

February 14, 2003

Memorandum

To: Desert Managers Group and Interested Parties

From: John Hamill, Executive Coordinator, California Desert Management Project, Department of the Interior

Clarence Everly, Department Of Defense Coordinator

Subject: Desert Managers Group Meeting, March 4-5, 2003, Palm Springs, CA

This is final confirmation of the next DMG meeting that will be held at the Doral Palm Springs Resort. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am on March 4 and adjourn at 4:40 pm on March 5. The meeting, which is being hosted by Jim Kenna the BLM Palm Springs Field Manager, will be held in conjunction with the DMG's Arid Southwest Lands Habitat Restoration Conference, which is also being held at the Doral Palm Springs Hotel March 3-7. Managers and interested parties are invited and encouraged to participate in the Restoration conference. More info on the restoration conference including the agenda, field trips, and registration can be found at: <http://dmg.gov/conference.html>

The first day of the meeting will focus on the DMG Desert Tortoise Recovery Action Proposal. A status report on activities will be provided in the morning. Todd Jones, who was the principal facilitator/trainer of the DMG Collaborative Management Workshop in Ventura last June, will return to facilitate Wednesday afternoon session which will focus on implementation and budget strategies for the DMG's DT Recovery Action Plan. **This session is open only to DMG members and their invited staff.**

You may reserve a room at the Doral by calling 760-322-7000 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. PST. Tell them that you are attending the DMG Meeting/Restoration Conference. Be certain to specify that you are part of our group in order to obtain the group rate. PLEASE NOTE: Reservations made outside the specified hours or through Doral's on-line reservation service cannot be specified for the group and you may not get the special room rate. More information on the hotel and directions can be found at: <http://dmg.gov/resto-hotel.html>.

On Tuesday evening March 4 Jim Kenna has arranged for a dinner and social gathering for DMG members and meeting guests at the restaurant atop the Palm Springs Aerial tram. You will ascend two and a half miles up from the valley floor to a pristine wilderness area aboard the world's largest rotating tram. The package for the tram ride, dinner, dessert, tip and tax is \$27.00. It is a buffet style dinner with a nonalcoholic drink included. Entrees include prime rib, lemon chicken, spinach tortellini, and pork ribs. Dessert is basically a selection of cakes. This is a great deal - tram tickets alone are normally \$17. Reservations are required. **Please RSVP to Cyn LaFever (760-255-8886) by February 28.** Please bring cash to the DMG meeting to pay for your tram and meal ticket.

If you need additional information, please contact John Hamill at 760-255-8888, or Clarence Everly at 760-255-8896

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Draft Agenda
DESERT MANAGERS GROUP MEETING
March 4-5, 2003
Doral Palm Springs Resort

March 4, 2004

9:00 am Introductions and Review/Modify agenda (Kenna)

9:15 am Welcome and Overview of Palm Springs Field Office Resource and Activities (Kenna)

9:30 am Desert Tortoise Recovery (Kenna)

- Results of the MOG meeting (Williams)
 - o Results/Implications of the GAO desert tortoise audit
 - o Recovery plan review - process and timeframe
 - o Monitoring budget and work plan
 - o other
- Review Status of DT Action Items
 - o Tortoise Disease Workshop - next steps/action items (Jones)
 - o Education and Outreach Plan (Sanchez/Zarki)
 - o Monitoring workshop (Williams)
 - o Effectiveness Monitoring (Kenna)
 - o Raven Management Plan - next steps ()
 - o Feral Dog Management - next steps (Jones)
 - o Stakeholder Discussions and Participation (Hamill/Williams)
 - o Desert Tortoise Summit (Hamill)

12:00 noon Lunch

1:15 pm **Executive Session** - Desert Tortoise Recovery Action Implementation/
Budget Strategies (Todd Jones, National Conservation Training Center)

4:30 pm Adjourn

5:30 pm -- Social event and dinner to follow at the Top of the Palm Springs Tram. (Dinner at 6:30 pm)

8:00 pm -- Return to Palm Springs

March 5, 2003

8:00 am Arid Lands Restoration Conference

- Managers will attend the opening session of the Arid SW Lands Restoration Conference

10:00 Break

10:15 am Californiadesert.gov (Everly)

- Response to request for input to Californiadesert.gov
- Next steps

10:30 am Hazmat Work Group Report (Key/Brown)

- Dump prevention plan
- Work group update

11:00 am Habitat Restoration Report (Scofield)

- Mojave Weed Management Area Long Range Plan (Val Page)
- 11:30 am PACRAT Report (Thomsen)
- Future plans/activities
- Noon -- Lunch
- 1:15 pm Water Work Group (Kearns)
- Level 1 spring inventory protocols and field studies
- 1:45 pm Review/Finalize 5-Year Plan(Hamill/Everly)
- 2:15 pm Soil Survey Update (David Smith, USDA-NRCS)
- 2:45 pm Point Reyes Bird Observatory Bird plan for the Cal desert (Chris McCreedy, PRBO)
- 3:15 pm Break
- 3:30 pm DMG Roundtable reports (Group)
- 4:30 pm Next Meetings
- June 18-19, 2003, Big Bear, CA Host: Max Copenhagen
 - Spring Meeting, location/host to be determined
- 4:40 pm Adjourn
- 6:30 pm Restoration Conference Social Mixer - Doran Palm Spring Resort