



Briefing Statement

Date: October 19, 2011

Title: Range-wide Desert Tortoise Outreach Coordination

Issue: A desert tortoise outreach summit would enhance range-wide coordination and thus result in efficiencies to various outreach programs.

Background

Education was identified as a recovery action in the 1994 Recovery Plan and Clark County Nevada first pioneered a tortoise outreach program in 1995 with Mojave Max. The key message from that program is “to respect, protect, and enjoy our Mojave Desert.” In 2004, DMG conceptualized the Desert Tortoise Information and Outreach program with a broader desert tortoise and environmental education message. The DMG program developed numerous, effective products under Anne Staley’s leadership and it now continues as the Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE) Program managed in partnership with The Living Desert (TLD). Education remains a key recovery action in the 2011 Revised Recovery Plan.

In September Russell Scofield and Kyle Pong, the new DTIYE Coordinator, and Chris Mullen of DTRO were invited to Las Vegas to meet with the Clark County Mojave Max partners to discuss the future of tortoise outreach. The need for more coordination and sharing of products and resources among various programs range-wide was discussed.

Proposal

DMG host a Desert Tortoise Education Summit during the first quarter of 2012. Target audience to the summit would include managers of the various desert tortoise outreach programs from California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona and DTRO staff. The goal of the summit is information exchange amongst the programs to identify redundancies and opportunities to share products, materials, and resources. The summit’s goal is not to develop a single range-wide program or to place DMG in the lead of other existing programs. The summit is expected to be the beginning of an on-going dialogue among those programs. The tentative venue is TLD or The San Diego Zoo. Costs, beyond travel for participants, are expected to be minimal and not exceed \$500.

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