposal for FY 2014.* In addition to the two projects listed, Russell will include the Joshua Tree-MCAGCC REPI project. *If your office has additional projects to include, please contact [Russell](#).*

- **Amargosa River**- Russell Scofield distributed a [draft revision](#) of the recently expired Amargosa Basin Coordination MOU among DOI bureaus. The original MOU was initiated as a DMG project in 2004. *There was consensus that the MOU should be reauthorized and Russell will work with the participating offices on any further edits and route for signature.*

- **Raven Work Group-** Russell Scofield distributed a briefing document from the Raven Work Group. Since the DMG meeting, Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) members determined that surveys would not occur in FY 2012 and that the Raven Work Group should plan for surveys occurring this winter. Likewise, a programmatic agreement with Wildlife Services and a Raven annual work plan will be developed in FY 2012 for FY2013 implementation. Opportunistic removal of offending ravens is occurring and has been successful. *Contact [Chris Mullen](#) with DTRO to report offending ravens, raven predation upon tortoise, or raven removal activities. For funding and mitigation credit to occur, it is critical that each of these activities are tracked.*
- **Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program Funding (MDEP)-** MDEP was formed in 1996 with funding provided by a DOD Legacy grant. MDEP was one of the first ecoregional spatial data repositories to serve data on the internet. Since 1996, Fort Irwin has provided funding for the MDEP contract. When Army prioritized FY2012 contracts, MDEP was above the funding line but Army requested other agencies consider helping fund MDEP. Due to revised budget realities, Army moved the funding cutoff line for contracts above MDEP prioritization. The current contract is set to expire June 30, 2012 if additional funding is not added to the contract. If the contract expires, MDEP and the webpages it maintains will go dark. *Managers expressed great concern and a strong consensus to continue the program. Russell will schedule and facilitate a call with DOD to develop a solution for MDEP.*
- **DMG FY 2012 Annual Work Plan-** The [draft annual work plan](#) was reviewed and it was suggested that the relationship with DRECP regarding the Mojave ground squirrel conservation strategy be clarified. *The work plan was otherwise approved by consensus.* The coordinators will finalize the plan, publish it electronically, and make it [available online](#).
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Raven Mitigation Account-** Russell Scofield distributed a draft MOA with NFWF that would establish the California Desert Program (CDP). CDP could be used by DMG agencies for mitigation, donations, or to hold appropriated funds. There is an immediate need to establish a raven subaccount to manage mitigation from non-REAT projects. Managers were generally supportive of the MOA but questions arose regarding the NFWF fee structure. *Russell will clarify those questions, revise the MOA appropriately, and send back out for manager review. Managers agreed to begin legal review process on the revision.*
- **Western Regional Partnership (WRP)-** Mike Hamilton reported back to the group that WRP did not have any more clarity regarding its proposed policy initiative for the Mojave. WRP does, however, continue to plan its Mojave effort and is planning a meeting in Ontario May 23 and 24, 2012. Russell and Fon will represent the DMG at that meeting. An [overview presentation](#) on WRP is available online.
- **Next Meetings**
 - There was consensus that the summer meeting should be in person and several members suggested costal venues be explored. The meeting will be one-day with an optional field trip. Dates are: August 22 and 23, 2012
 - The fall meeting will be October 10 and 11, 2012. The format and venue was not decided.