



Briefing Statement

Date: April 19, 2012

Title: Proposed DMG America's Great Outdoors Agenda

Overview

The President's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative has several component areas including youth, recreation, and landscape scale conservation. Attached is a crosswalk between the DMG 2010 Strategic Plan and the AGO 2011 Report. Department of Interior has asked that the DMG develop a 2014 landscape conservation agenda that creates a synergy between AGO and DMG. AGO can help advantage the shared agenda by raising the profile and seeking to leverage funding. Conversely, DMG could show landscape scale conservation accomplishments with AGO.

Proposed DMG-AGO Agenda Framework

Based on FY 2012 AGO pilot projects, three potential focal areas were identified for DMG. The focal areas consist of planned and/or existing agency work. As previously stated, AGO's role would be to raise the project profile and leverage additional funding as possible.

- **Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor (BMSSC) Conservation Land Acquisition**
 - Transition Habitat Conservancy (THC) and CDFG have invested \$1.5m in fee title acquisitions in the Superior-Cronese Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA) primarily under BMSSC. Using REPI, Navy Region Southwest and Edwards Air Force Base are working with THC and CDFG to invest in additional conservation acquisitions in the BMSSC to ensure the military's ability to execute its mission. The current REPI program concludes at the end of FY 2013 but additional willing sellers of parcels that are key for both protection of military mission and conservation remain for purchase at an average purchase price of about \$500 per acre.
 - AGO Actions Items: 5.2.a, 7.2c, 8.2b, 8.1d, 8.2b, 8.3b, 8.3c
 - DMG Strategic Task: 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 1.2.1, 1.3.1

- **Amargosa River**
 - FWS, CDFG, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Amargosa Conservancy (AC) have invested \$3m in fee title and conservation easement acquisition of parcels key for listed species in the Amargosa Region. The majority of the fee title acquisitions have been turned over to BLM for management as part of the Amargosa River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ARACEC) and Amargosa Wild and Scenic River (AWSR). Opportunity exists to acquire approximately 2500 additional acres from willing sellers to protect and expand current investments in listed species recovery.

- FWS, NRCS, BLM, TNC, AC, and local landowners have invested over \$600k since 2006 to remove invasive species (tamarisk; salt cedar) and restore habitat along the Amargosa River. Large stands of tamarisk remain along the Amargosa River but removal must be phased due to the potential incidental take of southwestern willow flycatcher (SWWFC) and least Bell's vireo. Also, initial investments must be maintained.
- AGO Actions Items: 5.2a, 7.2a, 8.1a, 8.2b, 8.1d, 8.2b, 8.3a, 8.3b, 8.3c, 9.1b, 9.4c
- DMG Strategic Task: 1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 1.5.2

While these two projects are real, they represent the types of projects that lead to AGO support. Other similar type projects or additional similar type priority investment areas that DMG agencies have could be developed into an AGO proposal. Some example of additional opportunities include the restoration of the San Felipe Creek-San Sebastian Marsh Watershed in Imperial and San Diego Counties and protection of habitat corridors between Joshua Tree National Park and the Twentynine Palms Marine Base.

Contact

Russell Scofield, DOI Coordinator	russell_scofield@blm.gov	760-365-0955
Fon Duke, DOD Coordinator	fduke@mojavedata.gov	760-252-6161