



The Desert Managers Group

Working together to conserve and enhance the California deserts for current and future generations



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Mojave National Preserve Superintendent



Desert Managers Group Mission

Develop coordinated and complementary management practices and programs

Coordinate and integrate efforts in the California Desert to:

- *Conserve and restore desert resources*
- *Provide high quality recreation, public education, and visitor services*
- *Provide for safety of desert users*

Develop and integrate the databases and scientific studies needed for effective resource management and planning

Promote compatibility in the application of each agency's mission



DMG History

- 1994- California Desert Protection Act Transition Team (BLM and NPS)
- 1995- Reinvention of Government Laboratory- membership expanded to include DOD and State
- 1999- First DMG Charter approved
- 2000- Memorandum of Understanding
- 2005- DMG rechartered and membership expanded to include counties and add stakeholder participation



DMG Participants

Department of Interior

- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Geological Survey
- Bureau of Indian Affairs

State of California

- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Parks
- Department of Transportation

Department of Agriculture

- Forest Service

Department of Defense

- Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake
- Edwards Air Force Base
- National Training Center, Fort Irwin
- Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms
- Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow
- Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma

County Governments

- Kern County
- San Bernardino County
- Imperial County



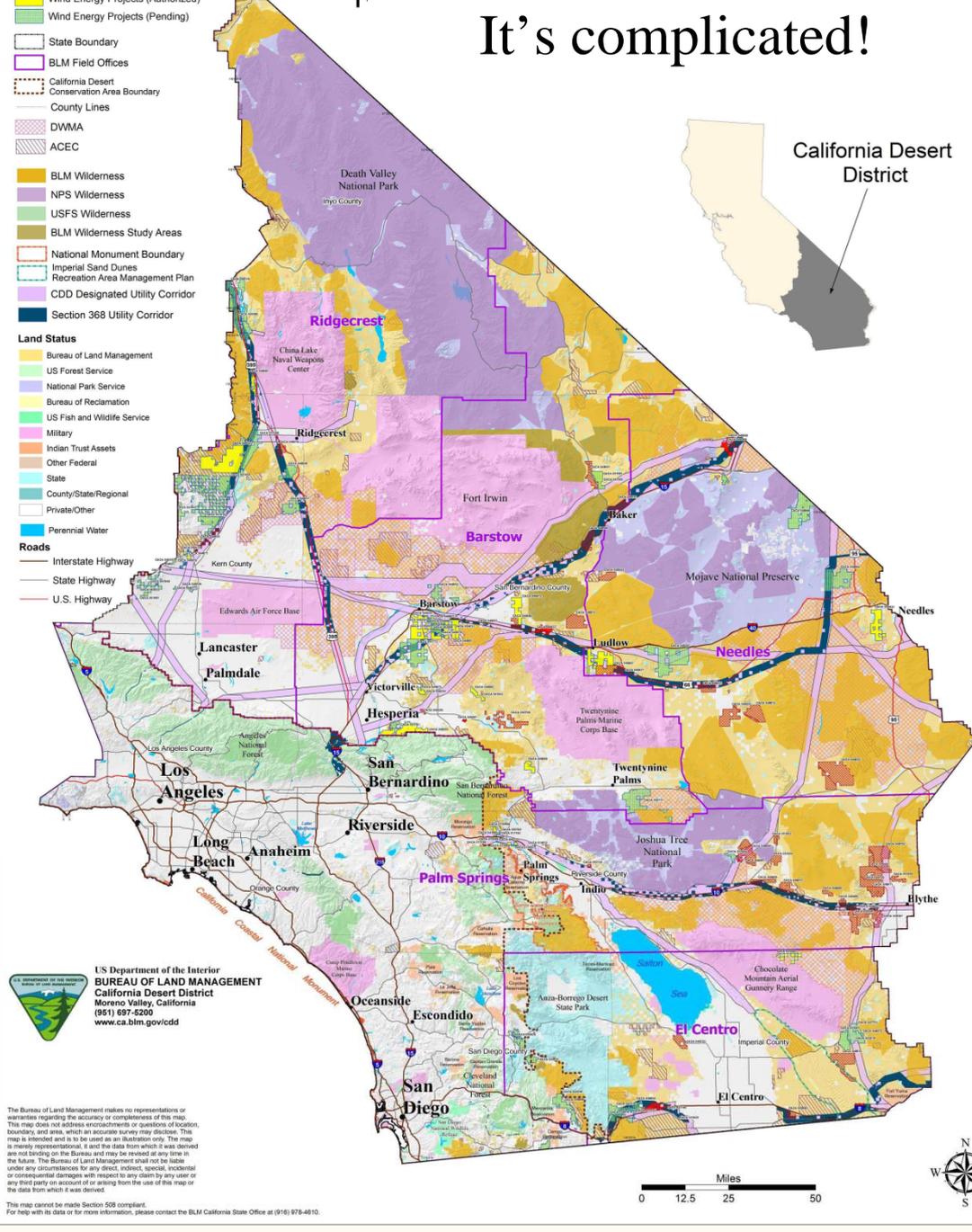
DESERT MANAGERS GROUP AREA OF INTEREST



SO WHY DMG?



It's complicated!



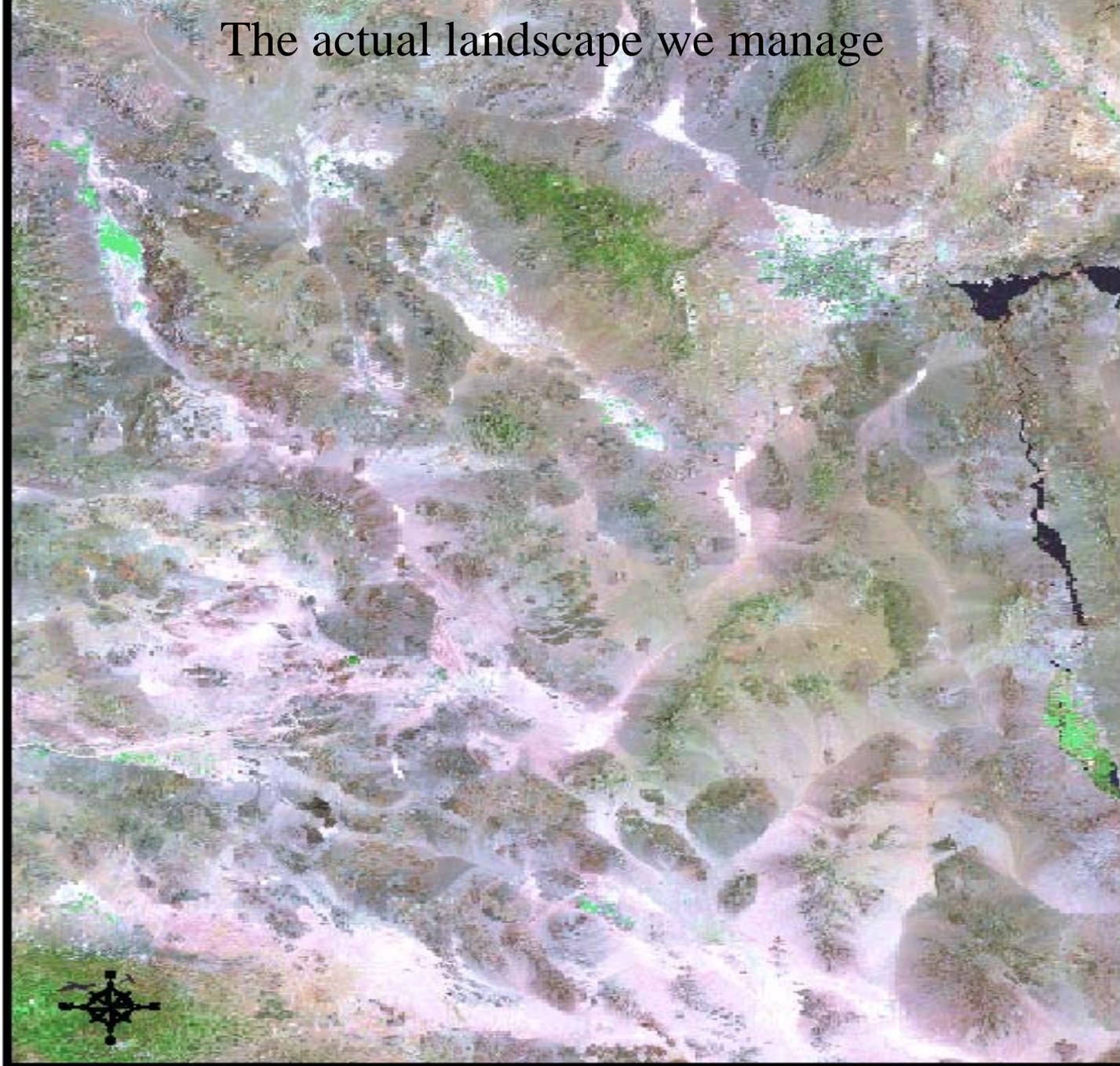
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The actual landscape we manage



The challenge we face.....

Military Air Space

NPS Wilderness

Military Installation

BLM Wilderness

National
Park

Designated Critical Habitat

County Road Easement

BLM Land



More Than 100 Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species



The California Deserts

- **Within a day's drive for 40 million people**
- **25 million acres – 80% public ownership**
- **One-hundred communities**
- **Six military installations**
- **Three National and ten State Park units**
- **Ninety-four BLM National Landscape Conservation System units in the BLM's 11 million acre California Desert Conservation Area**
- **Twelve off-highway vehicle areas**
- **Abundant renewable energy potential**



What new challenges are on the horizon?

- Climate change is threatening to change the entire landscape we manage and cause us to rethink our old ways of managing
- Renewable energy development on a vast scale could challenge our habitat conservation goals if not done well
- Recovery of T/E species, invasive species, wildfire, restoration, and education are all ongoing collaborative efforts that are critical to continue together
- Maintaining wildlife connectivity across the landscape to ensure species conservation
- These are all issues that dictate collaboration across boundaries – we will not be successful if we work only inside our box





What works?

- DMG is a model forum for collaboration and cooperation
- Land managers meet regularly, get to know each other, exchange information about current activities, set goals, and form targeted groups to focus on specific cross boundary issues
- It is ever changing – ad hoc groups tackle short term issues, while standing groups focus on long term concerns
- We have two staff coordinators that do the majority of the leg work and interact with each working group; they keep the records of the organization
- We respect each others missions and we strive to learn more about them
- It causes us to think outside our own boundaries and focus on desert-wide conservation issues



Accomplishments

- Established and maintain four websites that serve agencies and the public:
 - dmg.gov
 - mojavedata.gov
 - deserttortoise.gov
 - californiadesert.gov
- Hosted numerous events including:
 - The Millennium Cultural Conference
 - Three science symposia
 - Two major climate change workshops
 - Two habitat restoration conferences
 - Two illegal dumping prevention and enforcement workshops



Accomplishments

- Desert Tortoise recovery actions:
 - Implemented a standardized, interagency, range-wide monitoring program for desert tortoise
 - Removed and placed in adoption thousands of burros from tortoise habitat
 - Acquired and retired most cattle grazing across the desert
 - Coordinating habitat mitigation and conservation land acquisitions to avoid competing with each other
 - Established the Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education program
 - Working across desert on raven control



Accomplishments

- Established a gateway visitor center in Lancaster
- Averted the need for listing desert cymopertus through coordinated monitoring
- Developed best management practices for solar development in partnership with California Energy Commission
- Cleaned up of scores of illegal dump sites
- Established the Mojave and Low Desert Weed Management Areas
- Worked with CA SHPO to develop database and scan cultural resource site records and create a subset of CHRIS
- Created overflights working group and brochure



For more information...

<http://www.dmg.gov>

