



FY 2012 Annual Work Plan

The California Desert is seemingly vast, limitless, and harsh. In reality, this fragile treasured landscape supports a diverse, unique, and sensitive biota, provides recreational opportunities to millions, serves as training grounds for military activities, and has renewable energy potential. Approximately eighty-percent of the California Desert, or twenty-million acres, is publicly owned and includes two national parks, one national preserve, six military installations, seventy-two designated federal wildernesses, twelve state parks, and the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert Conservation Area. The area also includes eight county jurisdictions, about one-hundred communities, and thirty-seven federally recognized American Indian tribes.

Conflicting demands for use of California's desert resources make it imperative for governmental agencies to work cooperatively in support of agency missions, protection of desert resources, and public use. The Desert Managers Group (DMG) is the forum for government agencies to address and discuss issues of common concern relative to the California Desert. Through cooperative management, each agency achieves greater operational efficiency, enhances resource conservation, and more effectively serves the American public.

The purpose of this document is to guide the collaborative work of the agencies participating in the DMG for the Federal 2012 fiscal year¹ (FY2012). This annual work plan (AWP) implements the DMG's 2010 Strategic Plan will assist DMG agencies in their pursuit of DMG goals.

DMG Mission Statement

The mission of the Desert Managers Group is to:

- A. Develop coordinated and complimentary management guidelines, practices, and programs.
- B. Coordinate and integrate efforts in the California Desert to:
 1. Conserve and restore desert resources
 2. Provide high quality recreation, public education, and visitor services
 3. Provide for safety of desert users
- C. Develop and integrate the databases and scientific studies needed for effective resource management and planning.
- D. Promote compatibility in the application of each agency's mission.

	Action Item	Relationship to Strategic Plan	Funding Source(s)	Lead(s)
1	Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE)			
1.1	Coordinate and host a Range-wide Desert Tortoise Education and Outreach Coordination Summit	Goal 3.1 Tasks 5.4.1 and 5.4.2	Agency Base	DOI and DTIYE Coordinators
1.2	Print Brochures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>You're in Desert Tortoise Country</i> <i>Invasion of the Tortoise Snatchers</i> (Raven) Educators' brochure 	Task 3.2.1	OHMVR ⁱⁱ grant	DTIYE Coordinator
1.3	Develop kindergarten through second grade standards-based teaching curriculum	Task 3.1.3	NFWF ⁱⁱⁱ grant	DTIYE Coordinator
1.4	Work with San Diego Zoo to develop a high school standards-based teaching curriculum	Task 3.1.3	unfunded	DTIYE Coordinator
1.5	Expand educational content for deserttortoise.gov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize existing content to increase usefulness, ease of subject location and return hits Develop new content issue one PSA and one press release promoting deserttortoise.gov 	Task 3.1.1	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
1.6	Host Mojave Maxine Contest	Task 3.1.3	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
1.7	Utilize social media for tortoise education targeting youth	Task 3.1.1	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
1.8	Develop three desert tortoise podcasts	Task 3.1.1	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
1.9	Host three teacher training workshops	Task 3.1.3	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
1.10	Attend seven events to promote tortoise education	Task 3.1.2	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
2	Raven Control			
2.1	Produce two public service announcements related to raven control	Task 1.1.3	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
2.2	Issue three press releases related to raven control	Task 1.1.3	NFWF grant	DTIYE Coordinator
2.3	Opportunistically remove offending ravens	Task 1.1.3	Raven Mitigation Fund	Raven Work Group/ Wildlife Services
2.4	Develop a 30-minute raven documentary to be used as an educational tool	Task 1.1.3	Raven Mitigation Fund	DOI Coordinator
2.5	Integrate raven education into existing tortoise/environmental education programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate regularly with the DTIYE Coordinator and work group to develop the raven message Review educational material to ensure they meet the goals of raven control 	Task 1.1.3 Goal 3.1	Raven Mitigation Fund	DTIYE Coordinator/ Raven Work Group
2.6	Establish California Desert Program with NFWF to manage non-renewable energy raven impact mitigation	Task 1.1.3	Raven Mitigation Fund	DOI Coordinator/ FWS/NFWF

3	Amargosa Basin Coordination (ABC)			
3.1	Facilitate four conference calls and two in-person meetings to coordinate water usage, water rights protection, conservation actions, and science between the DOI agencies in the Death Valley Regional Flow System (DVRFS) and the DOJ Federal Family	Tasks 1.5.1 and 1.5.2	DOI Coordinator	DOI Coordinator
3.2	Coordinate water monitoring in the former Yucca Mountain monitoring network and throughout the DVRFS.	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.5.2, and 2.1.6	FWS, BLM, NPS, USGS, Nye County	USGS Nevada Water Science Center
3.3	Develop a better knowledge of the groundwater characteristics in the lower Amargosa (Shoshone-Tecopa area).	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.5.2, and 2.1.6	BLM, USGS, TNC	USGS Nevada Water Science Center/DOI Coordinator/BLM CA and NV
3.4	Continue development of the Southern Amargosa Embedded Groundwater Model (SAMM) for the area surrounding Devils Hole, Ash Meadows, and Carson Slough.	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.5.2, and 2.1.6	FWS, BLM, NPS, USGS, Nye County	USGS Nevada Water Science Center
3.4	Coordinate Amargosa vole research and recovery between USGS, FWS, CDDFG, BLM, TNC, and the Amargosa Conservancy	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.1.5, and 1.1.6	BLM, FWS, CDFG, USGS, UC ^{iv}	DOI Coordinator/CDFG/UC
4	Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS)			
4.1	Continue development of the MGS habitat suitability and landscape genetics model	Tasks 2.1.4 and 2.1.5	CEC grant/BLM	USGS/UNR ^v
4.2	Collect MGS survey information and genetic samples in support of model development	Task 2.1.4	BLM, CDFG, Fort Irwin, CERL ^{vi}	DOI Coordinator/CDFG
4.3	Host MGS scientific workshop	Task 2.1.4	DOD, CDFG	CERL/DOI Coordinator/CDFG
4.4	Coordinate with the Desert Renewable Energy Plan (DRECP) to develop a MGS conservation strategy	Task 1.1.5	CDFG	MGS Work Group/DOI Coordinator
5	Data Management Work Group			
5.1	Continue to share data via mojavedata.gov	Tasks 2.2.1 and 2.2.3	Fort Irwin/BLM	MDEP
5.2	Meet once a year to develop data needs and identify opportunities to develop data products that benefit agencies operating in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts.	Goal 2.2	Agency Base	GIS Work Group
6	Restoration			
6.1	Develop an online library for restoration practitioners	Task 1.3.2	Unfunded	DOI Coordinator
6.2	Host one small-scale restoration meeting	Goal 1.3	Agency Base	DOI Coordinator
6.3	Provide interim facilitation and support for the continuance of the Low Desert Weed Management Area ^{vii}	Task 1.3.3	DOI Coordinator	DOI Coordinator
6.4	Participate in the Mojave Weed Management Area	Task 1.3.3	Agency Base	Mojave Agencies
7	Coordinate Desert Tortoise Monitoring			
7.1	Fund interagency desert tortoise line distance monitoring in California	Task 1.1.4	NPS, DOD	DTRO
7.2	Coordinate the dissemination of desert tortoise line distance monitoring data to DMG members	Tasks 1.1.4 and 2.1.2	FWS	DTRO/MDEP

8	Mojave Tui Chub Recovery			
8.1	Establish one new population of Mojave tui chub	Task 1.1.2	NPS	Ventura FWS/Mojave National Preserve/CDFG
9	Science/ Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)			
9.1	Participate in the DLCC for the purpose of representing DMG/manager interest and needs in the Colorado and Mojave Deserts	Task 2.1.1	DOI and DOD Coordinator	DOI and DOD Coordinators
9.2	Provide web support to the DLCC if proposal to do so is accepted by DLCC	Task 2.1.1	MDEP	MDEP
9.3	Provide leadership to the DLCC GIS work group when it is formed	Task 2.1.1	MDEP	DOD Coordinator/MDEP
9.4	Partner with Mojave regional partnerships to establish a workgroup that will serve as the Mojave Committee for the DLCC.	Tasks 2.1.1 and 5.3.1	DOI and DOD Coordinator Budgets	DOI and DOD Coordinators
9.5	Develop a DMG science strategy	Task 2.1.3	DOI Coordinator/USGS	DOI Coordinator/USGS
10	Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG)			
10.1	Meet three times to coordinate conservation acquisitions among various programs	Task 1.2.1	Agency Base	CLAWG
10.2	Provide GIS services to agencies and NGO partners to support conservation acquisitions	Task 1.2.1	MDEP	MDEP
10.3	Develop a database of potential willing sellers	Tasks 1.2.1 and 2.2.1	MDEP	CLAWG/MDEP
10.4	Facilitate a collaborative SB34 and Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) acquisition project in Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor	Task 1.2.1	CDFG/Navy	DOI and DOD Coordinators/ Edwards/Navy/CDFG
11	Energy			
11.1	Host DRECP spatial data and construct agency and public interfaces	Tasks 2.2.1, 2.2.3, and 5.5.1	CEC/MDEP	CEC/MDEP
11.2	Ensure that agency research, monitoring, and assessment is incorporated into DRECP	Tasks 2.1.2 and 5.5.1	DOI Coordinator	DOI Coordinator/USGS
11.3	Coordinate information from the Solar PEIS and DRECP with agencies not otherwise directly engaged.	Task 5.5.1	DOI and DOD Coordinator	DOI and DOD Coordinators
12	Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs)			
12.1	Establish the California RIT	Task 1.1.1	DTRO	DTRO
12.2	Coordinate development and refinement of the spatial decision support system for desert tortoise recovery, project evaluation and mitigation.	Task 1.1.1	FWS, CEC, BLM	DTRO
13	Maintain californiadesert.gov	Task 3.2.1	MDEP	MDEP

ⁱ October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012

ⁱⁱ Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation

ⁱⁱⁱ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

^{iv} University of California Davis and Berkeley Campuses

^v University of Nevada Reno

^{vi} U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Lab

^{vii} The LDWMA was coordinated by the Southern Low Desert RC&D. The RC&D no longer has the capacity to coordinate or support LDWMA.