



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** July 21, 2011

**Title:** Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education Program Update

- The Desert Managers Group (DMG) established a Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education program (DTIYE) in 2004 as a recovery action for the threatened desert tortoise. Joshua Tree National Park hired a term program coordinator (Anne Staley) in 2005 on behalf of the DMG. In 2010, Anne's term expired and the California Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program did not award DTIYE a 2009 grant.
- The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Garden (TLD) in Palm Desert has taken over DTIYE program coordination on behalf of and in partnership with the DMG. TLD hired Miss Kyle Pong in June as the new program coordinator. Kyle has an educational background and is collocated with Dr. Chris Mullen of DTRO.
- Grants from OHMVR and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) currently fund the program. Major deliverables from these grants include:
  - Mojave Max contest- DMG is rebranding its Mojave Max to Mojave Maxine. This is in part at the request of Clark County who owns the Mojave Max trademark but also because TLD's "Mojave Max" is a female tortoise. Kyle is developing Mojave Maxine marketing material and has created a Mojave Maxine blog, Facebook page, etc. Please be Maxine's friend if you have Facebook.
  - Printed material
  - Presence at events- If you have events in your area that you would like DTIYE to participate in, please contact Kyle.
  - Expanded web presence
  - Development of a California standards-based curriculum for kindergarten through second grades
- OHMVR did not award DTIYE a 2011 grant. TLD is seeking additional grant and funding opportunities.
- The DTIYE workgroup met June 23 at the San Bernardino National Forest office to develop the out year work plan and to discuss program implementation. This has been incorporated into the Preliminary DMG FY12 AWP. The next DTIYE meeting will be a conference call August 2 at 10:00 AM.

## **Contacts**

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