DESERT
MANAGERS GROUP

Briefing

Date: July 27, 2005

For: DMG

Title: Implementation of the DMG Desert Tortoise Information and Education Project

Issues:

1. Securing of Project Grants
2. Hiring Tortoise Outreach Coordinator
3. CSU Knowledge and Attitudes Survey
4. Desert Tortoise Brochure
5. Future Meetings

Background:

1. Goal 3, item 6 of the DMG 5 year Plan (April 22, 2004) is to "seek funding, staff and partnerships to implement a multi faceted education and outreach campaign aimed at increasing public support of and involvement in desert tortoise recovery in California".
2. On April 21, 2004, the DMG approved and signed a Resolution to support and encourage the development of partnerships and grant opportunities to provide staff and funding necessary to implement the DMG DT Information and Education Project (attached).
3. In September 2004 the DMG designated NPS-JOTR as the lead office for the project on behalf of the DMG. This would involve chairing the DT outreach Work Group, recruiting and supervising the DT Outreach Coordinator, and administering project funds.
4. In September 2004, the DMG approved the Defenders of Wildlife as a partner in the project.

Status:

1. Three grants were submitted on behalf of the DMG for funding the Desert Tortoise Outreach Plan in FY05. All were approved, however, there have been some difficulties in actually securing the funds. Current status of funding:
   - The California OHV Commission approved a $40K grant for the project. Allocation of these funds has been delayed pending the outcome of a state audit of the entire OHV Commission grant program. We are working with Jim Keeler of BLM Sacramento Office to complete the necessary agreements and transfer of this funding to JOTR. The first allocation will be $20,000 to be