



Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group
Meeting Notes
October 24, 2011

USGS Biodiversity mapping in the Desert Southwest- Russell Scofield provided a brief overview of the project, which is using genetics to map the “hotspots” of biodiversity for fifteen species in the Mojave Desert. These hotspots are often corridors or transition zones and frequently warrant conservation. As would be expected, many of the Mojave’s hotspots are located in the transition zones with other ecoregions. USGS plans to publish study results in 2012. An overview [PowerPoint](#) is available.

CLAWG Map- Fon Duke provided an update of new layers added to the CLAWG map. Mojavedata.gov is now hosting the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) data portal. County parcel maps are on the CLAWG map as is the new data form the Supplemental Solar PEIS. The password for the CLAWG map will be changed and a new password sent out on the CLAWG email list. If you need the new password, please contact [Fon](#) or [Ryan Schultz](#). Likewise, if you require technical assistance, please contact Fon or Ryan.

***Action Item-** There was a decision to establish a willing sellers database. Please email [Fon](#) any willing seller information to Fon and he will maintain a spreadsheet on the CLAWG website.*

Transition Habitat Update- Jill Bays provided an overview of their work in the Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor (BMSSC). Currently Transition Habitat is targeting small parcels using SB 34 funding. Over 4,000 acres are in escrow and 1,932 acres are expected to close this month. Transition Habitat would like to partner with Air Force and Navy to implement the BMSSC REPI project.

Renewable Energy- Armand Gonzales with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) provided an update of the SB 34 advanced mitigation bank. CDFG has received four proposals and three have been funded. The three funded projects represent almost 5,000 acres and projects are being developed for another 5,000 acres. CDFG has received some inquiries form energy developers but has not sold and mitigation credits yet.

Edwards REPI Update- Sam Cox provided an update of the Haws Field REPI project. The for-profit mitigation banker Conservation Resources is moving forward with acquisitions.

Mojave Desert Land Trust Project- Nancy Karl reported they closed a REPI project with Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center to acquire a section north of Joshua Tree National Park. The Chuckwalla Bench project has closed on two rounds under SB34 and has 239 pending parcels.