

Briefing Paper

Date: September 10, 2001

Title: Proposed Conference on “Wetlands as Significant Cultural and Biological Resources in the Intermountain West.

Issues:

- Financial support from California DMG for proposed conference.
- Active participation of DMG member agencies in conference.

Background:

- Donald V. Sada of the Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada, is organizing the subject conference to be held in Las Vegas during the spring of 2002.
- The conference is intended to educate scientists, resource managers, and resource consumers and to determine their common interests in water and biological resources associated with springs in the intermountain West.
- The conference would stimulate discussion of conflicting use and management issues.
- The conference would help develop methods to allow cultural use while maintaining biological integrity of springs.
- Invited speakers will be selected for their knowledge in the conference theme and their ability to utilize terminology and language for a diverse group of scientists, land users, and land managers.
- A poster session also is proposed, which would allow California DMG agencies to highlight issues with desert wetlands and their dependent biological resources.
- The water committee of the California DMG recognizes the value of the conference to Federal management agencies.
- Approximately \$70,000 will be needed to finance the conference, in addition to conference registration fees to be paid by participants.

Proposed Action by DMG:

- This conference will have direct application to monitoring and management of the biological and cultural associated with springs and wetland resources in the California desert. As such, the DMG agencies should help finance the conference. The following contributions are proposed for consideration by DMG participants:

- NPS -	\$ 3K
- BLM -	3K
- DOD –	3K
- GS -	3K
- FWS (NWI) –	3K
- State (Parks and F&G) –	3K
Total	\$18K
- Management agencies of the DMG should prepare one or more posters for the conference that highlight Federal management issues associated with desert water resources and the dependent biological resources.
- DMG agencies should encourage appropriate staff to attend the conference.

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