

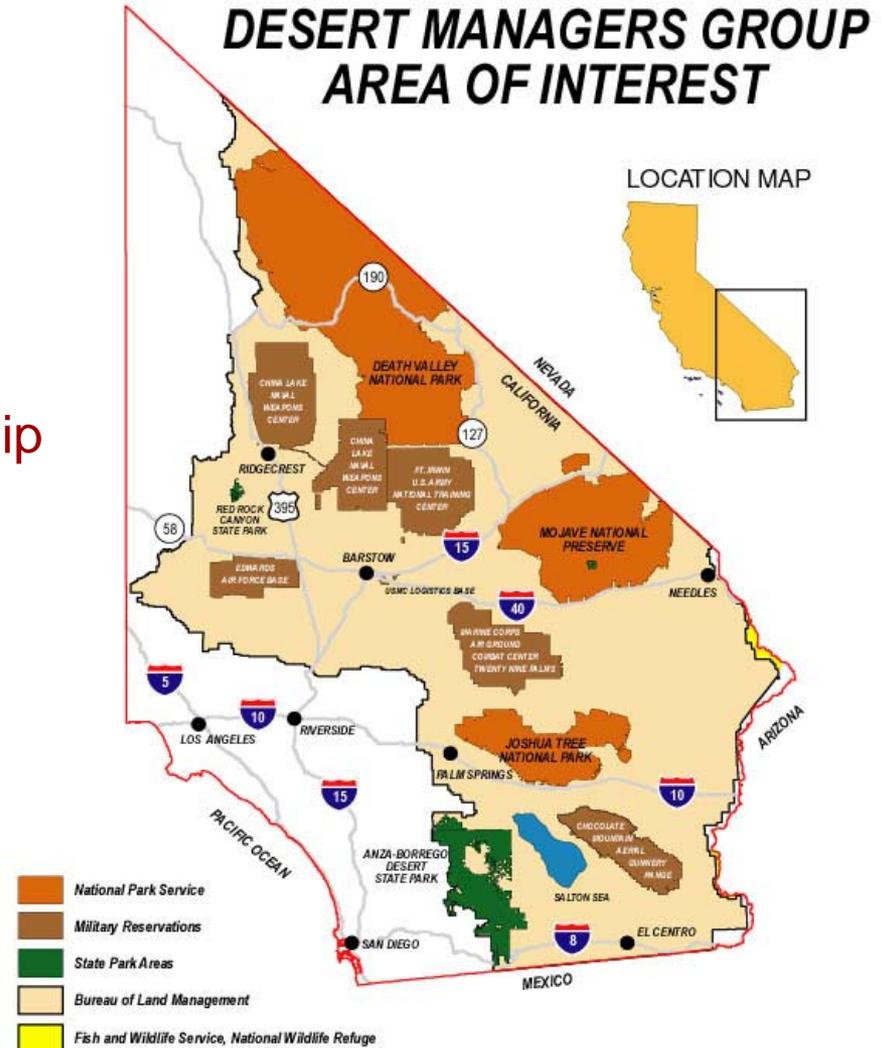


# The Desert Managers Group: Working Together to Conserve the California Deserts

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**Department of the Interior**



- 40 million people within a day's drive
- 25 million acres – 80% public ownership
- Multi-jurisdictions
  - 3 national parks
  - 10 state parks
  - 7 military bases
  - 4 National Wildlife Refuges
  - 11 million acres BLM land
  - 37 Native American tribes
  - 8 counties
  - 100 communities



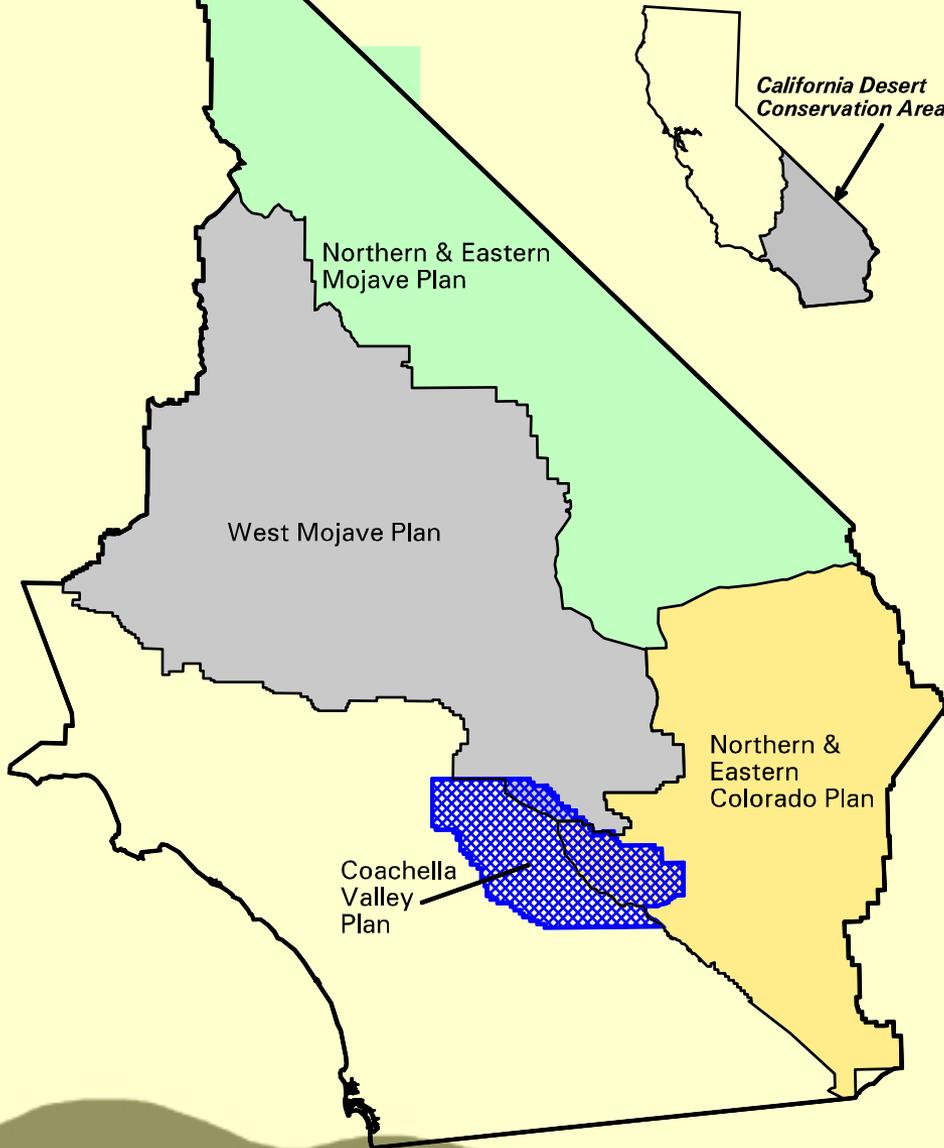
# Different Missions-Common Goals

- Many goals transcend jurisdictional boundaries and are beyond the scope of any one agency/office to achieve
- Examples:
  - Efficient/effective use of agency resources (\$\$, people)
  - Recovering the federally listed species
  - Preventing the further declines of native species (and the need for protection under the Endangered Species Act).
  - Monitoring the health of the desert biological, air, water, and cultural resources
  - Managing the invasion and spread of non-native species
  - Educating the public about the desert natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities in the California deserts
  - Ensuring the safety of the visiting public and of agency rangers and law enforcement personnel





## Planning Efforts



## Land Mgt Plans

BLM - NEMO, NECO, WEMO

NPS - GMP's for Death Valley, Mojave, and Joshua Tree

DOD - INRMP for Edwards, China Lakes, NTC, MC-Barstow, MC-29 Palms, MC-Yuma

State Parks - Colorado Desert, Mojave Desert

HCP's - Coachella Valley,  
- West Mojave

County Plans



# DMG Background

- 1994 - Cal Desert Protection Act implementation (BLM and NPS)
- 1995 - Reinvention of Government Laboratory - (membership expanded)
- 1999 - DMG Charter approved; MOU signed
  - DOI Coordinated Budget Initiative
- 2002 - USFS added as member
- 2005 - Counties invited to join
  - MOU expires



# DMG 5 Year Plan

**Purpose:** create common sense of purpose;  
provide accountability; budget planning

**Elements:**

- 13 goals
- Tasks, responsibility, schedule
- Updated annually



# Resource Conservation Goals

- Burro management
- Tortoise recovery
- Habitat restoration
- Illegal dump clean-up and prevention
- Cultural resource management



# Visitor Services/Education Goals

- Coordinated visitor information and education
  - Websites
  - Roadside rest area exhibits
  - brochures
- Desert Tortoise Information and Education



# Science and Data Management Goals

- Coordinate/integrate research, inventory & monitoring programs
  - Science symposia
  - Desert tortoise monitoring
  - Natural resource monitoring
  - Amargosa Basin coordination
- Coordinate and share data



# Program Management Goals

- **Orderly/efficient operation of the Group**
- **Provide (and fund) support staff:**
  - DOI and DOD coordinators
  - Program coordinators (restoration/dumps, desert tortoise recovery, burros, DT outreach)
- **Garner political and funding support for DMG projects and goals**



# Major Findings

## 2002 DMG Evaluation

- DMG fosters better management of the Cal Deserts
- Networking is primary value of DMG.
- Facilitating collaborative projects is a major benefit of the DMG—agency (manager) leadership is the key.
- There are no “DMG projects”—only agency projects that are being coordinated by the DMG
- New money for DMG projects is not in the cards (rely on existing \$\$ and non traditional sources)
- 7 work groups deactivated
- Work on lower priority goals deferred
- Involve stakeholders with shared interests



# Role of the DMG



- **Networking (builds trust)**
- **Cooperative/collaborative land and resource management**
- **Integrate science and management**
- **Public education and outreach**
- **Build partnerships**



# Questions of the Day

- Is the DMG still a priority in light of current agency policies and competing priorities?
- What changes would make the DMG more relevant to your agencies mission?
- How can additional resources be secured to achieve DMG goals?
- What incentives are available to make the DMG more effective?

