

## **Mojave Monitoring – Group 1**

### **1) Identify the top 3 questions you think your agency/ group is/should try to address through monitoring.**

Are current management techniques helping us meet objectives, or is it business as usual.  
Are they experiencing unresponsiveness

Are present management prescriptions contributing to success or failure of  
Is the monitoring program sensitive to change (how sensitive can you measure)  
Does monitoring help you determine sources of change (natural versus human), is it accurate enough

What are the most relevant questions to monitor

Should we focus on monitoring stressors rather than counting animals

Should we use monitoring in a more efficient way (precipitation instead of counting lizards)

Are you looking at the right ecological scale.

Are managers prepared to use monitoring information – will it be used, how will it be included into the bureaucratic system

**Core Elements – fundamental to the big picture**

**Corporate/Compliance**

**Site Specific Things**

Ecological trend, weeds, tortoise

Tortoise , weeds, and fire

What do we have, where is it (distribution), what are their characteristics in the way of natural resources, what is significant

Fire, desert tortoise disease, desert tortoise density, exotic species, Africanized honey bees, education,

Downstream effects (down-gradient effects) of disturbance

Upstream effects (power plants)

Ecological trend – soil/vegetation units based on NRCS  
Plant community vigor and composition, cover, structure

Sustainability (OHV, grazing, military training, current uses in general)

Water issue

Meteorological data,

**2) Group questions and identify common questions among agencies/groups**

**3) identify the questions that were are most important**

**4) identify new opportunities to collaborate and how to effect that collaboration**

forget the boundaries and decide how to manage the whole Mojave Desert

**5) ID major barriers to collaboration and how to overcome these barriers**

fear of sharing information - lack of information by neighbors (i.e. military installations)  
so sharing information can be a liability  
so, this is a problem of scale  
solution – share expertise and funding to help neighbors

Funding – Congress is the barrier

Funding structure is not conducive to working on ecosystem approaches

The color of money – can you spend money off site

Trust – education of the public about what is going on, increase awareness

Tortoises – money pit and the way we do funding

Agencies respond to compliance issues and therefore never get to ecosystem issues -