

Minutes of Science Data Management Team meeting  
December 2, 1998  
Riverside, CA BLM

Jeff and Clarence provided an update on the November Desert Managers Group meeting at China Lake.

The group looked over the revisions to the SDMT Mission Statement and decided to adopt it. A revised copy is attached. Jeff will use it as the basis of a Charter for the group and draft a new document in the near future.

Phil Medica gave an overview of 40 some years of research and monitoring at the Nevada Test Site with emphasis on his studies on desert tortoises and lizards. The purpose of the presentation was to highlight the importance of long-term research for determining change in desert ecosystems. As such, it is a model for how similar efforts should be conducted in the Mojave.

Christie McAllister lead a discussion of issues related to GIS. At least eight GIS-oriented participants attended the meeting. Three impediments to effective coordination of GIS efforts were identified including personal, proprietary, and technical (system compatibility) issues. The group decided that it would be important to produce a catalog of existing data layers that will be posted on the Mojave listserver. Christie is coordinating the collection and assembly of the catalog.

There was considerable discussion about data standards for GIS and another recommendation was to post a web page summarizing the federal and agency-specific standards. This will likely require additional discussion between Christie and the other GIS participants.

Doug Scoville told the group that Superintendent Mary Martin of the Mojave National Preserve thought that it was not appropriate for the SDMT to tender official comments on the General Management Plans (GMP's) for Mojave and Death Valley National Park. The issue was one of timing. The group decided to send a message to the Desert Managers Group that we are available to provide technical overview of developing plans, before they are released as drafts. We will not comment as a body on the GMP's.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 1999 from 0900-1500 h at the BLM office in Riverside.

Sign-up sheet

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