



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** August 23, 2012

**Title:** Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP)

### **Projects:**

- The Fish and Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Monitoring annual support: A larger than normal amount of time was spent ensuring data quality and accuracy was had by the MDEP team. Additional review was spent upon completion of this year's effort to find ways to improve the process so any recovered time can be applied to other MDEP efforts.
- The Bureau of Land Management Bartow Office Lake Mirage Trail Inventory: The concept of enterprise level mobile data collection has been successfully started and underway between MDEP and the BLM on their trail inventory effort. A report by MDEP will be produced on the effort highlighting the improved methods discovered in executing a collaborative approach.
- The National Park Service Joshua Tree Office Commercial Use Online Database: Currently MDEP is working with JOTR to develop and publish through their NPS website a database that would allow for a more efficient method of data collection on commercial visitors and permitting in the park. Once this effort is completed it is the hope of MDEP that similar needs by the DMG members could be addressed to improve their overall operations with this system.
- Mojave Ground Squirrel and the Desert Tortoise digital operation platform: Due to the large amount of data on hand at MDEP along with the various types of data it has been decided that MDEP will develop a common operational digital work flow to support species data needs that any and all users will benefit from on a particular species. MDEP will be working with key individuals as the project progresses to ensure that a clear understand is had on the various kinds of data, how it can be disseminated and development of a flexible solution that can work with near term future IT needs.

### **Discussion**

- Education Collaboration Program (ECP): Currently MDEP has been approached by the National Geospatial Intelligences Agency to continue its efforts with the Aviation Debris Recovery Application which was had a successful first version lunch here last month. The National Park Service Alternative Energy Team is interested in having a mobile app developed to inform the public of various alternative energy matters. Penn State has also asked to participate as one of the additional resources for students going forward along with all of the other institutions included in the ECP.

These are all great efforts under the ECP but at this time MDEP has not received any other ideas, needs or input from the various DMG members which raises the question of the value of the program and its continued operation both at the DMG and MDEP. If DMG member agencies' individual programs could be better served by DMG coordinating with those ongoing efforts we would welcome that input and also the status and points of contact for each effort. This would allow the participating institutions a continued regional outlet to support the regional youth in ongoing efforts by the various agencies operating in Southern California.

If the ECP should continue then agency individuals need to be informed and asked to submit ideas as soon as possible. If the ECP should focus more on the individual agency efforts then those efforts need to be identified and points of contact for each agency also need to be provided.

**Contact**

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