



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** August 23, 2012

**Title:** Conservation Land Acquisition Workgroup (CLAWG)

**Issues:** 1) The CLAWG could better serve managers if project-based teams were established and the full CLAWG met less frequently. 2) CLAWG is developing a repeatable methodology to prioritize areas for multijurisdictional conservation acquisition project development.

## **Background**

- The DMG [chartered the CLAWG in 2008](#) to provide the data and coordination necessary so that ongoing agency conservation acquisition programs maximize benefits to sensitive plant and wildlife species, wildlife corridors, habitats, cultural resources, and open spaces.
- Since 2008, the CLAWG has successfully:
  - developed GIS tools, including the CLAWG map, to help plan acquisitions;
  - developed educational material for partners on various conservation acquisition procedures;
  - reduced redundancy in programs and conservation acquisition projects;
  - facilitated multijurisdictional conservation projects.
- The past three CLAWG meetings have been poorly attended resulting a less effective meeting for those who did participate.
- The CLAWG is undertaking a desert-wide prioritization process to help guide development of future multijurisdictional projects. The prioritization consists of repeatable GIS analyses and identification of agency priorities. GIS data used for the analysis include the TNC 2010 Ecoregional Assessment, South Coast Wildlands Desert Connectivity Studies, BLM Rapid Ecoregional Assessment climate change analyses (when available), and the USGS Desert Tortoise Habitat Suitability Model. Filters include the Desert Tortoise Conservation Areas, SEZs and DFAs, and land status.
- The next CLAWG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3 at 10:00.

## **Discussion**

Due to the local nature of most acquisition projects in conjunction with the ongoing need for landscape coordination and planning, we recommend:

- the frequency of in person, DMG-wide CLAWG meetings be reduced;
- that project-based team be formed to focus on specific project areas (i.e. between MCAGCC and JOTR or the Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor);
- CLAWG continue its prioritization process and use that to inform out-year budget requests.

## **Contact**

Russell Scofield, DOI Coordinator [russell\\_scofield@blm.gov](mailto:russell_scofield@blm.gov)  
Fon Duke, DOD Coordinator [fduke@mojavedata.gov](mailto:fduke@mojavedata.gov)

760-365-0955  
760-252-6161