United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 28 2005

Mr. John Hamill, Executive Coordinator
California Desert Management Project
Department of the Interior
2701 Barstow Road
Barstow, California 92311

Dear Mr. Hamill:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office (Bureau), recently contacted you regarding our interest in the Desert Managers Group (DMG). The Bureau understands the DMG is in the process of updating it's Charter and that a Memorandum of Understanding will be executed to formalize participation in the group. The Bureau fully supports the mission of the DMG and would like to be party to the MOU.

The Bureau understands that DMG goals will not infringe on the primary responsibilities of each participating agency. The Bureau's mission requires us to safeguard tribal "trust" resources by assisting tribes to manage those resources in a manner that benefits the tribe and reflects the tribe's vision for use of their lands. Many tribes are interested in preserving lands for the benefit of native species of cultural or spiritual significance. The Bureau would hope to use this forum to seek means by which the goals of the DMG could mesh with tribal goals. The Bureau is also interested in participating in the development of conservation strategies that might have implications for tribal lands. The Bureau also hopes to provide information to the DMG on the unique nature of tribal lands, the federal policies directing relationships with tribal governments, and how those policies relate to the treatment of tribal lands.

David Wooten is the Bureau's, Regional Endangered Species Coordinator, and will be our assigned representative to sit at the DMG meetings. Amy Dutschke is the Bureau's, Deputy Regional Director, and will be the upper level manager involved in the DMG.

If you need any further assistance, please contact David Wooten, Regional Endangered Species Coordinator, at (916) 978-6078, or Dale Morris, Natural Resources Division Chief, at (916) 978-6051.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

cc: Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency

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