



**DMG Meeting
Meeting Notes**
August 23, 2012

Action Items

- Managers are requested to review the raven film treatment paying special attention to its tone. Final comments are requested to the [DOI Coordinator](#) by August 31.
- Desert tortoise Recovery Implementation Team (RIT) members are reminded to contribute to the Recovery Action Proposal Tool. The tool can be accessed at <http://www.spatial.redlands.edu/dtro/rit/proposaltool.aspx>. Actions for California should be entered by October 19.
- DMG Managers need to decide the value to keeping the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) and develop a strategy to fund fifty percent of its cost.
- Managers should continue with legal review of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) MOA and forward any suggested changes to the [DOI Coordinator](#).
- The [DOI Coordinator](#) has a limited supply of Solar PEIS CDs. Please let him know if you want one. We can also get a few paper copies for those who need them.

DMG Decisions

- MDEP's Education Collaboration Program will operate in a reduced function with promotion of DMG partners various efforts.
- The Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG) will focus on regional teams with fewer desert-wide meetings.
- There was an overwhelming consensus from the managers on the call that the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) should utilize DMG for implementation. Managers granted approval for the DOI Coordinator to proceed with Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) agencies in development of draft governance structures. A team of managers consisting Teri Raml, Bob Wood, and Carl Benz will help guide the DOI Coordinator in the process.

Upcoming Meetings

- Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC) Steering Committee meeting October 10 and 11 in El Paso, Texas
- Raven Workgroup conference call October 4 at 9:00
- CLAWG meeting in Barstow October 3 at 10:00
- California RIT in Barstow December 4 and 5
- Marine Corps Logistics Base will host the fall DMG meeting in Barstow October 22, 2012.
- The DRECP/Solar PEIS webinar is scheduled September 7 from 10:00-11:30 PDT. Call in and WebEx information is in the invitation email.

- USGS scientist Jeff Lovich has two papers of interest for renewable energy managers. Dr. Lovich will discuss the papers during a DMG sponsored webinar scheduled September 12 from 11:00-noon PDT. Call in and WebEx information is in the invitation email.

Meeting Notes

- **Coordination of Golden Eagle Conservation-** The [DMG golden eagle meeting](#) occurred June 21, 2012 at Moreno Valley. The California-Nevada Golden Eagle Workgroup meets regularly to coordinate surveys and research. Also, golden eagle will be a covered species under the DRECP. With these efforts, attendees saw no further role for DMG golden eagle coordination right now but the DMG Coordinators will stay in touch with the both efforts to make sure information is available to DMG managers.
- **Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP)-** Fon Duke provided a [brief update](#) of MDEP projects.
- **Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)-** Russell Scofield provided a [brief update](#) of DLCC activities.
 - The BOR funding announcement closed in June. Due to the nature of the BOR funding, all projects needed a water nexus. *Update since the DMG meeting- None of the DMG submitted projects were funded. For a complete list of funded projects [click](#).*
 - The Science Coordinator is developing a process to add additional members to the SWG. When that process is complete, the NPS and DOD requests to add Drs. Hughson and Reinke will be considered.
 - The next LCC SC meeting is October 10 and 11 in El Paso and both DMG Coordinators plan to attend.
- **Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS) Workshop-** Dave Delany provided a [report out](#) from the recent MGS Science Workshop held in July. Workshop objectives were met through the in-depth discussion of detection methodologies, occupancy and density modeling, and ground squirrel ecology. CDFG indicated they were receptive to a review of MGS survey protocols but indicated it would be a funding and workload issue that probably would not happen in State FY 2013. A draft workshop report will be available for review around the end of October with a final report due by the end of the calendar year.
- **DMG FY 2012 Annual Work Plan Status Review-** Over eighty-five percent of the forty-eight projects in the DMG FY 2012 annual work plan are either complete, underway, or are ongoing projects. Projects that will not be implemented in FY 2012 are:
 - Expand educational content for the desert tortoise website.
 - Issue one PSA and one press release promoting [deserttortoise.gov](#)- This will not be implemented due to sensitivities related to [deserttortoise.gov](#).
 - Work with San Diego Zoo to develop a high school standards-based teaching curriculum for desert tortoise education. This remains unfunded.
 - Meet once a year to develop data needs and identify opportunities to develop data products that benefit agencies operating in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts.
 - Develop an online library for restoration practitioners. This remains unfunded.

- Host one small-scale restoration meeting.
 - Develop a DMG science strategy. Initial headway has been made on this project but it will be implemented in FY 2013.
- **Raven Work Group**
 - Raven Film- The raven film treatment has received review from the Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE) Work Group and the Raven Work Group. Keep in mind that the treatment is neither a script nor an indication of what the film's emphasis is but rather how each topic will be presented. Interviews will determine the factual content and the script. The Desert Tortoise Recovery Office will be providing ongoing review for factual accuracy. ***Managers are requested to review the treatment paying special attention to its tone. Final comments are requested to the DOI Coordinator by August 31.***
 - Raven FY 2012 Annual Work Plan- A [framework annual work plan](#) has been developed for raven mitigation. Components of the work plan are nest surveys, lethal removal, research activities, and education. Research needs to fully explore various methods of controlling raven predation, both long- and short-term, with preference for long-term using lethal and non-lethal methods. DMG managers will be asked to approve a final work plan at the October DMG meeting.
 - The next Raven Workgroup meeting will be a conference call and is scheduled for October 4 at 9:00.
- **Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG)**- Russell Scofield provided a [brief](#) on CLAWG activities.
 - The CLAWG is developing an acquisition project prioritization process that uses a repeatable GIS process to identify priority areas that can then be matched with agency priorities.
 - The last few CLAWG meetings have been poorly attended. In order to better serve agencies, the Coordinators proposed decreasing the number of desert-wide CLAWG meetings and assembling regional sub-teams that could focus on specific project areas. There was consensus for the approach.
 - The next CLAWG meeting is scheduled for October 3 beginning at 10:00. A location has not been selected yet.
- **Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE)**- Russell Scofield provided a [brief](#) informing managers that funding for the DTIYE Coordinator runs out mid-September. If funding falls out of sky prior to her departure, she can be extended however once she has been laid off, TLD does not intend to refill the position absent a long-term, sustainable funding strategy. In our years we can expect DTIYE to:
 - continue to distribute brochures through agency venues;
 - distribute the existing tortoise education trunks;
 - The Living Desert will continue to host the Mojave Maxine Contest; and
 - existing PSAs will continue to be available on the DT webpage.

Small grants will still be needed to maintain the tortoise education trunks, reprint brochures and conduct the Mojave Maxine Contest. If a larger grant were received, it would be put into additional product development (i.e. tortoise education trunks for other grades or construction of additional copies of trunks). The DTIYE will continue to meet to coordinate marketing and

distribution of materials however; the multi-state education effort begun last January will be dead in the water. *Update since the DMG meeting- Kyle's last day is September 21.*

- **Desert Tortoise Recovery Office**

- Roy Averill-Murray provided a [slide presentation](#) update of the Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs). The RIT's first two meetings have occurred as virtual meetings. ***RIT members are reminded to contribute to the Recovery Action Proposal Tool. The tool can be accessed at <http://www.spatial.redlands.edu/dtro/rit/proposaltool.aspx>. Actions for California should be entered by October 19.*** The California RIT will meet in Barstow December 4 and 5.
- Funding for range-wide monitoring is collapsing and there will be no monitoring funded in Nevada or by Fort Irwin in FY 2013. If only one year is missed, there will not be statistical problems created, however, if future years are missed problems will be created. DTRO is on the verge of being able to use prior years' data to provide some recovery unit trends.

- **Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program Funding (MDEP)**- MDEP was funded for FY 2012 which means business as usual until June 30, 2013. In order to continue MDEP beyond that date, \$634,953 will need to be applied to the contract. Fort Irwin has clearly stated that they will only provide fifty percent. ***DMG Managers need to decide the value to keeping MDEP and develop a strategy to fund the other fifty percent (\$317,476).*** Please contact [Clarence Everly](#) if you have questions or potential funding sources.

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Raven Mitigation Account**- Questions raised at the previous DMG meeting were addressed by a revision to the MOA that was sent out June 6 and a final review version was sent out June 20. NFWF is holding a check from a wind developer in Kern County for raven mitigation that would go into the DMG account. Once the MOA is executed, that check can be deposited into the DMG account. ***Managers should continue with legal review and forward any suggested changes to Russell.***

- **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Implementation**- The draft EIS/EIR for the DRECP is anticipated mid-December 2012 with a Record of Decision by late spring or early summer 2013. The resulting HCP, NCCP, BLM plan amendment will require DRECP implementation be closely coordinated across the plan area. DRECP implementation will also need to be closely coordinated with other, non-DRECP land uses and with adjoining jurisdictions outside of the plan area. Examples of actions that will require a coordinated implementation include reserve management, land acquisition, habitat restoration, monitoring, adaptive management, outreach, and science input.

There have been a few exploratory conversations regarding the DMG's role in DRECP implementation. The Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) Managers have asked the DOI Coordinator to participate in a DRECP Implementation Workgroup but that workgroup has yet to meet.

Almost all of DRECP's implementation will involve partnerships. Examples of partnership DRECP implementation are:

- Reserve management
- Land acquisition
- Habitat restoration
- Monitoring
- Outreach
- Science and adaptive management
- Permit issuance, reporting, regulatory oversight, etc. inherently belong to the REAT agencies

There was an overwhelming consensus from the managers on the call that DRECP should utilize DMG for implementation. Approval was granted for the DOI Coordinator to proceed with REAT agencies in development of draft governance structures. A team of managers consisting Teri Raml, Bob Wood, and Carl Benz will help guide Russell in the process.

- **Miscellaneous Energy Issues**

- The DRECP/Solar PEIS webinar is schedule September 7 from 10:00-11:30 PDT. Call in and WebEx information is in the invitation email.
- Russell has a limited supply of Solar PEIS CDs. Please let him know if you want one. We can also get a few paper copies for those who need them.
- USGS scientist Jeff Lovich has two papers of interest for renewable energy managers. The papers are:
 - Lovich, J.E. and J.R. Ennen. 2011. Wildlife conservation and solar energy development in the Desert Southwest, United States. BioScience 61:982-992.
 - Lovich, J.E. and Joshua R. Ennen. Assessing the state of knowledge of utility-scale wind energy development and operation on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Applied Energy (in review)

Dr. Lovich will discuss the papers during a DMG sponsored webinar scheduled September 12 from 11:00-noon PDT. Call in and WebEx information is in the invitation email.

- **Next DMG Meetings**

- Marine Corps Logistics Base will host the fall meeting in Barstow October 22, 2012.
- The winter will most likely be a conference call scheduled in January. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to schedule the date and time.

Meeting Participants

Andy Sylvia, San Bernardino County

Bob Wood, Edwards

Carl Benz, FWS

Chris Mullen, DTRO

Danny Reinke, Edwards

Dave Delany, ACE

David Austin, Forest Service

DeEllen Brasher, Navy Region SW

Fon Duke, DOD Coordinator
Gerry Hiller, San Bernardino County
Kyle Pong, The Living Desert
Marie Cottrell, MCAGCC
Mark Sogge, USGS
Peter Siminski, The Living Desert
Roy Averill-Murray, DTRO
Russell Scofield, DOI Coordinator
Sarah Craighead, DEVA
Stephanie Dubois, MOJA
Teri Raml, BLM
Tom Rademacher, Edwards
Vicki Davis, MCLB