



Raven Conference Call
October 4, 2012
Meeting Notes

Call attendees: Gerry Hillier, Bill Boarman, Eric Covington, Becky Jones, Liana Aker, Russell Scofield

Raven Documentary Film update- The treatment for the raven film was approved by both the Raven Work Group and the Desert Managers in September. The producer will now start identifying interviewees and scheduling interviews. *Russell will obtain a list of potential interviewees from the producer and send it to the Raven Work Group for review and additions.*

FY 2013 Annual Work Plan- The FY 2013 work plan for the Raven Work Group was reviewed. Fort Irwin does not have FY 2013 funding to conduct surveys and asked that desert tortoise conservation area at the southeast side of the base be surveyed in conjunction with the Superior-Cronese DWMA. Eric suggested that removal language be expanded to cover a variety of removal methods. *Russell will include the work plan in the DMG's FY 2013 Annual Work Plan.* Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Process for contractor surveys and NPS interns (if needed)- No one from the National Park Service was on the call so surveys on park lands were not discussed. Surveys on BLM lands will be conducted by contractors funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) raven account. *Liana Aker from Fort Irwin offered to help develop the RFP for the surveys.*

Process for Wildlife Services- For removal activities, Wildlife Services plans to hire a GS-5 temporary employee for three to four months. Wildlife Services needs a five-year agreement with NFWF to bring a person on. An agreement with NFWF will actually be easier than an interagency agreement as much of the language is boiler plate. *Eric will develop a cooperative service agreement statement of work and financial plan for \$30k and send to Chris Mullen for review.* Eric can start preparing to hire but cannot ask for an exemption to the hiring freeze until a funding agreement is in place.

Next Meeting- It was agreed that the workgroup should meet prior to surveys commencing. A meeting will be scheduled for early January using a doodle poll.