

CALIFORNIA DESERT MANAGERS GROUP

CHARTER

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Department of the Interior
John Hamill, Executive Coordinator
Cal Desert Management Project
Dept. of the Interior
222 E. Main St. Suite 202
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 255-8888

Department of Defense
Clarence Everly
Dept. of Defense Coordinator
222 E. Main Street
Suite 216
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 256-7033

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Introduction

The California Deserts are vast, seemingly harsh yet fragile lands within a day's drive of 40 million people. Approximately 80 percent of the desert, or 20 million acres, is publicly owned and includes three national parks, six military bases, 72 wilderness areas, fourteen state parks and the California Desert Conservation Area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Conflicting demands for use of California desert lands make it imperative for governmental agencies to work cooperatively in support of agency missions, protection of desert resources, and public use. The DMG was established as the forum for government agencies to address and discuss issues of common concern. Through cooperative management each agency achieves greater operational efficiency, enhances resource protection, and the public is better served.

Vision Statement

To work together to conserve and enhance the California desert for current and future generations.

Mission Statement

The mission of the California 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

Governing Principles for the DMG

The DMG operates under the following principles:

- A. Participation in the DMG does not diminish an agency's autonomy or authority to conduct/accomplish their mission.
- B. Agencies participating in the DMG will work to create opportunities and develop partnerships to effectively and efficiently manage resources.
- C. Participating agencies recognize the diverse uses of the California deserts and their responsibility to the American people for being good stewards of desert resources.

- D. Participants in the DMG agree to make decisions by consensus. Consensus for the DMG is defined to mean a proposed solution or decision that participants can support or live with.
- E. Participating agencies recognize their responsibility to keep the public informed and provide opportunities for comment on DMG activities and initiatives.
- F. DMG activities will be consistent with and/or designed to implement agency resource management plans (i.e., National Park Service General Management Plans; Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans; Department of Defense Integrated Natural Resource Plans).

Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of the DMG is the Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert ecoregions within the state of California (Figure 1). The DMG will coordinate its activities with affected/interested parties throughout the Mojave and Colorado deserts and surrounding areas to provide a consistent ecosystem approach.

Membership

The DMG is comprised of managers from agencies with land, management or regulatory responsibilities in the California Deserts and the U.S. Geological Survey, which serves in a scientific support role to the manager. Current members of the DMG include:

Department of the Interior

- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Geological Survey

State of California

- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Transportation

Department of Defense

- Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake
- Edwards Air Force Base
- National Training Center, Fort Irwin
- Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms
- Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow
- Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma

Additional members may be added to the DMG based on the consensus of the voting members of the group. Federal, State, local and tribal government agencies that are not members of the DMG may serve as members of the DMG Work Groups, subject to approval of the DMG. The DMG will provide appropriate opportunities for public involvement.

DMG Organization

The DMG consists of a body of Desert Managers, interagency work groups, and a small coordination staff (Figure 2).

Desert Managers

This Charter establishes a body of Desert Managers to carry out the vision and mission of the DMG. Members include managers with direct authority, on behalf of their agency, for land management, resource conservation, and scientific investigations in the California Deserts. Voting members are listed in Table 1.

Specific responsibilities of the Desert Managers include:

- A. Identify opportunities for innovative and cooperative management of California desert resources;
- B. Establish and review annually, cooperative goals, objectives and a five year plan;
- C. Develop coordinated budget initiatives to implement the five-year plan;
- D. Promote public, agency, and Congressional awareness and support for the DMG and its initiatives;
- E. Work to ensure that full funding for DMG initiatives is provided by each participating agency and Congress;
- F. Develop and issue appropriate agency guidance to implement DMG goals, objectives, plans and initiatives;
- G. Within the scope of their authority, manage resources in accordance with decisions, principles, goals and objectives of the DMG;
- H. As needed, establish interagency work groups/ad hoc committees to implement DMG goals, objectives, plans and initiatives;
- I. Provide clear and timely direction to allow coordinators/work groups/ad hoc committees to accomplish their tasks and responsibilities;
- J. Provide sufficient staff support, expertise, and resources to allow coordinators/work groups/ad hoc committees to accomplish their tasks and responsibilities;

- K. Evaluate progress and effectiveness of DMG initiatives and the activities of interagency work groups/ad hoc committees and coordinators; and
- L. Facilitate resolution of significant conflicts and issues among the participants and develop consistent direction on desert-wide issues within and between participating agencies;

Interagency Work Groups

The Desert Managers may establish standing and ad hoc interagency work groups as may be necessary. Existing work groups and their mission/duties are described in Annexes 3-11.

Coordinators

The Department of Interior, Department of Defense, and the State of California will each appoint a DMG Coordinator. The Coordinators provide staff support to the DMG and are responsible for coordinating its agencies involvement in the DMG. Specific duties and responsibilities are listed in Annex 2.

Interagency Executive Coordination Process

This Charter establishes an Executive Coordination Process to provide for coordination with and guidance from agency executives. The DMG will hold an annual meeting of the Desert Managers and the following agency executives:

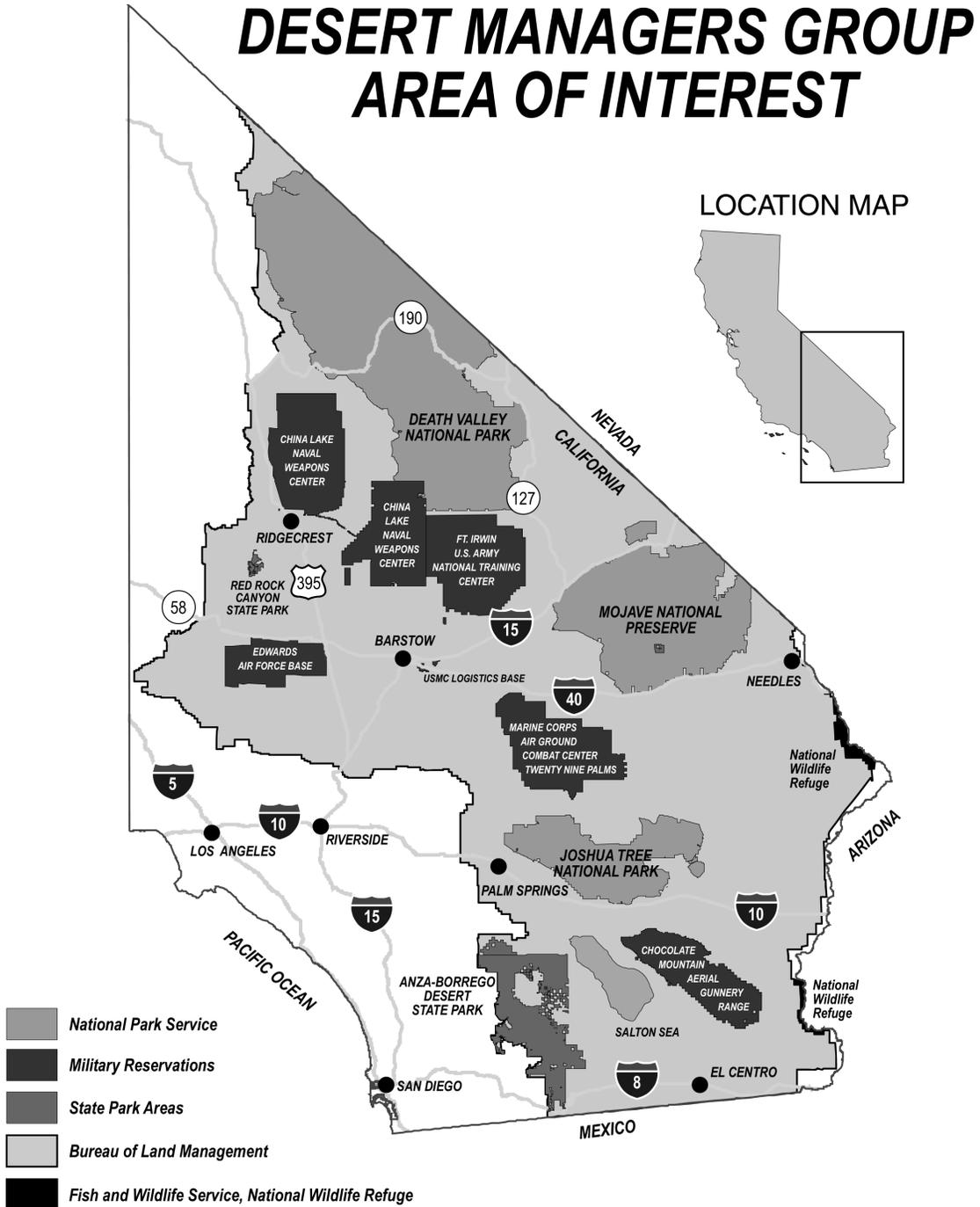
- A. Bureau of Land Management – California State Director
- B. Fish and Wildlife Service – California/Nevada Operations Manager
- C. Geological Survey – Western Regional Director
- D. National Park Service – Western Regional Director
- E. Military Installations – Mojave Desert Installation Commanders
- F. Department of Defense – DUSD(ES) Representative
- G. State of California – Secretary, State Resources Agency
- H. Department of the Interior – Secretary’s Representative

The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- A. Provide policy direction and support in achieving DMG goals and objectives;

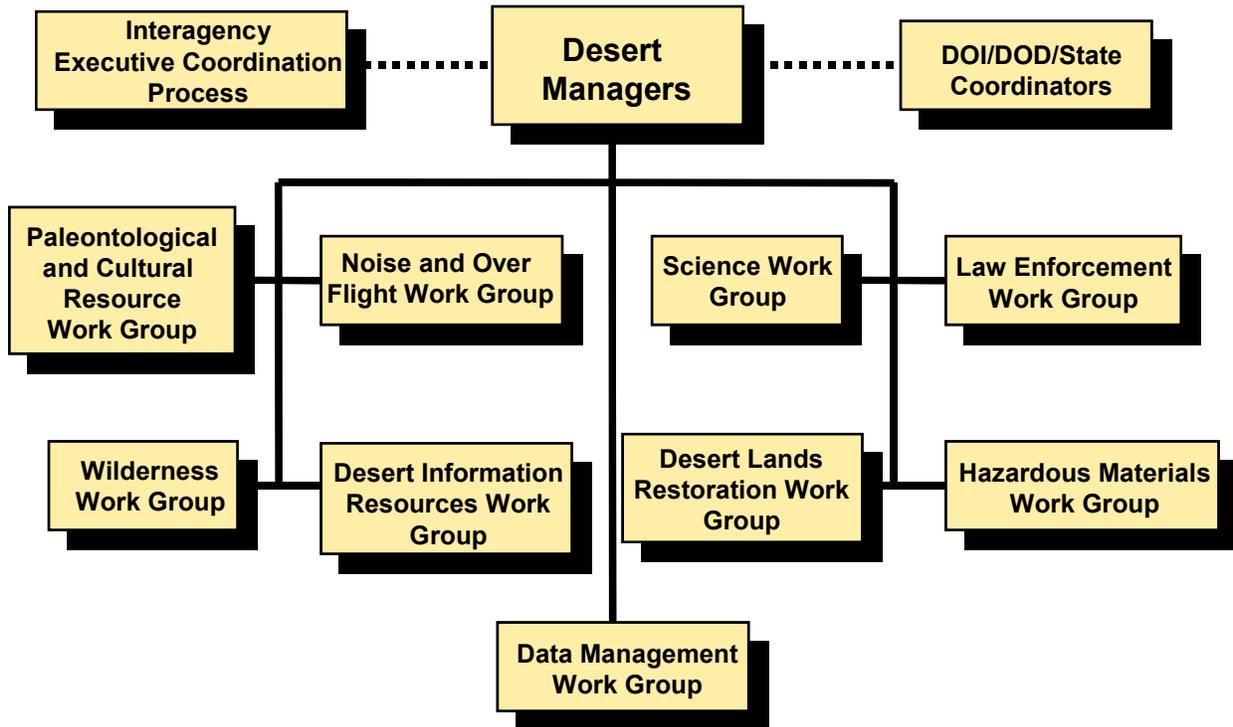
- B. Review and approve DMG goals, objectives, five year plan, and associated budget initiatives;
- C. Review, approve and seek agency and Congressional support for the DMG and its initiatives; and
- D. Resolve issues and/or impasses raised by the Desert Managers.

Figure 1. Geographic Scope of the Desert Managers Group



FEBRUARY 2000

Figure 2. DMG Organization



Annex 1. Voting Members of the DMG

Department of the Interior

- Bureau of Land Management
 - California Desert District Manager
 - Field Manager, Palm Springs
 - Field Manager, Needles
 - Field Manager, El Centro
 - Field Manager, Ridgecrest
 - Field Manager, Barstow

- Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Field Supervisor, Ventura
 - Field Supervisor, Carlsbad

- National Park Service
 - Superintendent, Death Valley National Park
 - Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park
 - Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve

State of California

- Department of Fish and Game
 - Regional Manager
- Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Superintendent, Colorado Desert State Parks
 - Superintendent, Mojave Desert State Parks
- Department of Transportation
 - District Division Chief - Planning

Department of Defense

- Commander, Weapons Division, Naval Air Warfare Center, China Lake
- Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base
- Commander, National Training Center, Fort Irwin
- Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms
- Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow
- Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, AZ

Annex 2. Department of Defense, Department of the Interior, and State of California DMG Coordinators Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Provide advice and assistance to managers on specified matters.
- B. Provide administrative services and support for Desert Managers Group meetings:
 - 1. make meeting arrangements
 - 2. develop meeting agenda
 - 3. distribute pre-meeting briefing materials
 - 4. facilitate meeting conduct
 - 5. prepare and distribute meeting summaries
- C. Coordinate issues and activities among involved agencies.
- D. Ensure lines of communication are maintained with all DMG elements, agencies, offices, and organizations associated with the DMG.
- E. Develop/revise DMG goals, objectives, work plans and budget requests for review and approval by the Desert Managers.
- F. Provide annual accounting of funds used in support of Cal Desert/DMG initiatives (input to be provided to DMG coordinators by participating agencies).
- G. Review matters prior to submittal to the full group of managers.
- H. Draft, review, and endorse correspondence on behalf of the DMG.
- I. Monitor agency progress on implementing DMG activities and work to ensure that agency commitments and responsibilities are met in a coordinated manner.
- J. Serve as spokespersons for the DMG.

Annex 3. Charter, Science Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND: The Desert Managers Group (DMG) will require now, and in the future, a sound foundation of scientific information upon which to base their management decisions. Managers in the Southern California desert ecosystem are attempting to manage their lands collaboratively and holistically to maintain or restore a self-sustaining ecosystem. They are depending on the Science Interagency Work Group (SIWG) to anticipate what information they need to accomplish this goal, determine how best to collect this information via research and monitoring, and guide them in using this information most effectively.

In order to achieve this task, the SIWG has established the following principles to guide the development of a more detailed Science Agenda for the DMG:

- A. Information developed through new efforts must be relevant to the needs of the DMG.
- B. All information must be reliable and scientifically defensible.

MISSION:

- A. When requested by the DMG, the SIWG will provide review and technical comments during the development of study plans, work plans, and bioregional plans in the California desert.
- B. Identify high priority research and monitoring needs for the California desert.
- C. Coordinate research and monitoring activities for the California desert.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness and relevance of these activities and report results to the DMG .
- B. Develop annual work plan and budget for SIWG activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY.
- C. Coordinate with other DMG interagency work groups as appropriate to assist in the execution of their missions.
- D. Provide regular briefings to the DMG on SIWG activities.
- E. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.

Annex 4. Charter, Paleontology and Cultural Resource Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE and BACKGROUND: The non-renewable paleontological and cultural resources of the California Desert are key components of a unique bioregional ecosystem. They constitute a physical, written, and oral record of past events and evolving biological and cultural adaptive strategies by humans. Because they are embedded in a natural environment, proper management and protection of these fragile resources requires integrated, holistic approaches.

MISSION:

- A. Establish interactive resource inventories to guide management and research objectives.
- B. Provide recommendations and strategies for continued research of desert cultural resources.
- C. Develop creative strategies for enhancing awareness of the sensitivity and desert wide values to paleontological and cultural resources.
- D. Coordinate the development and implementation of guidelines and agreements that ensure compliance with federal and state mandated actions.
- E. Promote the integrated management of both cultural and natural resources of the California deserts.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Brief the DMG on the Work Group's activities.
- B. Coordinate with other DMG interagency work groups as appropriate to carry out their missions.
- C. Develop annual work plan and budget for work group activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY.
- D. Assist in developing annual work plans and associated budgets by reviewing proposals to implement DMG initiatives.
- E. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and report results to the DMG.
- F. Assist in developing, implementing, and evaluating outreach programs for DMG efforts.
- G. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.

Annex 5. Charter, Desert Lands Restoration Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE and BACKGROUND: The Desert Lands Restoration Work Group first met in January 1995. Since its inception, the work group has hosted restoration symposia and workshops, published "A Beginner's Guide to Arid Lands Restoration," established a desert restoration web site, and created a cooperative network of arid lands experts throughout the desert. The work group exists to find common issues across boundaries and to determine ways to share information and resources, establish beneficial partnerships, and increase restoration efficiency. The work group provides land managers with much needed information on the status of disturbed arid lands, priority setting, restoration options, and staff training.

MISSION: Promote restoration of desert lands through collaborative efforts in education, research, and practical application.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Brief the DMG on the Work Group's activities.
- B. Coordinate with other DMG interagency work groups as appropriate to carry out their missions.
- C. Develop annual work plan and budget for work group activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY.
- D. Assist in developing annual work plans and associated budgets by reviewing proposals to implement DMG initiatives.
- E. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and report results to the DMG.
- F. Assist in developing, implementing, and evaluating outreach programs for DMG efforts.
- G. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of issues related to their mission.
- H. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.

Annex 6. Charter, Wilderness Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE and BACKGROUND: In 1995, wilderness managers of the California Desert agencies met to discuss ideas for an inter- agency wilderness management direction. The Wilderness Work Group agreed to focus on development of a document that outlined interagency wilderness management principles. This led to development of the “Principles for Wilderness Management in the California Desert”. This document includes a general statement of agreement among the agencies on how wilderness will be managed. It also contains a series of annexes which provide specific management direction. To date eight annexes have been approved by the DMG. These annexes address grazing, law enforcement and border operations, federal water rights, special scientific, recreational, and commercial uses, fire management, land exchanges, emergencies involving health and safety, and minimum requirements for administration.

MISSION: To provide consistent wilderness management direction for managing California desert wilderness and to share wilderness management information and skills among all participating agencies.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Brief the DMG on the work group’s activities.
- B. Coordinate with other DMG interagency work groups as appropriate to carry out their missions.
- C. Develop annual work plan and budget for work group activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY.
- D. Assist in developing annual work plans and associated budgets by reviewing proposals to implement DMG initiatives.
- E. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and report results to the DMG.
- F. Assist in developing, implementing, and evaluating outreach programs for DMG efforts
- G. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of issues related to their mission.
- H. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.

Annex 7. Charter, Law Enforcement Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE and BACKGROUND: The purpose of the Desert Managers Law Enforcement Work Group is to promote a communications network that will provide understanding and acceptance among all California Desert law enforcement agencies, of each other's mission and purpose. Enhance capabilities to provide for public safety and protection and help land management agencies protect natural and cultural resources. Increase opportunities to educate the public on resource and safety issues by coordinating interpretive and regulatory information. The group will respond to Desert Managers with well, thought out advice on effective law enforcement strategies.

MISSION:

- A. Pioneer effective cooperation between all California Desert Law Enforcement Agencies to enhance public safety and resource protection.
- B. Develop a coordinated law enforcement strategy for shared resources, mutual training, uniform protocols and enhanced officer safety.
- C. Make effective and efficient use of public funds.
- D. Commit to success and excellence!

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Brief the DMG on the Work Group's activities.
- B. Coordinate with other DMG interagency work groups as appropriate to carry out their missions.
- C. Develop annual work plan and budget for work group activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY.
- D. Assist in developing annual work plans and associated budgets by reviewing proposals to implement DMG initiatives.
- E. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and report results to the DMG.
- F. Assist in developing, implementing, and evaluating outreach programs for DMG efforts.
- G. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of issues related to their mission.
- H. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.

- I. Improve communications between managers and field level enforcement personnel. Ensure field level personnel understand the DMG goals and collaborative process.
- J. Coordinate LE in-service training for all land management agencies.
- K. Coordinate interagency special operations for sharing resources and personnel.
- L. Work with Federal Interagency Communications Center LE task group in resolving LE dispatch issues.

Annex 8. Charter, Overflight Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE: Provide a forum to facilitate the coordination of airspace issues involving military and land management agency aircraft over public lands.

BACKGROUND: In recent years, aircraft operated by Department of Defense (DoD) and land management agencies have generated a heightened awareness of overflight issues involving publicly managed lands in Southern California. This is due in part to increased public interest on the subject, increased use of the region for various activities, and improved efforts on the part of public agencies to collaborate on issues of mutual interest.

Over the years, the southern California mountain/desert regions have been recognized as containing significant natural and cultural resources and opportunities for the general public to enjoy these resources. This has resulted in the establishment, as early as 1936, of “protected lands,” such as national and state parks, recreation areas and preserves, and wilderness areas managed by various federal and state agencies. Land management agencies are mandated, via laws and regulations, with preserving these resources and providing for their enjoyment.

At the same time the region has been used by the United States military since the 1930's for a host of test and training activities involving aircraft and associated aerospace vehicles. The commanders from the various military services making use of the airspace in the region are charged by law and regulation to conduct operations in support of the national defense of this country. The recent California Desert Protection Act passed by Congress in 1994 is an example of a law requiring the integration of diverse missions in that it requires the protection of resources while ensuring the ability of the military to conduct operations.

Federal and state agencies have worked together in interagency forums to network aspects of the diverse missions all are charged with. The Desert Managers Group (DMG) and the R-2508 DoD/Land Management Agencies Coordination Committee (DoD/LMACC) are two examples of successful initiatives implemented to address issues of mutual concern. In the case of the DMG, efforts have focused on enhancing regional ecosystem management, and in the case of the R-2508 LMACC, the efforts have demonstrated success in working airspace/land issues within the airspace complex.

With all of this in mind, the DMG has chartered the Overflight Work Group (OWG) to act as the mechanism for future collaboration on overflight issues.

SCOPE: The Overflight Work Group currently considers applicable issues within the regions of the southern Sierra Mountains and the California deserts. The group is not policy making in nature, but rather a forum to network and offer potential solutions to issues of concern. The defined region may be expanded at the request of public agencies operating outside the defined boundaries, subject to the approval of the group and the DMG.

OBJECTIVES:

- A. Educate agency personnel, decision-makers, and the general public regarding overflight/land issues.
- B. Develop effective relationships among all participating agencies.
- C. Identify existing coordination processes, use them where available (e.g. R-2508 DoD/LMACC), identify gaps where no process exists, and recommend efficient solutions to fill those gaps.
- D. Coordinate and de-conflict issues (to the extent possible) among all affected participants.
- E. Support problem solving through education and process identification.
- F. Interact with existing and future local, regional, and national efforts/committees (e.g. Interagency Military Land Use Coordination Committee-IMLUCC).
- G. Facilitate noise issues related to aircraft overflights for all participating agencies.
- H. Facilitate applicable safety and operational issues for all participating agencies.

MEMBERSHIP: The core members of the group are those agencies with land and airspace management responsibilities (specific areas and/or routes) within the defined region. The membership is not exclusive and is open to all public agencies with airspace/land responsibilities within the defined region or with associated land management concerns. Each agency shall participate in the OWG based on agency mission, policies, and resources. The Federal Aviation Administration will serve as technical advisor to the work group. The membership may be expanded at the request of public agencies not currently identified, subject to the approval of the group and the DMG.

Department of Defense:

- Air Force: Edwards Air Force Base, Nellis Air Force Base, March Air Reserve Base, California Air National Guard Fresno and Point Mugu (Channel Islands), Air Force Federal Aviation Administration Representative AWP-910
- Navy: Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, China Lake; Naval Air Station, Lemoore; Naval Air Station, El Centro; Naval Air Station, Point Mugu; Navy Federal Aviation Administration Representative
- Army: Fort Irwin and the National Training Center, Army Federal Aviation Administration Representative
- Marines: Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms; Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Marine Corps Federal Aviation Administration Representative

Department of Interior:

- National Park Service: Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- Bureau of Land Management: California Desert District (Riverside), Bakersfield District, Yuma Field Office
- United States Fish & Wildlife: Ventura Field Office, Lower Colorado Refuges Office

State of California:

- Colorado Desert State Parks, Mojave Sector State Parks
- California Department of Forestry

Department of Agriculture

- United States Forest Service: Sequoia National Forest, Inyo National Forest, San Bernardino National Forest, Angeles National Forest, and Cleveland National Forest

Annex 9. Charter, Hazardous Materials Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE and BACKGROUND: The Desert Managers Group Hazardous Materials Interagency Work Group serves as technical advisors to the DMG on hazardous materials/hazardous waste issues. As a team, they provide technical information, guidance, and innovative recommendations on hazardous materials and solid wastes in desert areas. Agency personnel may be shared between agencies to effectively utilize scarce resources, extensive experience, and wide breath of technical knowledge. The agency managers retain their current authorities to make decisions and establish policy relating to hazardous materials and solid waste management within their jurisdiction.

MISSION:

- A. To provide scientific and technical expertise in the fields of hazardous materials and solid waste management needed to support the Desert Managers Group (DMG) in its coordinated and integrated ecosystem planning and management efforts.
- B. To collaborate and cooperate in the conservation and restoration of desert resources (including biological resources, environmental quality, surface water, ground water, soils, and air quality) and the safety of desert users.
- C. To develop cost effective and creative coordinated public outreach programs to encourage the awareness, appreciation, and conservation of desert resources.
- D. To develop creative and innovative approaches for making effective and efficient use of public funds and agency resources, crossing agency or department boundaries when necessary.
- E. To coordinate with representatives from the regulatory and enforcement community concerning hazardous materials and solid waste issues.
- F. To provide technical field support for initiative work associated with hazardous materials and solid waste cleanup/removal activities, and assist with resolution of common environmental problems such as the identification, remediation, restoration and prevention of illegal dumping activities and environmental crime sites.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Brief the DMG on the Work Group's activities.
- B. Coordinate with other DMG interagency work groups as appropriate to carry out their missions.
- C. Develop annual work plan and budget for work group activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY.

- D. Assist in developing annual work plans and associated budgets by reviewing proposals to implement DMG initiatives.
- E. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and report results to the DMG.
- F. Assist in developing, implementing, and evaluating outreach programs for DMG efforts.
- G. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of issues related to their mission.
- H. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.
- I. Provide and sponsor technical training opportunities for participating agencies.

Annex 10. Charter, Desert Information Resources Interagency Work Group

PURPOSE and BACKGROUND: The Desert Information and Resource Work Group is one of several working groups created by the Desert Managers' Group (DMG) to implement tasks to achieve DMG 5-year plan. Its purpose is to promote conservation of California desert natural/cultural resources through the activities and projects.

MISSION: To provide the public with superior customer service, and comprehensive, coordinated information about desert wide resources and visitor opportunities.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Brief the DMG on the working group's activities.
- B. Coordinate with other DMG interagency work groups as appropriate to carry out their missions.
- C. Develop annual work plan and budget for work group activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY.
- D. Assist in developing annual work plans and associated budgets by reviewing proposals to implement DMG initiatives.
- E. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and report results to the DMG.
- F. Assist in developing, implementing, and evaluating outreach programs for DMG efforts.
- G. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of issues related to their mission.
- H. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.
- I. Coordinate the conduct of surveys to determine visitor satisfaction, frequently asked questions, preferences, and expectations.
- J. Use the results of the surveys and existing data to develop an on going interagency visitor service strategy.
- K. Develop desert wide environmental education strategies to satisfy identified customer needs. Set up a framework to collect, produce and disseminate educational and interpretive information through a wide variety of channels.

Annex 11. Charter, Data Management Interagency Work Group

Purpose and Background: The current methods of data management and collection on an individual site or planning unit basis has left the California desert region with data that are inconsistent from place to place and difficult to use for addressing natural and cultural resources issues. There are few common data standards among and within the DMG agencies, and only a rudimentary understanding of the information available or required to deal with issues on a local, landscape, interagency or ecosystem basis. The Data Management Interagency Work Group (DMIWG) is formed to assist managers in improving data management and GIS capabilities for addressing local and regional issues. The group serves as a focal point for discussing multi-agency data issues and needs related to resource management. The group will address the availability, strengths, and weaknesses of existing data as a basis for building integrated local and regional data sets that will provide a context on which to build data bases and conduct GIS related analyses of the California Deserts.

MISSION: Improve the use and sharing of information and data management systems and promote cost effective data management in the California Deserts.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Brief the DMG on the work Group's activities.
- B. Facilitate coordination among and/or provide support on data and geographic information systems to work groups.
- C. Develop annual work plan and budget for work group activities. Submission to DMG not later than July 1 for upcoming FY. Assist in developing annual work plans and associated budgets by reviewing proposals to implement DMG initiatives.
- D. As requested by the DMG, provide technical review of activities, projects, work plans, final reports and major products. Evaluate the effectiveness of these activities and report results to the DMG. Annually review and recommend for approval to the DMG updates to the DMG five year plan.
- E. Develop recommendations to enhance joint interests in the collection, management, and use of resource information and data including data standards, technical standards, inventories, analysis methodologies, and applications. Define common data requirements that can be standardized and cooperatively supported. Formulate standards, establish data management priorities, applications and data maintenance protocols, and make recommendations on stewardship of regional data.
- F. Identify key data sets/spatial information requirements. Develop, evaluate, and recommend resolution of consistency and implementation issues relating to these data sets and requirements.
- G. Develop a seamless, current, and accessible information network.