



## FY 2012 Accomplishments

1. Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE)
  - 1.1. The DOI Coordinator and Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE) Coordinator planned and hosted a Range-wide Desert Tortoise Education and Outreach Coordination Summit in Henderson, Nevada. Fourteen tortoise education programs from throughout the four-state range of the tortoise participated. Participants of the summit continue to share information and ideas via a MDEP hosted SharePoint site.
  - 1.2. The DTIYE Coordinator reprinted two existing brochures: and
    - *You're in Desert Tortoise Country*
    - *Invasion of the Tortoise Snatchers (Raven)*
  - 1.3. The DTIYE Work Group developed two new brochures
    - Desert Tortoise Pet Owners Brochure
    - Educators' Brochure
  - 1.4. The DTIYE Work Group and a group of elementary school teachers developed a kindergarten through second grade standards-based teaching curriculum and tortoise trunks.
  - 1.5. The Living Desert (TLD) and the DTIYE Coordinator hosted the Mojave Maxine Contest, which received a record 1600 entries. Thirteen classroom visits were made to winners.
  - 1.6. The DTIYE Coordinator developed Facebook and Twitter pages for Mojave Maxine to utilize social media to better target youth.
  - 1.7. Elementary school children from San Diego developed one desert tortoise podcast.
  - 1.8. The DTIYE Coordinator hosted three teacher training workshops for the tortoise trunks.
  - 1.9. The DTIYE Coordinator attended twenty-one public events promoting tortoise education.
2. Raven Control
  - 2.1. The DTIYE Work Group produced three radio and one television public service announcements related to raven control.
  - 2.2. USDA Wildlife Services opportunistically removed eleven ravens known to predate upon tortoise.
  - 2.3. A treatment for a 30-minute raven documentary was developed and approved. Production will occur in FY 2013.
  - 2.4. The MOA with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to establish the California Desert Program to manage non-renewable energy raven impact mitigation was finalized by DMG managers and is undergoing legal review.
3. Amargosa Basin Coordination (ABC)
  - 3.1. The DOI Coordinator facilitated two in-person meetings to coordinate water usage, water rights protection, conservation actions, and science between the DOI agencies in the Death

- Valley Regional Flow System (DVRFS) and the DOJ Federal Family. The work group elected to discontinue a regular schedule of conference calls.
- 3.2. Through the Amargosa Basin Coordination, water monitoring in the former Yucca Mountain monitoring network and throughout the DVRFS was continued.
  - 3.3. BLM (NV and CA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Amargosa Conservancy, Nye County Nevada, and USGS worked to develop a better knowledge of the groundwater characteristics in the lower Amargosa (Shoshone-Tecopa area).
  - 3.4. USGS continued development of the Southern Amargosa Embedded Groundwater Model (SAMM) for the area surrounding Devils Hole, Ash Meadows, and Carson Slough.
  - 3.5. The DOI Coordinator coordinated Amargosa vole research and recovery between USGS, FWS, CDFG, BLM, TNC, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and the Amargosa Conservancy.
4. Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS)
    - 4.1. The DOI Coordinator managed implementation of the DMG's Mohave ground squirrel (MGS) research strategy. FY 2012 components included:
      - Development and finalization of the USGS habitat suitability model
      - Expansion of the current DNA library at the University of Nevada Reno
      - Camera trapping
      - Volunteer live trapping
    - 4.2. DOD Sponsored a MGS scientific workshop that focused on the development of better detection protocols and methods of determining density and distribution of MGS as part of a long-term conservation strategy.
    - 4.3. The DOI Coordinator coordinated with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to support development of a MGS conservation strategy for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP).
  5. Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) continued to share data via [mojavedata.gov](http://mojavedata.gov). In FY 2013, the site had almost 5000 unique visitors.
  6. Restoration
    - 6.1. The DOI Coordinator provided interim facilitation and support for the continuance of the Low Desert Weed Management Area<sup>i</sup>.
    - 6.2. DMG member offices participated in the Mojave Weed Management Area.
  7. Coordinate Desert Tortoise Monitoring
    - 7.1. With the support of Fort Irwin, Joshua Tree National Park (JOTR), and Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR), DTRO coordinated range-wide desert tortoise monitoring in California and is developing a preliminary trend analysis for previous years' monitoring.
    - 7.2. Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) and MDEP coordinated the dissemination of desert tortoise line distance monitoring data to DMG members, academia, and the public.
  8. Mojave Tui Chub Recovery
    - 8.1. FWS, CDFG, and NPS established one new population of Mojave tui chub in Mojave National Preserve.
  9. Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)

- 9.1. The DOD and DOI Coordinators participated in the DLCC and its work groups for the purpose of representing DMG/manager interest and needs in the Colorado and Mojave Deserts. The DOI Coordinator assembled a selection of DMG projects for funding by the LCC but none were selected.
  - 9.2. MDEP provided web support to the DLCC.
10. Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG)
    - 10.1. MDEP provided GIS services to agencies and NGO partners to support conservation acquisitions.
    - 10.2. MDEP developed a database of potential willing sellers for use by members of the CLAWG.
    - 10.3. The DOI Coordinator facilitated a collaborative SB34 and Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) acquisition project in Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor.
    - 10.4. The CLAWG began an analytical process to prioritize land acquisition projects based on conservation values and agency needs.
11. Energy
    - 11.1. MDEP constructed a web viewer that host DRECP for the public.
    - 11.2. The DOI Coordinator hosted a webinar for DMG managers on the Final Solar PEIS and the July DRECP alternatives.
    - 11.3. The DOI Coordinator hosted a science webinar with USGS on two studies related to renewable energy impacts to wildlife.
12. Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs)
    - 12.1. DTRO Established the California Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Team (RIT).
    - 12.2. DTRO Coordinated the development and refinement of the spatial decision support system for desert tortoise recovery, project evaluation and mitigation.
13. MDEP Maintained californiadesert.gov. The site received almost 60,000 unique visitors during FY 2012.
14. The DOI Coordinator attended one CA/NV Golden Eagle Work Group meeting and hosted a DMG Golden Eagle meeting.

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<sup>i</sup> The LDWMA was coordinated by the Southern Low Desert RC&D. The RC&D no longer has the capacity to coordinate or support LDWMA.