

Clarence Everly
DOD Coordinator



DESERT
MANAGERS GROUP

John Hamill
DOI Coordinator

DMG 05-15

3 May 05

Mr. Jim Maddy, Executive Director
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 675
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Maddy:

We are writing on behalf of the Desert Managers Group (DMG) in support of the April 20, 2005, funding proposal from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to establish a California Desert Conservation Fund (CDCF). The DMG is a partnership of federal, state, and local land and resource management agencies that is coordinating and integrating desert conservation, visitor services, and public safety efforts on an ecosystem scale in the California deserts. The DMG provided unanimous and unqualified support for the proposal at its April 28, 2005 meeting in Ridgecrest, California.

The DMG is working collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries to address a variety of resource challenges in the California deserts. Recovery of the desert tortoise, protection of desert water resources, and restoration of riparian ecosystems are a few examples of goals the DMG is addressing through a cooperative interagency approach. The DMG's Five Year Plan (attached) includes a dozen goals and numerous activities that land and resource management agencies are addressing in a cooperative/coordinated manner.

The CDCF provides a significant opportunity to attract new resources to support the work of the DMG and other groups who share the goal of conserving and enhancing the California deserts through cooperative ecosystem management. The ability to leverage agency resources and capabilities with the resources developed through the CDCF will greatly enhance the effectiveness of desert conservation efforts. The DMG is prepared to assist in the development of goals and priorities for the Fund by actively participating in the proposed Advisory Council.

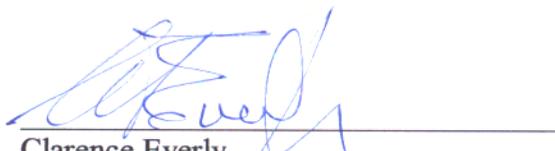
The DMG and many of its member agencies have had a long and positive working relationship with the NFWF on a variety of projects in the California deserts. NFWF has established itself as a well qualified, nonpartisan, non advocacy organization that is committed to conserving wildlife resources by working cooperatively with a variety of government agencies and private organizations. We believe NFWF is very well suited to establish, grow, and maintain the fund.

If you have questions or need additional information do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



John Hamill
California Desert Coordinator
Department of the Interior



Clarence Everly
DMG Coordinator
Department of Defense

Attachment

cc Desert Managers Group
Claire Thorp, NFWF
Ed Hastey RLG
Mike Pool, BLM
Steve Thompson, FWS
Jon Jarvis, NPS