



August 18, 2005

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Subject: Invitation to Participate in the Desert Managers Group – Desert Tortoise
Recovery Planning and Implementation Work Group

Thank you for your expressed interest in contributing to the recovery planning process and implementation of recovery actions for the desert tortoise. As you are aware, the Fish and Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Recovery Office is currently initiating the revision of the 1994 desert tortoise recovery plan. This process involves working with regional working groups, including managers, scientists, and stakeholders, to conduct updated threats assessments and develop regional recovery action plans. These recovery action plans will form the basis of a revised recovery plan. In California, the Desert Managers Group has organized a Desert Tortoise Recovery Planning and Implementation Work Group (DTRPIWG) to facilitate this process.

The Desert Managers Group is seeking participation in the DTRPIWG from individuals and organizations who are committed to working cooperatively and constructively to develop and implement recovery action plans for the desert tortoise. Given your expressed interest in this process and/or previous history of participation, we would like to invite you to join the DTRPIWG. If you are interested in joining the Work Group, we ask that you submit a letter or resolution that describes your interest/involvement in desert tortoise recovery and indicates that you and your group supports the mission of the Work Group as outlined in the attached charter. The letter/resolution should also identify the person who will represent your organization on the Work Group.

The next meeting of the Work Group is scheduled for October 11, 2005, 10:00am at the National Park Service office in Barstow, California. The agenda will focus on planning the regional threats assessment workshops (expected outputs, workshop format, incorporating additional stakeholder involvement). We expect to have a workshop facilitator identified and present at the meeting. Additional documents describing the overall recovery action planning process will be sent to you prior to the meeting.

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