

BRIEFING STATEMENT

Date: October 7, 2003

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 Borrego Springs meeting April 11, 2002 we conceptually qualified “scientific studies and monitoring programs” into categories: *i*) what’s been done, *ii*) what’s being done, and *iii*) what should be done. Category *i*) includes the peer-reviewed published literature that DMG need not catalog and the vast unpublished “gray literature.” At the June 12, 2003 meeting an interactive website design showed how the database could be populated accurately with minimal effort. Commitment of staff time was solicited from the managers. The proposed research project inventory system is designed to be updated and maintained indefinitely.

Current Status:

Answers to several questions remain undetermined.

- 1) What group is the database for? The managers, the researchers, the public, or some combination?
- 2) Should the database include both category *ii*) and category *i*)?
- 3) Which agencies will commit staff time to making the web-based system work?

Proposed Actions:

It may benefit the managers if the public can view some portions of the data. For instance, agencies may need to make some reports publicly available. Managers may want to restrict information on other projects to perhaps managers only or both managers and researchers.

- The web-based system will have several levels of security. Managers will be able to designate which projects can be publicly viewed, which are restricted only to individuals with valid logins, which projects are visible only to those with administrative authority, and even which projects can be seen only by pre-selected groups.

The public viewing room could be an easy and useful place to display reports in pdf or other formats. Project information from the “gray literature” will be archived and displayed here depending on input from the agencies via the interactive web form. Project information in category *ii*) will be entered into the system based on input from researchers and approval by management designees.

- Agencies need to designate an individual in each office that interacts with researchers, by issuing permits or contracts, whose sole responsibilities will be to read email and either approve or disapprove entry of records into the system.

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