United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Regional Office, R5
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 562-8737 Voice
(707) 562-9130 Text (TDD)

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John Hamill, Executive Coordinator
California Desert Management Project
Department of the Interior
222 E. Main St, Suite 202
Barstow, CA 93211

Dear Mr. Hamill:

In April 2002, the Desert Managers Group (DMG) approved the February 25, 2002, request of the Forest Service (FS) to become a member of the DMG. In providing its approval, the DMG requested the FS to identify its representatives to the Executive Coordination Committee, the managers group, and various DMG work groups in which the FS will participate. The DMG also recommended amending the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which established the DMG, to include the USDA Forest Service.

This letter expresses our intention that the Forest Service participate and assist in carrying out the mission of the DMG as provided for in its Charter dated June, 2000. At such time as the MOU is formally revised and renewed, it is our intention to participate in that review and become a formal signatory to the MOU.

I will serve as the Forest Service representative at the annual executive coordination meeting and Max Copenhagen, Deputy Forest Supervisor for the San Bernardino National Forest will represent the Forest Service at the quarterly Managers Group meetings. In that capacity, Mr. Copenhagen will represent those National Forests, which border the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, including the Angeles, Cleveland, Inyo, and the San Bernardino National Forests. We will identify our representative to the DMG work groups once we learn more about their various activities.

We look forward to working with the Desert Managers Group in developing a consistent ecosystem approach to the management of desert lands in southern California.

Sincerely,

Bernie Weingardt
for JACK A. BLACKWELL
Regional Forester

Cc: Max Copenhagen