



FY 2013 Annual Work Plan

The California Desert is seemingly vast, limitless, and harsh. In reality, this fragile treasured landscape supports a diverse, unique, and sensitive biota, provides recreational opportunities to millions, serves as training grounds for military activities, and has renewable energy potential. Approximately eighty-percent of the California Desert, or twenty-million acres, is publicly owned and includes two national parks, one national preserve, six military installations, seventy-two designated federal wildernesses, twelve state parks, and the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert Conservation Area. The area also includes eight county jurisdictions, about one-hundred communities, and thirty-seven federally recognized American Indian tribes.

Conflicting demands for use of California's desert resources make it imperative for governmental agencies to work cooperatively in support of agency missions, protection of desert resources, and public use. The Desert Managers Group (DMG) is the forum for government agencies to address and discuss issues of common concern relative to the California Desert. Through cooperative management, each agency achieves greater operational efficiency, enhances resource conservation, and more effectively serves the American public.

The purpose of this document is to guide the collaborative work of the agencies participating in the DMG for the Federal 2012 fiscal year¹ (FY2012). This annual work plan (AWP) implements the DMG's 2010 Strategic Plan will assist DMG agencies in their pursuit of DMG goals.

DMG Mission Statement

The mission of the Desert Managers Group is to:

- A. Develop coordinated and complimentary management guidelines, practices, and programs.
- B. Coordinate and integrate efforts in the California Desert to:
 1. Conserve and restore desert resources
 2. Provide high quality recreation, public education, and visitor services
 3. Provide for safety of desert users
- C. Develop and integrate the databases and scientific studies needed for effective resource management and planning.
- D. Promote compatibility in the application of each agency's mission.

	Action Item	Relationship to Strategic Plan	Funding Source(s)	Lead(s)
1	Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education (DTIYE)			
1.1	Distribute Brochures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>You're in Desert Tortoise Country</i> • <i>Invasion of the Tortoise Snatchers</i> (Raven) • Educators' brochure • Desert Tortoise Pet Owners brochure 	Task 3.2.1	base	DTIYE members
1.2	Check out K-6 standards-based teaching curriculum tortoise education trunks	Task 3.1.3	base	The Living Desert, Edwards, Barstow BLM, Joshua Tree, San Diego Zoo
1.3	Work with San Diego Zoo to develop a high school standards-based teaching curriculum	Task 3.1.3	unfunded	DTIYE members
1.4	Host Mojave Maxine Contest	Task 3.1.3	base	The Living Desert/BLM
1.5	Utilize social media for tortoise education targeting youth	Task 3.1.1	base	The Living Desert
1.6	Attend events to promote tortoise education	Task 3.1.2	base	DTIYE members
1.7	Distribute PSAs via the desert tortoise webpage	Task 3.1.2	base	MDEP
2	Raven Control			
2.1	Inventory raven nests and survey for tortoise predation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ivanpah Valley- contractor ○ Chuckwalla DWMA- contractor ○ Mojave National Preserve- NPS staff and intern if needed ○ Superior-Cronese DWMA and Fort Irwin's Southeast Conservation Area- contractor • Second Priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joshua Tree National Park- NPS staff and intern if needed ○ Desert Tortoise National Area- contractor 	Task 1.1.3	Raven Mitigation Fund	Raven Work Group
2.2	Systematically remove ravens based upon surveys for offending ravens and opportunistically remove offending ravens identified through other means	Task 1.1.3	Raven Mitigation Fund	Raven Work Group/ Wildlife Services
2.3	Develop a 30-minute raven documentary to be used as an educational tool	Task 1.1.3	Raven Mitigation Fund	DOI Coordinator
2.4	Establish California Desert Program with NFWF to manage non-renewable energy raven impact mitigation	Task 1.1.3	Raven Mitigation Fund	DOI Coordinator/ FWS/NFWF
3	Amargosa Basin Coordination (ABC)			
3.1	Facilitate 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	Tasks 1.5.1 and 1.5.2	DOI Coordinator	DOI Coordinator

3.2	Coordinate water monitoring in the former Yucca Mountain monitoring network and throughout the DVRFS	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.5.2, and 2.1.6	FWS, BLM, NPS, USGS, Nye County	USGS Nevada Water Science Center
3.3	Develop a better knowledge of the groundwater characteristics in the lower Amargosa (Shoshone-Tecopa area)	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.5.2, and 2.1.6	BLM, USGS, TNC	USGS Nevada Water Science Center/DOI Coordinator/BLM CA and NV
3.4	Continue development of the Southern Amargosa Embedded Groundwater Model (SAMM) for the area surrounding Devils Hole, Ash Meadows, and Carson Slough.	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.5.2, and 2.1.6	FWS, BLM, NPS, USGS, Nye County	USGS Nevada Water Science Center
3.5	Coordinate Amargosa vole research and recovery between USGS, FWS, CDFG, BLM, TNC, and the Amargosa Conservancy	Tasks 1.5.1, 1.1.5, and 1.1.6	BLM, FWS, CDFG, USGS, UC ⁱⁱ	DOI Coordinator/CDFG/BLM
4	Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS)			
4.1	Collect MGS survey information and genetic samples	Task 2.1.4	BLM, CDFG, Fort Irwin, CERL ⁱⁱⁱ	DOI Coordinator/CDFG/CERL
4.2	Coordinate with the Desert Renewable Energy Plan (DRECP) to develop a MGS conservation strategy	Task 1.1.5	CDFG	CDFG/DOI Coordinator
4.3	Store data from the CERL MGS survey project	Task 2.2.1	MDEP	CERL/MDEP
4.4	Publish the MGS habitat suitability model	Task 2.1.4	USGS	USGS
5	Data Management Work Group			
5.1	Continue to share data via mojavedata.gov	Tasks 2.2.1 and 2.2.3	Fort Irwin/BLM	MDEP
5.2	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.	Goal 2.2	base	GIS Work Group
5.3	Develop and implement standardized digital content platform for species management	Task 2.2.1	MDEP	MDEP
6	Restoration			
6.1	Develop an online library for restoration practitioners	Task 1.3.2	unfunded	DOI Coordinator
6.2	Host one small-scale restoration meeting	Goal 1.3	base	DOI Coordinator
6.3	Participate in the Mojave and Low Desert Weed Management Areas	Task 1.3.3	base	Mojave and Low Desert Agencies
7	Coordinate Desert Tortoise Monitoring			
7.1	Fund interagency desert tortoise line distance monitoring in California	Task 1.1.4	NPS, DOD	DTRO
7.2	Coordinate the dissemination of desert tortoise line distance monitoring data to DMG members	Tasks 1.1.4 and 2.1.2	FWS	DTRO/MDEP
8	Science/ Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC)			
8.1	Participate in the DLCC for the purpose of representing DMG/manager interest and needs in the Colorado and Mojave Deserts	Task 2.1.1	DOI and DOD Coordinators	DOI and DOD Coordinators
8.2	Provide web support to the DLCC	Task 2.1.1	MDEP	MDEP
8.3	Provide leadership to the DLCC GIS work group	Task 2.1.1	DOD Coordinator	DOD Coordinator/MDEP
8.4	Coordinate with Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) to develop a Mojave science strategy and needs assessment	Task 2.1.3	DOI Coordinator/USGS	DOI Coordinator/USGS
9	Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG)			

9.1	Meet three times to coordinate conservation acquisitions among various programs	Task 1.2.1	base	CLAWG
9.2	Provide GIS services to agencies and NGO partners to support conservation acquisitions	Task 1.2.1	MDEP	MDEP
9.3	Facilitate a collaborative SB34 and Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) acquisition project in Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor	Task 1.2.1	CDFG/Navy	DOI and DOD Coordinators/ Edwards/Navy/CDFG
9.4	Develop a CLAWG Regional Team to address connectivity issues north and south from Joshua Tree	Tasks 1.2.1 and 2.1.5		DOI Coordinator, JOTR, MCAGCC
10	Energy			
10.1	Host DRECP spatial data and construct agency and public interfaces	Tasks 2.2.1, 2.2.3, and 5.5.1	CEC/MDEP	CEC/MDEP
10.2	Ensure that agency research, monitoring, and assessment is incorporated into DRECP	Tasks 2.1.2 and 5.5.1	DOI Coordinator	DOI Coordinator/USGS
10.3	Coordinate information from the DRECP with agencies not otherwise directly engaged	Task 5.5.1	DOI and DOD Coordinator	DOI and DOD Coordinators
10.4	Coordinate a pilot study of the fossorial wildlife impacts from renewable energy generation.	Goal 2.1	BLM/NPS/USGS	DOI Coordinator
11	Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs)			
11.1	Support the California RIT	Task 1.1.1	DTRO	DTRO
11.2	Coordinate development and refinement of the spatial decision support system for desert tortoise recovery, project evaluation and mitigation.	Task 1.1.1	FWS, CEC, BLM	DTRO
12	Provide Interagency Recreation Information			
12.1	Maintain californiadesert.gov	Task 3.2.1	MDEP	MDEP
12.2	Maintain and host mobile recreational mapping application	Task 3.2.1	MDEP	MDEP
13	Miscellaneous			
13.1	Develop a partnership with the Sonoran Joint Venture to enhance migratory bird conservation throughout the region	Tasks 1.1.4 and 1.1.6	DOI Coordinator	DOI Coordinator

ⁱ October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012

ⁱⁱ University of California Davis and Berkeley campuses

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Lab