

Raven EA Status and Next Steps  
Desert Managers Group, October 5-6, 2005 Meeting  
Primm, Nevada

Amy Fesnock, who has been leading the Raven Working Group's (Group) efforts to prepare the draft environmental assessment (EA) for several months, left Joshua Tree National Park and moved to Sacramento in September. We wish Amy well in her new job and thank her for all of her efforts during the scoping and preparation of the internal draft EA. Robert McMorran of the Ventura Fish and Wildlife office will take over as the lead for the group. Robert's contact information is: Telephone: 805-644-1766, ext. 232; Facsimile: 805-644-3958; E-mail: [robert\\_mcmorran@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mcmorran@fws.gov).

The internal draft EA was distributed to the Group for review and comments were due in August. Some members have not submitted comments and we urge you to provide comments to Robert by October 20. For those who have provided comments, we thank you for your comments; they have contributed to making the EA a better document.

There are portions of the internal draft EA that were assigned to various members of the Group to write. We have received some of these portions but others are outstanding. Please provide your writing assignments to Robert on or before October 20.

Once the Group has completed writing the EA, they will submit it to the Fish and Wildlife service; the FWS will send it to the office of Migratory Birds and the NEPA coordinator to review the document. When the internal agency review is completed, we will release the draft EA to the public for their comments.

The FWS contracted with Dr. William Boarman and the University of Redlands to gather and analyze information on population trends and predatory behavior for the common raven in the California desert. These contracts should be completed this month and the information will be included in the draft EA.

In anticipation of completing the EA for public release, the BLM has prepared a draft press release on the availability of the draft EA for public review and comment.

Since the EA is the planning document, we would like to develop a second document which describes the implementation of the tasks in the EA. Many of these tasks (e.g., informing and educating the public about actions they can take) do not require NEPA compliance and could be initiated before completion of the NEPA process. To prepare this document we would like to create a new group, an implementation working group, that would focus on implementing the tasks identified in the internal draft EA. Please contact Robert if you would like to volunteer to serve on this implementation working group.