



December 23, 2002

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Memorandum

To: Desert Managers Group
DMG Interagency Working Group Team Leaders
DMG Coordinators and Interested Parties

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From: DOI Executive Coordinator, Desert Managers Group
DOD Coordinator, Desert Managers Group

Subject: December 3-4, 2002, Desert Managers Group Meeting Summary

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Attached is the draft summary of the Desert Managers Group meeting conducted on December 3-4, 2002, in Needles, CA. Please review the action items and follow through on any assignments for which you are responsible. *Action items have been highlighted for easy review.* The Meeting Summary and all referenced documents are accessible on the DMG website at www.dmg.gov. Please contact either John Hamill (760-255-8888) or Clarence Everly (760-255-8896) if you have questions.

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Twentynine Palms

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Attachment--DMG Meeting Summary

Referenced Documents (available at www.dmg.gov):

1. DMG Meeting Attendance Roster
2. MOG Meeting Summary
3. DMG Desert Tortoise Recovery Actions
4. Desert Tortoise Conservation Work Plan (FY 2003)
5. Disease Workshop Summary (Draft)
6. Desert Tortoise Summit Prospectus
7. Letter from Cliff McDonald re desert tortoise recovery
8. FY 02 Hazmat Work Group Accomplishments
9. FY 03 Hazmat Work Group Work Plan
10. FY 02 Habitat Restoration Accomplishments
11. FY 02 Habitat Restoration Work Plan
12. DMG Water Work Group Brief
13. Proposal for Mojave Desert Science Symposium
14. California Legacy Project Goals
15. Agenda for California Legacy Project Workshop
15. Formerly Used Defense Site Report

Deleted: <#>CDFG Desert Tortoise Population Status Report¶
<#>Preliminary Desert Tortoise LDS results for FY 2002¶
<#>Petition to list the desert tortoise as an endangered species¶
<#>MOG TAC Meeting Summary¶
<#>Redlands Institute Desert Tortoise Project Program Design¶
<#>Revised DMG Desert Tortoise Recovery Action Proposal¶
<#>USGS Recovery and Vulnerability Project Brief¶
<#>Proposed Outline for the DMG Desert Tortoise Summit¶
<#>Mojave Desert Information Center Support Request¶
<#>FY 2002 Burro Management Accomplishment Report¶
<#>Draft - FY 2003 Burro Management Work Plan¶
<#>San Sebastian Marsh-San Felipe Creed Watershed Restoration FY 03 Work Plan ¶
<#>DMG Restoration Conference Brief¶

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Meeting Summary and Action Items
Desert Managers Group Meeting
December 3-4, 2002
Needles, CA

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<#>PACRAT Status Report¶
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A. BLM Needles Field Office Review. Molly Brady provided an overview and slide show of the resources under the jurisdiction of the Needles Field Office.

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B. Desert Tortoise Recovery

1. GAO desert tortoise audit results/implications. Phil Medica reported that GAO had completed an internal agency draft desert tortoise audit. However, agencies have been instructed not to discuss the audit until it is officially released by GAO. Agency comments will be consolidated and provided to Congress within 60 calendar days. *The DMG recommended continuing to invite GAO to come to the next DMG meeting to discuss the findings and recommendation of the audit.* **Update:** The GAO audit: “Research Strategy and Long Term Monitoring Needed for the Mojave Desert Tortoise Population” is now out and available at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0323.pdf>.
2. Results of the MOG/MOG TAC meeting. Medica reported that the MOG met in Las Vegas on 24 October 2002. Highlights of the meeting are attached. Jim Kenna presented the DMG’s Proposed Desert Tortoise Recovery Actions (attached) to the MOG—the MOG endorsed the DMG’s proposal. FWS has determined that it does not have sufficient funding to review the petition at this time, therefore, no action is planned in FY 03. FWS is working to find an acceptable date for the “bridging committee” to meet to discuss how to better integrate science, management and stakeholders. A MOG TAC meeting was held to evaluate and prioritize threats to the desert tortoise. Results of the MOGTAC discussion will be used to help design a Threats Workshop in the spring of 2003. The MOG TAC also reviewed a proposed desert tortoise radio telemetry/activity study by the US Army Corp of Engineers Research Lab. The next MOG meeting is set for Jan 13, 2003 in Las Vegas.
3. Result of the Tortoise Monitoring Workshop. Hamill reported that the Monitoring workshop was postponed and the University of Redlands would be rescheduling the workshop for Jan/Feb 2003. *Results will be discussed at the next DMG meeting.*
4. Desert tortoise monitoring budget and work plan. Medica distributed a DT LDS work plan for consideration by the DMG (attached). *Each agency agreed to identify the amount of funding it would contribute to LDS in 2003 by Jan 15, 2003.* The Managers agreed that if funding is insufficient to sample all the recovery units, the priority would be the West Mojave Recovery Unit. Phil indicated that LDS training would occur the week of March 10 in Jean, Nevada.
5. Desert Tortoise Disease Workshop. Becky Jones provided a preliminary report on the disease workshop which was held in Zzyzx, CA on November 14-17, 2002 (attached). Becky emphasized that her report was preliminary and would be reviewed by the workshop Organizing Committee and the scientists before a formal report was issued. *A formal review draft will be out by the end of 2002.*

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September 11-12, 2002¶
Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command¶
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6. Desert Tortoise Education and Outreach Plan. Joe Zarki reported that the DIRT would meet to review and revise the current BLM desert tortoise outreach and education plan. *Results/recommendations will be presented at the next DMG meeting.* Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
7. Raven Management. Carl Benz reported that the Dept. of Agriculture – Animal Damage Control, is willing to assist in implementing a raven management program. ADC indicated that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act should not be a legal barrier to the effort. *Benz indicated that FWS would develop an action plan by the next meeting.* Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
8. Feral Dog Control. Becky Jones reported that Cal F&G and FWS (Ray Bransfield) will take the lead on the feral dog effort. However, she noted that feral dog control was primarily a local government issue. *By the next meeting they will discuss the feral dog issue with Kern and San Bernardino counties, environmental groups, and animal rights groups and formulate a proposed plan of action.* Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
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9. Stakeholder Discussions and Participation. Hamill reported that he was heading up discussions among BLM, FWS, OHV interest groups, the Quad State Coalition, and environmental/desert tortoise interest groups to identify some collaborative desert tortoise recovery projects. Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
10. Desert Tortoise Summit. Hamill reported that the MOG had endorsed the DMG proposal for a high-level desert tortoise summit (attached). The purpose of the summit is to share information on the status of the desert tortoise and desert tortoise recovery efforts, promote a collaborative approach to recovery, and build support for an effective recovery effort. A meeting to begin planning the event will occur on December 18, 2002 at the BLM office in Riverside. *Anyone interested in helping out with the event was encouraged to contact Hamill.* Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
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11. Implementation/Budget Strategy. Kenna led the DMG in a discussion of implementation and budget strategies for the DMG's desert tortoise recovery action plan. The focus was on funding/implementation of the following recovery actions: Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

1. Evaluate the Effectiveness of Management Actions
◆ Grazing
◆ Fencing
◆ Vehicle Management
2. Line Distance Sampling
3. Permanent Study Plot Monitoring
4. Compile/evaluate existing population data
5. Raven Management
6. Feral Dog Control
7. Disease Management/Remediation
8. Disease Research
9. Public/stakeholder outreach/ education

Kenna established and will lead an ad hoc group to define success and failure for each action, develop a work plan and budget, and determine how to integrate the work plans into agency budget processes. Participants in the group were an unnamed USGS representative, Jim Weigand (BLM), Mickey Quillman (NTC), Clarence Everly and John Hamill.

12. Public/Stakeholder Comment. Several members of the public and invited guests provided comments. Ron Kemper indicated cattle grazing has been reduced dramatically in the Mojave desert, yet DT populations have continued to decline, suggesting that grazing is not a big problem. Cliff McDonald (local resident) had questions about the factors contributing to the decline of desert tortoises. His written comments and concerns are attached. Mike Pool emphasized the importance of working together with all the parties to avoid costly litigation.

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C. Colorado River-Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip. Elaine Downing (BLM), Dave Sjaastad (BLM) and Greg Wolfe (FWS) lead a field/river trip down the Colorado River. Burro management and Refuge management issues were discussed.

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D. USGS Recoverability and Vulnerability of Desert Ecosystems (RVDE) Project. Ann Frazier (USGS) provided a briefing on the results of the RVDE project. A workshop is scheduled for December 10-11, 2002 involving USGS and agency resource specialists to (1) inform Mojave Desert resource specialists about RVDE results to date, (2) get feedback from resource specialists on most useful products, tools, and models to be derived from RVDE information, and (3) identify needs of resource specialist that might be met by RVDE. In addition, a session of the Restoration Conference will be dedicated to the RVDE. Information gathered at the workshop and conference will be used to design the work plan for the RVDE. *Results of the workshop and the restoration conference and the RVDE work plan will be discussed at the next DMG meeting.*

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E. DIRT/Webteam Report. Joe Zarki provided a demonstration of the redesigned *californiadesert.gov* website. He indicated that each agency would need to input data on its area directly into the site. Several managers indicated that they did not have the \$\$ or people to input data or update/maintain *Californiadesert.gov*. After a long discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the redesigned site, request input from the Managers, and launch the new site on March 1, 2003. *Managers agreed to have their webmaster contact Eric Boerner to coordinate providing input to the website.*

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F. Hazmat Work Group Report. John Key provided an overview of the Hazmat Team's accomplishments in FY 02 (attached) and the proposed FY 03 work plan (attached). The DMG recommended that the work group continue to pursue dump clean up's but focus more heavily on implementation of the dumping prevention program. *The work plan was approved by the DMG.*

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G. Habitat Restoration Report. Russ Scofield provided an overview of habitat restoration accomplishments in FY 02 (attached) and the proposed FY 03 work plan. *The work plan was approved.*

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H. Competitive Outsourcing. Copenhagen discussed current FS requirements for competitive outsourcing. The managers discussed their experiences and programs with outsourcing. Generally, each agency's requirements are somewhat unique. The general advice was to proceed cautiously. Copenhagen agreed to keep the group informed of new developments related to outsourcing.

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I. Research Work Group. Hughson distributed an update on the desert spring inventory contract and the role of the water work group in the project (attached). Hughson also reported that she will soon be soliciting data on ongoing research projects. *Debra agreed to develop a statement for the Managers to include in contracts or permits that will require annual submissions to the database.* Hughson also gave an update on the proposed Mojave Desert Science Symposium (attached), which is proposed for the fall of 2004. The estimated budget would be \$30K of which \$15K would be raised through registration fees. She conducted a survey of the manager priorities for the symposium and their willingness to provide financial assistance. *The Managers supported moving forward with the symposium.*

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J. China Lake Draft EIS. John O'Gara provided an overview of the DRAFT Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake Land Use Plan and EIS. Copies are available from the China Lake website. Public hearings will be held in Jan-Feb 2003.

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K. California Legacy Program Workshop. Madelyn Glickfeld, CA Resources Agency provided an overview of the Legacy Program desert workshop (attached), which will be held in Victorville, CA on Jan 16-17, 2003. *Hamill/Everly will provide a list of recommended invitees for the workshop.* The DMG agreed to help sponsor the workshop but could not provide any financial contributions.

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L. Review/Amend 5-Year Plan. Hamill and Everly will use input from the DMG meeting to revise the plan. A draft will be sent out for review prior to Christmas and the Managers will be given 3 weeks to review. The Plan will be finalized by Feb 1, 2003.

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M. Roundtable Report: The managers reported on activities of regional or interagency interest. Highlights included:

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- Copenhagen (FS) – major ponderosa pine die off in big bear area is causing concern for wildfires.
- O'Gara (China Lakes NWS) - NAWS may have funding to work on DT recovery
- Medica (FWS) – Range Management Society meeting in Laughlin will focus on DT recovery.

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- Hamill (DOI) – Developing a brochure on status and needs related to burro management.
- Benz (FWS) – FWS is looking at 10 percent budget cut. Two new people have been assigned to work on desert issues. FWS developing a critical habitat proposal for lane mountain milk vetch.

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- Jones (CDFG) – Water issues on the Mojave River are heating up. Good success reported in Mojave ground squirrel trapping

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- Quillman (NTC) - Funding is being cut; enough should be available for contract staff and LDS. Expansion—BA to FWS by Jan 15; draft EIS out in 120 days.

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- Soderberg (MAGTFTC) - Big cuts in the environmental program at MAGTFTC. Marine Corp held a range sustainability conference—they are prepared to advocate funding for DOI to recover the desert tortoise. Mounting concerns about new wilderness legislation. Maj Soderberg will be taking another assignment in May (leaving DMG).
- Zarki (JOTR NP). Ernie Quintana has accepted new job as Regional Director for the NPS Central Region. NPS is establishing a network of WWII historical sites (Frank Hayes, Manzanar has lead). Possible funding for an NPS Learning Center at Joshua Tree is included in the FY 04 budget. The Center may be a source of support for DMG work.
- Mojave State Parks – acquisition of the Dutch cleanser mine fell through. General plan amendment completed for new lands at Red Rocks SP.
- Scofield (Barstow, BLM). Two monitoring wells being installed near DEVA, Roxie Trost is the new Resource Chief, Tim Read out for surgery—recovery is going well.
- Brady (BLM, Needles)—NECO and NEMO to be signed by end of December.
- Caltrans – New starts will be deferred due to budget cuts.
- John Key (BLM, HAZMAT). Illegal grease disposal is a growing problem—any incidences should be reported to John Key. EPA developing a data base on Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) (attached). Looking for agency input.

N. Next DMG Meetings

- March 4-5, 2003, Palm Springs, CA Host: Jim Kenna. Preliminary agenda topics:
 - Arid lands restoration
 - Desert tortoise recovery plans and implementation strategy
 - GAO desert tortoise audit results/implications
 - Desert tortoise summit
 - USGS Recoverability and Vulnerability Project update
 - Sen. Boxers Wilderness Bill
 - Burro Management Strategy
 - Desert tortoise monitoring
 - DSS presentation by Redlands Institute
 - State of California Legacy Project Workshop
 - California Desert Fund
- June 18-19, 2003, Big Bear, CA Host: Max Copenhagen , US Forest Service

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Desert Tortoise Population/Monitoring Update. Becky Jones summarized the current status of the desert tortoise population in California (attached). The report indicated that tortoise populations have experienced major declines in many areas. Phil Medica (FWS) presented preliminary results of the FY 02 Line Distance Sampling. Encounter rates were very low in most areas, perhaps because of the dry conditions during the sampling period. ¶
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Desert Tortoise Political Update. Bob Williams announced that FWS had been petitioned to list the desert tortoise as endangered based on recent population declines (see attached). Bob was uncertain how FWS would respond to the petition at this time. Bob indicated that the draft of the GAO audit was scheduled for release in the next week or so. Bob also indicated that FWS still had not responded officially to the congressional inquiry from Sen. Bennett and Cong. Hansen. Hamill reported that the Inspector General was auditing the DMG's performance related to the GPRA goal to monitor desert tortoise populations in FY 01.¶
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MOG/MOG TAC Meeting Summary and Next Steps. Bob Williams summarized the results of the last MOG and MOGTAC meeting (attached). The MOGTAC concluded that the DT Recovery Plan was still up-to-date. However, the Service has not made a decision on whether to revise or update the Plan. This issue will be discussed at the MOG meeting on October 9, 2002 in Las Vegas. ¶
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Establishment of a DT Science Office/Team. Bob Williams proposed establishing a Science Office or Team to coordinate research, recovery and monitoring activities and provide DT information and synthesis to Managers in a timely manner and in a useful format. *The DMG supported Bob's proposal in concept. The Managers and requested that Bob develop a White Paper that would examine various options and alternatives for integrating science with desert tortoise recovery as well as the staffing requirements and budget implications of the proposal. Bob agreed to prepare the White Paper for discussion at the next DMG meeting .*

University of Redlands Desert Tortoise Project. Dr. Jill Heaton and Dr. Monty Hempel reviewed the project design for the Redland Institutes DT Project (attached). The project will focus on providing better science-based estimates of DT populations, habitats and threats generally within the West Mojave Recovery Unit and for the Fort Irwin Expansion effort in particular. The project will employ various information science technologies to address the management and policy implications of desert tortoise recovery. *The DMG requested that RI provide a more detailed presentation at its next meeting on how a decision support system, proposed by RI for implementation, could support the recovery effort.*

DMG Tortoise Strategy and Presentation to the MOG. Jim Kenna led the DMG is a discussion of the Ad Hoc Desert Tortoise Work Group proposal related to desert tortoise recovery. *The proposal was modified and approved by the DMG (attached). Specific highlights include:*

place emphasis on evaluating the effectiveness of past management actions, population monitoring, completion and coordinated implementation of agency land management plans, and reducing the causes of desert tortoise mortality
an ad hoc group of managers, biologist and biostatisticians will evaluate the relative priority of funding for Permanent Study Plots and Line Distance Sampling
Redlands Institute will develop a synthesis of existing plot data to determine the relative value of the data collected and what questions the information is best suited to answer/address. USFWS and CAL F&G will provide sample plot data to RI by 1 Oct. RI will provide the results of their efforts NLT 1 Nov.
FWS will take the lead on developing and implementing a predator control plan, focusing on actions to be taken, with the initial emphasis on raven management
the Ad Hoc Desert Tortoise Work Group will evaluate funding options and strategies for discussion at the next DMG meeting.
Jim Kenna will present the DMG approved proposal with to the MOG on October 9.

USGS Desert Recoverability and Vulnerability Project Update. Russell Scofield reviewed the background and status of the USGS Recoverability and Vulnerability Project (RVPDE). *The DMG agreed with the following recommendations:*
A workgroup be formed to provide land manager feedback to the RVPDE project. Members of the workgroup include: Russ Scofield, Jim Kenna, Jim Weigand, Debra Hughson, Shannon Collis, Rhys Evans, and Jane Rodgers.
Invite RVPDE scientists to meet land management resource specialist this Fall to discuss how the RVPDE could support agency resource management needs.
Invite the USGS to provide a brief on the RVPDE at the December DMG meeting in Needles.
Propose to USGS that the DMG's RVPDE workgroup serve to provide continuing guidance to the RVDE project. This goal would be ensure that the RVPDE project remains focused on agency land management needs while still providing the science necessary to meet RVDE and USGS research goals.

DMG Chair. Hamill reported that the Regional Executives would like the Managers to exercise more leadership of the DMG. They proposed that the Coordinators continue to chair the meetings. However, they would like the manager that hosts a meeting to be actively involved in planning and chairing at least a portion of the meeting in coordination with the DMG coordinators. They proposed trying this arrangement for a year and then revisiting how well it is working. *The DMG supported the proposal from the Regional Executives.*

Executive Coordination Meeting—Desert Tortoise Summit. The DMG supported the proposal (attached) presented by John Hamill for the DMG executive coordination meeting to focus on the Desert Tortoise. The group recommended that the meeting be held in the Spring to allow adequate time to plan the meeting.

Senator Boxer's Wilderness Bill. Steven Evanko summarized of the Marine Corps concerns with the proposed wilderness bill. *The Managers requested that the Coordinators invite Senator Boxer's staff to discuss the legislation at the next DMG meeting.*

DIRT Report. Joe Zarki reported that the DIRT had a meeting to develop a FY 03 work plan,. Joebut that he was the only member of the Group that came to the meeting. *The Manager's requested that Joe let the Managers know when the next meeting will be and they will encourage their staff to attend.*

Hamill distributed a briefing from Kathleen Franklin concerning financial support for the Mojave Desert Information Center in Lancaster. State Parks indicated they were developing a business plan for the MDIC. *Managers suggested the issue be discussed with the DIRT and agreed to evaluate and discuss funding options at the next DMG meeting.*

Burro Update. Dave Sjaastad reported on the FY 02 accomplishments of the burro management efforts in the Cal deserts (attached) and presented a draft FY 03 work plan for consideration by the DMG (attached). Dave reported that the goals for burro removal established in the Burro Strategic Plan were not being met due to funding shortfalls in BLM and NPS. Dave indicated that BLM will continue to accept and place into adoption programs all burros captured by NPS that are protected under the Wild Horse and Burro Act. *Mary Martin, John Hamill, and John O'Gara will develop a strategy for re-invigorating and elevating the emphasis priority foron burro management in the Cal desert.*

Hazmat Work Group Report. John Key introduced Garry Brown (Cal EPA) as the new Vice Chair of the Hazmat Work Group. Russ Scofield reported on the status of dump clean-up and prevention efforts and upcoming Hazmat training. *John Key will present the FY 03 work plan for approval at the next DMG meeting.*

Habitat Restoration Report (Scofield)

San Sebastian Marsh-San Felipe Watershed Partnership. Russell was encouraged to proceed with implementation of the work plan (attached). *Formal approval of the work plan was deferred until the next meeting when Dave Van Cleve and Greg Thompson are in attendance.*

Mojave River Partnership. Russell indicated that he and several members of the Weed Management group are assessing the political interest in a Mojave River restoration projectinterest. Diane indicated that Ray Bransfield was interested in participating./ *The DMG approved Russell's continued efforts to assess interest in this project.*

Restoration conference/workshop (attached). *The DMG expressed continued support for the Workshop which is planned for March 3-7, 2002 at the Doral Palm Springs Resort.* Edwards AFB, NPS, BLM, MDEP, and GS are contributing resources to sponsor the conference/workshop.

Weed Management Area MOU and activities. Most parties hadve signed the MOU to establish the Mojave Weed Management Area with the following exceptions:

Fort Irwin-----Section Break (Continuous)-----

BLM

FWS

GS

MCLB—BarstowMAGTFTC

Edwards AFB

-----Section Break (Next Page)-----

The Marine Base—Barstow indicated they would not sign the MOU at this time. *All the other parties indicated that they would follow-up to ensure that the MOU is signed in the near future.*

Russell reported that the weed management group was focusing on control and research related to Saharan Mustard which is spreading throughout the desert. The initial focus would be in Joshua Tree NP and Johnson Valley. In addition, the Weed Management Group will begin drafting a long -range plan for the Mojave Weed Management Area.

Coordinated Natural Resource Monitoring Update. Debra Hughson reported that the natural resource monitoring workshop originally planned for January 2003 has been postponed until completion of the natural resource inventories of the National Park units in 2005. The DMG discussed, but did not reach resolution on how to address the need for additional weather monitoring stations in the desert. This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Water Work Group Report. (Attached) Debra Hughson reported that the NPS will issue a contract to the Desert Research Institute to revise and field test the spring survey protocol. BLM is seeking two grants totaling \$50K for spring surveys on public lands.

Research Work Group Update (Attached) Hughson reported that the ad hoc research group is developing a data base of ongoing research projects in the Cal deserts. The data base will be accessible through the DMG website in the next few weeks. The Managers discussed the best way to require that all the ongoing projects get entered into the data base. *It was decided that each agency/office will develop its own protocols for making sure that projects are entered into the database.*

Roundtable Report: The managers reported on activities of regional or interagency interest. Highlights included:
Dietrich (FS) - The Regional Forester FS will sign the MOU to become a member of the DMG. Gene Zimmerman will represent Cleveland, Angeles, Inyo and San Bernardino National Forests on the DMG.
Kenna (BLM, Palm Springs) - indicated there was increased interest by the Mexican government in working cooperatively; the Salton Sea issues are heating up.
O’Gara (China Lakes NWS) - the Range-wide EIS will be completed soon; several tribes are interested in joining the DMG
Medica (FWS) - MOG meeting Oct 9, LV; MOG TAC meeting Oct 24, LV
Everly (DOD) - Overflight Group Meeting, Oct 25th; Anza Borrego
Hamill (DOI) - DOI Coordinator now reports to Regional Executives from BLM, NPS, GS, and FWS; has meeting with Timbisha Tribe to discuss their participation in the DMG (Oct 3, in DEVA); PACRAT work group Status Report was distributed (attached)
Noda (FWS) - Judy Holman (Ventura) is new desert supervisor; FWS is considering closing the Barstow office due to recruiting difficulties—several managers expressed concern about closing the Barstow Office.

Hayes (NPS, DEVA) - pup fish population at Devils Hole is declining-
workshop to discuss problems/solutions is schedule for Sept 24-25
in Vegas.

Sharpe (BLM, Needles) - BLM approved Cadiz EIS; new day use site
open at the Amboy Crater; initiating a tamarisk removal project.

Martin (NPS, MOJA) - DEVA and MOJA General Management Plans are
done; Dennis Schramm going to DC; construction started on Kelso
Depot; new interagency fire center open at Hole in the Wall

Joia (MCLB) - surplus houses at MCLB available for the taking

Jones (CDFG) - good success capturing Mojave Ground Squirrels this
year

Viallobos (BLM, Ridgecrest) - Monitoring Team working at
Jawbone/Dove Spring; Restoration Team working at JOTR

Quillman (NTC) - The Ft Irwin Expansion BA should be out in
November; needs Section 7 BO on fiber optic line to China Lakes
ASAP.

Next DMG Meetings

December 3-4, 2002, Needles, CA Host: Molly Brady. Preliminary
agenda topics:

desert tortoise recovery plans and implementation strategy
GAO desert tortoise audit results/implications
executive coordination meeting/desert tortoise summit
review and update the DMG 5 year plan (DMG and Work Groups)
USGS Recoverability and Vulnerability Project Briefing
Sen Boxers Wilderness Bill
Burro Management Strategy
Weather Monitoring
Desert tortoise monitoring
DSS presentation by Redlands Institute
State of California Legacy Project Workshop
California Desert Fund
Funding Support for the Mojave Desert Info Center

March 12-13, 2002, Palm Springs, CA Host: Jim Kenna