

BRIEFING STATEMENT

Date: September 12, 2002

Title: DMG Research Inventory Project

Issue: Progress report

Background:

Goal 9 of the DMG 5-year plan (April 10, 2002) is to “**Coordinate and conduct scientific studies and monitoring programs needed for effective resource management.** An inventory of existing research and monitoring studies will be completed. A statement of need for additional studies will be developed. At the December 2001 meeting in Death Valley, the Mojave National Preserve volunteered Debra Hughson as chair of an ad hoc group that will address the coordination of science and research programs in the desert. USGS volunteered Len Gaydos to support this effort. The focus of the ad hoc group is to develop a list of existing studies followed by developing a statement of need for additional studies. The first task for the two volunteers is to put together the ad hoc group then determine how to approach the task assigned the group. Both were instructed to bring any issues to the managers.

Current Status:

Hughson made a presentation to the DMG at the Anza-Borrego State Park meeting, April 2002 regarding a possible approach to accomplishing the inventory goal. Powerpoint slides of this presentation can be downloaded from <http://www.dmg.gov/documents/research.ppt>. Hughson also requested the DMG provide names of individuals who could participate in the ad hoc group. A teleconference was held August 12, 2002 with 13 participants. Advice was solicited on how to design the dataform for recording research projects and names of additional participants were requested. Based on this information, mojavedata.gov has set up listserver research@dmg.gov for email discussions and developed a draft dataform. The list currently has 43 participants, listed below under Contacts. If you wish to subscribe to this list, send a request to debra_hughson@nps.gov. To unsubscribe from this list, send email to listmanager@dmg.gov with UNSUBSCRIBE research in the message body.

Advice from participants in the teleconference was to keep the dataform simple. Staff of mojavedata.gov has developed a dataform with the following fields.

Project Title
Principal Investigator
Organization
Project Description
Project Status
Contact Email
Contact Phone
Contact Address

Keywords
Notes

Proposed Actions:

A few of issues regarding this proposed approach remain to be resolved.

- Who will enter data into the form? The form will be available online and data can be entered from any internet-connected computer. For new projects, the researcher should enter the data but may need incentive. For instance, it could be made a requirement for a research permit. But for existing projects, the data may need to be entered by agency personnel. If so, staff needs to be provided by DMG managers with instruction and time to accomplish this task.
- How will this database be linked to other, existing databases? For example, Redlands Institute is developing a comprehensive database on Desert Tortoise research projects. There is no need to duplicate this information but there are issues with database compatibility. Another example is the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System. By looking online at <http://science.nature.nps.gov> you can search all park units and read Investigator's Annual Reports.
- How can this project coordinate with other inventory efforts, such as the California Legacy Project (<http://legacy.ca.gov/>) and the Information Center for the Environment (<http://ice.ucdavis.edu>)?
- At some stage, research projects are over and the results pass into either the peer-reviewed or the gray literature. Should there be a way for manuscripts and reports to be either uploaded or linked to the database?

This briefing will be circulated on research@dmg.gov for comment. An organizational meeting will be scheduled to coincide with another DMG sponsored event to develop an implementation plan.

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The following is a list of the members present on research@dmg.gov.

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