



Briefing Statement

Date: October 23, 2012

Title: Conservation Land Acquisition Workgroup (CLAWG)

Background

- The CLAWG is undertaking a desert-wide prioritization process to help guide development of future multijurisdictional projects. The prioritization consists of repeatable GIS analyses and identification of agency priorities. Initial results indicated two priority areas: A northern connection between Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) and a southern priority area stretching from Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR) through Joshua Tree National Park (JOTR) and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) to Mojave National Preserve (MOJA). The Northern Priority contains portions of a mitigation focal area from the DRECP alternatives and is where the CLAWG Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor (BMSSC) Subgroup is already working. The Southern Priority contains larger swaths of public land and the area where JOTR, Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) and MCAGCC have focused efforts.
- The CLAWG BMSSC Subgroup is making headway with smaller parcels for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) project. The Navy has the lead and is working with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), BLM, and Transition Habitat Conservancy.
- The CLAWG will establish a second regional subgroup to focus on the Southern Priority. Members that will be invited to participate include CMAGR, JOTR, MCAGCC, BLM, MOJA, CDFG and MDLT. If additional offices wish to be involved, please contact Russell.
- The National Park Service (NPS) has contracted with the Sonoran Institute to prioritize land parcels lying outside of the Mojave NPS units. Sonoran will hold workshops to identify lands between the parks that support values identified in the parks' foundation statements and other documents. These might include wildlife corridors, view sheds, open space, etc. The study is based upon the [Morongo Basin Open Space Committee report](#) and is scheduled for completion March 2013. They are using data from the CLAWG map and other data available through MDEP and elsewhere and their product will be added to the CLAWG map where appropriate.
- There is an opportunity to coordinate with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) and the Counties to obtain high-resolution aerial imagery of the desert. Imagery would be useful for both planning and monitoring of acquisitions. The CLAWG feels this could be a valuable cost saving tool but questions about the resolution, frequency, policy, and actual cost would need to be resolved prior to it being adopted for acquisition monitoring. Fon is working with the CLAWG to answer those questions.
- The next CLAWG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 in Barstow.

Contact

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