



**DMG Meeting  
October 23, 2012  
Meeting Notes**

**Action Items**

- The Living Desert (TLD) has desert tortoise educational material and brochures plus the Mojave Maxine costume all of which is available to agencies and should be utilized during agency outreach events. Please contact with Chris Mullen or Russell to get materials.
- Russell Scofield and Fon Duke will be contacting managers to make sure we have the correct outreach POC for the Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE) Work Group list. Managers are asked to place a high priority for staff to participate in the Work Group.
- Russell Scofield and Fon Duke will work with the installations to identify the mission benefit for the proposed joint services REPI project and develop a prospectus.
- The DMG FY 2012 Accomplishment Report should be shared with leadership to help market the DMG's ability to coordinate collaborative projects and programs.

**Decisions**

- Russell Scofield proposed that the DMG should host the next DLCC meeting in conjunction with the spring DMG meeting and the DMG managers concurred.
- There was a consensus DMG should partner with SNAP and BLM to develop a regional science strategy.
- Managers approved the AWP with the changes discussed during the meeting.
- Managers are asked to continue pushing the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) MOA legal review process.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- The DTIYE Work Group will schedule a meeting in January to begin planning for the 2013 contest.
- Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) will schedule a spring Management Oversight Group (MOG) meeting to review the RAPs from each RIT.
- The next Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG) meeting will be January 15.
- Russell and Fon will send out Doodle Polls to schedule the winter and spring DMG meetings.
- The California RIT will meet at Mojave National Preserve in Barstow December 4 and 5.
- The Raven Work Group will schedule a meeting in January prior to nest surveys.

## Meeting Notes

- **Overview of Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Activities-** Vicki Davis, the new environmental chief for the MCLB Barstow, provided an [overview presentation](#) of the installation. The base is home Marine Corps operations for vehicle restoration and management on the west coast. The base has three distinct areas that pose various environmental challenges. An example of a cultural concern is that the base must maintain a section of the historic Route 66 highway that runs through a major portion of the base. Geographically the base is challenged by residing in a floodplain that could cause significant management issues when flooded. The base also manages almost eighteen acres of wetlands along with various species that inhabit the base. Like other installations, MCLB is engaging in both wind and solar development to meet or exceed executive order 12514 mandates.
- **Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)-** Russell Scofield distributed a [DLCC briefing document](#). With Armand Gonzalez of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as the new DLCC Co-chair, there are hopes of bringing a high level of visibility for California programs. Russell and Fon believe that one of the biggest benefits DMG will see from DLCC is information management in the form of cataloging past, current, and ongoing research; technology transfer; and cataloging and synthesis of science needs. ***Russell proposed that the DMG should host the next DLCC meeting in conjunction with the spring DMG meeting and the DMG managers concurred.***

Russell discussed the need and opportunity to develop a DMG science strategy and needs assessment. The [Southern Nevada Agency Partnership \(SNAP\)](#) has both a [science strategy](#) and a [science needs assessment](#) that can be tiered upon for California. Also, BLM will be developing a [National Landscape Conservation System \(NLCS\)](#) science strategy for California. Both SNAP and BLM are interested in working with DMG to develop a strategy applicable to the Mojave and Colorado Desert ecoregions. ***There was a consensus DMG should partner with SNAP and BLM to develop a regional science strategy.*** Debra Hughson, Carl Benz, the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program, and the Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Team (RIT) were volunteered to help develop the strategy.

- **BLM Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Trails Mapping Project-** Larry Blaine, Recreation Branch Chief at BLM Barstow provided a [slide presentation](#) explaining the implementation of a grant they received to conduct a trail inventory and condition assessment of the El Mirage OHV Area. Twenty-plus miles of roads and trails were inventoried within the twenty-five-thousand acre OHV area. The project incorporated mobile GIS and data collection supported by DMG's Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP). The conversion of paper forms to a digital database provided a higher degree of accuracy, richer data sets, and increased efficiencies. This project helps promote the use of enterprise mobile data collection methods to expand the gains of improved data quantity and quantity without increasing resources to do so.
- **Desert Tortoise Recovery Office-** Roy Averill-Murray provided an update of the Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs) and said that the recent Northern and Eastern Mojave RIT meeting in Las Vegas exceeded everyone's expectations. ***The California RIT will meet at Mojave National Preserve in Barstow December 4 and 5.*** Folks should have already entered their recovery actions into the online recovery action tool in preparation for meeting. At the RIT

meetings, RIT members will begin work on recovery action plans (RAPs). Roy will schedule a spring Management Oversight Group (MOG) meeting to review the RAPs from each RIT.

Roy reported that there would be no on-the-ground range-wide monitoring in FY 2013 due to a lack of funding; however, *since the meeting Ft. Irwin did come through with funding for monitoring in California. Limited funding from BLM in Arizona, funding from Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Ranger (CMAGR), and that from Ft. Irwin will provide for at least a minimal year of monitoring in 2013.* DTRO is also conducting a preliminary trend analyses for release by spring. An updated power analysis based upon the last several years of data is being developed. DTRO is working with the Science Advisory Committee to look at lower cost alternatives to sampling design and the impacts of such alternatives on power to detect trends.

Roy announced that the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center (DTCC) outside of Las Vegas is now officially on a two-year shutdown plan due to a lack of funding. Currently the DTCC is funded by impact fees through BLM, but those monies are drying up and operation of the DTCC is not within BLM's mission scope. Healthy tortoises will be translocated to augment populations in Nevada. California will lose the training and research benefits that DTCC provides. For example, consultants receive health assessment training at the DTCC, and that training will no longer be offered once the center closes. Roy is hopeful that a smaller, more efficient DTCC can be reopened in the future.

- **GIS Work Group Update-** Fon Duke distributed an [update of GIS activities](#). Regional GIS efforts are working towards having a collaborative effort in obtaining high-resolution aerial images and data. Various groups, efforts and cost saving solutions have been identified that makes obtaining annual high-resolution imagery of the entire California Mojave possible.

The annual GIS conference will be postponed until late January or February due to a majority interest for the event taking place then. It will be a virtual meeting versus in person.

Joshua Tree National Park (JOTR) and MDEP are developing a database for online submission by commercial permit holders of required information as outlined in the permit process.

The USGS Texas Water Science Center and MDEP are working to develop an HTML 5 mobile data collection solution to improve the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) collected efforts in the field. This project should take four to six months to complete.

Riverside County, FWS and MDEP are collaborating to develop a mobile data collection solution for use by reserve managers in western Riverside County. This project will allow FWS to demonstrate their data collection requirements on a simple mobile platform to the rest of county.

- **Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE)-** Russell Scofield informed the group that the DTIYE Coordinator is now gone. He reminded the group that even absent the coordinator, DMG still has a DTIYE program. ***The Living Desert (TLD) has educational material and brochures plus the Mojave Maxine costume all of which is available to agencies and should be utilized during agency outreach events. Please contact with Chris Mullen or Russell to get materials.***

The standards-based educational trucks are staged throughout the desert and check out information is available on the desert tortoise webpage. TLD and BLM will host the Mojave Maxine Contest but each DMG member will need to be involved in contest marketing. Last year was our biggest year yet for the contest and we do not want to lose momentum. ***Russell and Fon will be contacting managers to make sure we have the correct outreach POC for the DTIYE Work Group list.*** The Work Group will schedule a meeting in January to begin planning for the 2013 contest. ***Russell asked that managers place a high priority for staff to participate in the Work Group.***

- **Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG)**- Russell Scofield distributed a [CLAWG briefing document](#). The CLAWG prioritization process has resulted in the identification of three priorities:
  1. North of Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) to China Lake Range B
  2. From the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR) north through Joshua Tree National Park (JOTR) and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) to Mojave National Preserve (MOJA)
  3. The area south of Fort Irwin

The CLAWG currently has its Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor (BMSSC) Subteam focused on the area north of EAFB and Russell and Fon will assemble a subteam to focus on the southern priority, especially the areas from CMAGR to JOTR and MCAGCC to MOJA. Bob Johnson with MCAGCC suggested that the CLAWG develop a third subteam to focus south of Fort Irwin and develop a joint services “super-purple REPI” proposal. BLM, EAFB, MCLB, and Fort Irwin indicated an interest. ***Russell and Fon will work with the installations to identify the mission benefit and develop a prospectus. The next CLAWG meeting will be January 15.***

- **DMG Federal FY 2013 Annual Work Plan (AWP)**- Russell Scofield distributed a [FY 2012 accomplishment report for the DMG](#). ***This report should be shared with leadership to help market the DMG’s ability to coordinate collaborative projects and programs.*** The [draft FY 2013 DMG Annual Work Plan](#) was also distributed. Russell and Fon highlighted new additions to the AWP. Highlighted new initiatives include:
  1. Co-hosting one restoration workshop with the Mojave Desert Initiative (MDI)
  2. Establishment of a Southern Priority CLAWG Subteam
  3. Development of a joint services REPI proposal for FY14
  4. Coordination of a pilot study of the fossorial wildlife impacts from renewable energy generation
  5. Exploration of a partnership with the Sonoran Joint Venture to enhance migratory bird conservation throughout the region
  6. Seeking funding for spring inventory and monitoring on lands not already surveyed
  7. Development of the California desert tortoise Recovery Action Plan (RAP)
  8. Exploration of redeployment and ecoregional expansion of the DMG science database

***Managers approved the AWP with the changes discussed.*** Russell and Fon will incorporate those changes and finalize the AWP.

- **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Implementation**- Russell Scofield and Fon Duke provided managers with an update of what is known so far about DRECP governance

and implementation. DRECP is largely unprecedented and the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) has only briefly discussed implementation. Much, however, can be learned from some of the smaller HCP/NCCPs in the state. Russell and Fon discussed three hypothetical framework options for the DMG's involvement in DRECP implementation but each option still has many unknowns. Managers are supportive of a strong DMG role in DRECP implementation but no decisions were made on what that would role would be. Fon and Russell will continue to work with REAT agencies and DMG managers to develop a real proposal.

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Raven Mitigation Account-** Russell Scofield said that the NFWF MOA is slowly working its way through the review process. The MOA has been approved for signature by NPS and USGS with minor agency specific modifications. Inyo County has comments, which Russell will incorporate. Russell will send out a revised version of the MOA once he incorporates Inyo County's comments. *Managers are asked to continue pushing the legal review process.*
- **Next DMG Meetings-** Russell and Fon will send out Doodle Polls to schedule the winter and spring DMG meetings. The winter meeting is planned as a teleconference and the spring meeting will be hosted by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in Palm Desert. The spring meeting will be held in conjunction with the Desert LCC's spring meeting and will have a joint field trip and social gathering.