



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** August 23, 2012

**Title:** Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC) Update

- The DLCC approved the Comprehensive Science Needs Assessment in June. That final document will be posted upon its availability but the last draft is attached.
- This May, Reclamation issued a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) on grants.gov for LCC water related research. At the same time, Reclamation issued an interagency agreement opportunity (IAO) for federal bureaus. USGS submitted a proposal for the Lower Amargosa Water Study under the IAO. None of the other projects discussed by the DMG fit the Reclamation water related criteria. Debra Hughson is on the committee reviewing projects submitted under the FOA. Award announcements are expected by the end of August.
- The acting Science Coordinator is developing a process to add new members to the Science Workgroup (SWG). Once that process is finalized and adopted by the Steering Committee, the DMG request to add Drs. Hughson and Reinke to the SWG will be acted upon.
- The following workgroups either have been established or will be established.
  - Tribal
  - Land owner
  - Geographic Groups
  - Water Users
  - Mexico
- There does not seem to be a consensus within the Steering Committee on how to address local governments however, a proposal exist to form a local government workgroup.
- The USGS is supporting science “round tables,” which will bring further refinement to understanding science needs and gaps on specific topics of high priority to the Desert LCC. The roundtable objective will be to better define and focus our priority science knowledge gaps and needs. Results of these roundtables will be a topic-specific problem analysis that will help guide more strategic DLCC SWG decisions, and improve the scope, direction, and efficiencies for DLCC science delivery activities.
- The Steering Committee met via conference call August 21 and the next meeting will be in person October 10 and 11 in El Paso.

## **Contact**

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