

December 12, 2005

Memorandum

To: Desert Managers Group

From: Clarence Everly, DMG Coordinator, Department of Defense

Subject: Desert Managers Group Meeting, January 18 – 19, 2005, Palm Springs, CA

This is final confirmation of the Desert Managers Group meeting to be held on January 18 - 19, 2005, at the Hilton Palm Springs Resort, 400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on January 18<sup>th</sup> and adjourn at 3:00 p.m. on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Gail Acheson is the BLM host for the meeting. **Please note the following important information and requested responses:**

- A draft meeting agenda is attached. Please provide comments by 6 January 2006.
- Review materials and the final agenda will be posted on the DMG Website at <http://www.dmg.gov/announcements.html> approximately one week before the meeting.
- Lodging is available at the Hilton Palm Springs Resort in Palm Springs (\$122.00 for feds; \$84.00 for state). Call toll free 1 (800) 522-6900 or the Hotel Switchboard at 1 (760) 320-6868 for reservations. Reservations are under the Desert Managers Group. The reservation cut-off date for guaranteed per diem rates is 10 January 2006.
- A field trip is scheduled for the afternoon of 18 January. We will visit various sites associated with the Palm Springs wind energy farm. You must wear a hard hat during the field trip so if you have one, please bring it. We will have a limited number of loaners available. Please bring: Comfortable walking shoes and clothing, a Hard hat if you have one, water, sunscreen, your camera and a light to medium jacket.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am coming to the meeting but will not participate in the field trip.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am coming to the meeting and will participate in the field trip. I have my own hard hat.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am coming to the meeting and will participate in the field trip. I do not have my own hard hat.

- A social event is scheduled after the field trip for the evening of January 18<sup>th</sup>. Gary Watts has arranged a free Aerial Tramway ride to the top of San Jacinto Mountain where we will dine in one of the two restaurants at the top of the mountain. We need to know the number of people interested in the tram ride and which restaurant we would like to dine in. **Restaurant 1** has traditional fare (all inclusive meal menu) in the \$12.00 to \$25.00 range. **Restaurant 2** is more

elegant and has meals ranging in price from \$30.00 up (each item in your meal is ordered separately).

\_\_\_\_\_ I am coming to the meeting but will not participate in the social event.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am coming to the meeting and will participate in the social event. I prefer Restaurant 1.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am coming to the meeting and will participate in the social event. I prefer Restaurant 2.

Please contact Cyn LaFever by **January 6, 2006** and let her know if you will be attending the field trip and if you need a hard hat. Also, let her know if you will participate in the social event on January 18 and which restaurant you would prefer to eat in. Cyn can be reached at 760-256-7033 or [clafever@mojavedata.gov](mailto:clafever@mojavedata.gov).

If you have questions, please contact Clarence Everly at 760-256-7033 or Russell Scofield at 760-365-0955. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.



(Draft) Agenda  
January 18 – 19, 2006  
Hilton Palm Springs Resort  
Palm Springs, California

Wednesday, January 18, 2006 (open to stakeholders)

- 8:30 am Welcome and logistics (Gale Acheson, BLM)
- 8:45 am Introduction to the BLM Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office - resources, issues, activities and organization (Gale Acheson, BLM)
- 9:00 am Desert Tortoise Implementation/Planning Work Group Report (Roy Averill-Murray/Becky Jones)
- Status and schedule of DT recovery planning process
  - Next steps/upcoming meetings
- 9:15 am DT Monitoring Update (Roy Averill-Murray, FWS)
- Status of Monitoring report and workshop
  - Plans/funding for FY 06
- 9:30 am Stakeholder Input
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:00 am Desert Tortoise Education and Outreach Project Update (Joe Zarki, NPS)
- Project update
    - Public Survey Status
    - DTI&E Website
    - Science Teacher Conference
    - Funding
  - Mojave Max Emergence Contest in California
- 10:30 am Raven EA (Judy Hohman, FWS)
- EA status
  - FWS Migratory Bird Office coordination
  - Population survey project status
  - EA implementation planning status
  - Education and Outreach

- 10:45 am Wind Energy (Bruce Shaeffer, BLM; DOD; Russ Dingman, CA State Parks)
- 11:45 Stakeholder Input
- 12:00 am Lunch
- 1:00 pm Field Trip to Wind Energy Farm (open to stakeholders)
- 5:00 pm Social Event (Dinner at the top of San Jacinto Mountain)

Thursday, October 6, 2005- DMG Members, staff and invited guests only

- 8:30 am Follow-up from Open Session (Gale Acheson, BLM)
- 9:00 am Hazmat Work Group Update (Russell Scofield)
  - Kern County IDEW update
  - Work Group Update
  - Grants status
- 9:30 am Habitat restoration report (Russ Scofield)
  - Low Desert WMA
  - Mojave WMA
  - Dump Fees
- 10:00 am Roadside rest area project update (Caltrans; James Woolsey, NPS)
- 10:15 PACRAT report (Bob Bryson, NPS)
  - MDHRGIS update
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Mojave Ground Squirrel Work Group update (Becky Jones, CDFG)
  - Conservation Plan
  - Monitoring
  - Survey Training
- 11:15 am Free Roaming Dog Work Group update (Becky Jones, CDFG)
- 11:30 am California Desert Fund (NFWF)
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm DMG 5 Year Plan (Everly, Scofield)

- Review FY 05 Accomplishments
- Review current goals/objectives/tasks
- Identify FY 06 goals/objectives/tasks
- Next steps/timelines

- 2:00 pm Next Meetings (Everly)
- April 19 – 20, 2006. Barstow, CA. Host: Fort Irwin
  - Summer Meeting: Date and host to be determined
- 2:15 pm Roundtable Report
- 2:45 pm Adjourn
- 3:00 pm DOI Manager Fire Training