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DMG 04-08

January 14, 2004

Chip Groat, Director
USGS
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Director Groat:

Long-term ecosystem monitoring is a high priority for land and resource management agencies in the Mojave Desert. The Desert Managers Group hosted a Coordinated Natural Resource Monitoring Workshop January 30 through February 1, 2002 in an attempt to integrate monitoring programs in the Mojave Desert. The Desert Managers Group is a consortium of land and resource management agencies in the Department of Defense, Department of Interior, and State of California. Results of this workshop were the common realization that land management agencies share many common monitoring goals and there was a need for an overarching, scientifically designed approach to ecosystem monitoring.

All DMG agencies have the requirement to develop and implement long term ecosystem monitoring programs. However, we in the Mojave Desert are struggling to complete baseline inventories and implement a monitoring program on bare bones funding. USGS scientists from the placed-based Recoverability and Vulnerability of Desert Ecosystems (RVDE) program have stepped in to provide essential scientific support for this long-term ecological monitoring initiative.

The recent decision by USGS to fund the proposal for Predicting and Monitoring Long-Term Ecosystem Change in the Mojave Desert provides an exceptional opportunity to pull the desert ecosystem monitoring initiatives together into a scientifically sound and integrated program. Many of the ideas expressed in the proposal have been discussed at length with various DOI staff and results from the RVDE program have contributed to current thinking about land

management practices among the agencies. This project is now positioned to achieve more than incremental advances because of support from the resource management agencies and the base established by the existing RVDE work.

It is critically important to the success of long-term ecosystem monitoring that USGS efforts continue to focus on addressing priority land management needs, including development of monitoring protocols, and addressing the major scientific questions involving reduction of ecosystem attributes to measurable indicators of ecosystem health. The Desert Managers Group strongly supports the goals of this project and expresses support for the RVDE program and encourages your continued support for Mojave Desert science program.

Signatures:

Linda M Hansen — 1/15/04
District Manager, California Desert District, BLM — Date

Harold E Johnson — 1/15/04
Acting Field Manager, BLM Barstow — Date

Herbert L. Villalobos — 1/15/04
Field Manager, BLM, Ridgecrest — Date

Craig Mathews — 1/15/04
Superintendent, Mojave Desert State Parks — Date

Glenn Black — 1/15/04
Senior Environmental Scientist, California Dept. of Fish & Game — Date

Deputy District Director, California Dept. of Transportation — Date

Department of Defense, DMG Coordinator — Date 1/15/04

Chief, Natural and Cultural Resources, NTC Ft. Irwin — Date 1-15-04

Director, Environmental Management, Edwards Air Force Base — Date: 15 Jan 04

Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, NPS — Date: 1/15/04

Superintendent, Death Valley National Park, NPS — Date: 15 JAN 2004

Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve, NPS — Date: 1-15-04

Nevada Field Supervisor, FWS — Date

Assistant Field Supervisor, Ventura Office, FWS — Date: 1-15-04

cc: Regional Director, USGS
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