



## Raven Conference Call

### Meeting Notes

July 17, 2013

- The first cut of the raven documentary film is available for review. Russell will send out the link. ***Please provide your comments to Russell no later than August 5.*** Russell will consolidate comments and work with the producer to address them. If you need the link, please contact Russell.
- We are once again seeing predation of adult tortoises in the Superior-Cronese DWMA at a USGS study site. In June and July up to twenty-five percent of the telemetered tortoises were lost. Injuries are consistent with avian predation. Wildlife Services was dispatched and six ravens were removed from the study site as an emergency action. No more predation has occurred since. It is critical to track this removal's effectiveness.
- Although we have no idea how widespread of a problem adult predation is; we have an urgent need to programmatically detect and address the problem. After discussion, it was decided that a new environmental assessment would likely be needed to deal with adult predation. There was consensus this should be new NEPA so we do not jeopardize the existing program. Although nonlethal hazing was discussed, some work group members has concerns that offending ravens would just be displaced. Lethal and nonlethal means would be analyzed in an environmental assessment.
- Wildlife Services will start age classing ravens that are removed and keep a database.
- Systematic nest surveys occurred this spring with three different contractors.
  - Superior-Cronese DWMA- Ecorp Consulting
  - Chuckwalla DWMA- Corvis Consulting
  - Desert Tortoise Natural Area- Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
  - Ivanpah DWMA excluding Mojave National Preserve- Ecorp ConsultingSurveys commenced mid-March and ended early June. Fewer incidents of predation were observed than expected but nine offending ravens were removed as a result of the surveys.
- A small team was assembled to review the contractors' final reports. Team members include Liana Aker, Gerry Hillier, Chris Mullen, Becky Jones, and Larry LaPre (Russell already has Larry's comments). Team members were provided an ftp site to download the reports. ***Review is needed by August 31 so Chris and Russell can approve the contractors' final invoices. Please email your comments, with whether or not you have any problems with proceeding with payment in the first line to Russell and Chris.***
- A team will be needed this fall to assemble the solicitation and review proposals for 2014 monitoring. Larry LaPre, Becky Jones, Chris Mullen, and Liana Aker volunteered to be on the team with Russell and Shawn.
- The next Raven meeting will be a conference call on September 9 at 10:00 PDT. Agenda items for that call will include the 2014 survey priorities and next steps for the adult predation environmental assessment.