

May 27, 2003

Memorandum

To: Desert Managers Group and Interested Parties

From: John Hamill, Executive Coordinator, California Desert Management Project, Department of the Interior
Clarence Everly, Department Of Defense Coordinator

Subject: Desert Managers Group Meeting, June 11-12, 2003, Big Bear, CA

This is final confirmation of the next DMG meeting that will be held at the Northwoods Resort, 40650 Village Drive, Big Bear Lake, Big Bear, CA. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am on June 11 and adjourn at 4:20 pm on June 12. The meeting is being hosted by Max Copenhagen, the Deputy Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Northwoods Resort under the name San Bernardino National Forest. The Northwood reservation number is 800-866-3121.

A draft meeting agenda and information on the field trip are attached. The following documents have been posted on the DMG website for your information and review:

1. DOI Solicitor guidance re: Anti Lobbying Act
2. Draft information paper/brochure related to burro management in the California desert

Additional materials will be posted on the DMG website next week.

Meeting highlights include:

Wednesday morning: Senator Boxer's staff will provide an informational brief on the California Wild Heritage Act

Wednesday afternoon: field trip to cactus flats and the Mitsubishi Mine and carbonate habitat reclamation projects(attached).

Wednesday evening: social gathering (details to be announced).

Thursday morning: Progress reports on various activities related to the Desert Tortoise recovery plan assessment and the DMG's DT Recovery Action Plan

Thursday 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm: DMG Executive session re: implementation and budget strategies for the DMG's Desert Tortoise Recovery Action Plan. This session is open only to DMG members and their invited staff.

Outside parties who want to attend the DMG meeting should contact the DOI/DOD Coordinators.

If you need additional information or have comments about the draft agenda, please contact John Hamill at 760-255-8888, or Clarence Everly at 760-255-8896.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Draft Agenda
DESERT MANAGERS GROUP MEETING
June 11-12, 2003
Northwoods Resort

June 11, 2003

- 9:00 am Introductions and Review/Modify agenda (Hamill/Everly)
- 9:15 am Welcome and Overview of San Bernardino NF Resources/Activities
 (Copenhagen)
- 9:45 am California Wild Heritage Act (Alton Garrett and Tom Bohigian,
 Senator Barbara Boxers Office)
- 11:00 am Break
- 11:15 am PACRAT Report(Bryson/Kaldenberg)
- Update
 - Future plans/activities
- 11:45 am Burro Management
- Update and Future Role of DMG in Burro Management
 (Hamill/Sjaastad)
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Field Trip - Cactus Flats and Mitsubishi Mine (attached)
- 5:30 pm Social event - details to be announced

June 12 , 2003

- 8:00 am Desert Tortoise Recovery plan review - process, timeframe,
 preliminary results (Williams/Tracy)
- 8:45 am DT Monitoring and Monitoring Workshop update (Medica/Williams)
- 9:00 am Tortoise Disease Report-update of progress/next steps (Jones)
- 9:15 am Education and Outreach Plan (Sanchez/Zarki)
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:00 am Effectiveness Monitoring (Kenna)
- 10:30 am Raven Management Plan - (Bransfield)
- 11:15 am Feral Dog Management (Jones)
- 11:30 am DT MOA - Hamill
- noon Public Comment
- 12:15 Lunch

1:15 pm **Executive Session (DMG Members Only):** Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation/Budget Strategies(Kenna/Hamill)

2:15 pm **DMG Open Session Reconvenes** Californiadesert.gov (Everly)

- Response to request for input to Californiadesert.gov
- Next steps

2:30 pm Hazmat Work Group Report (Key/Brown)

- Dump prevention plan
- Work group update

2:45 pm Habitat Restoration Report (Scofield)

- San Sebastian Marsh/Watershed
- Amargosa River
- other

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm Research database and Mojave Desert Science Symposium (Hughson)

3:30 DMG Roundtable reports (Group)

4:15 pm Next Meetings

- October 7-8, 2003, Death Valley, CA Host: J.T. Reynolds
- Winter Meeting, location/host to be determined

4:20 pm Adjourn

Desert Managers Group Fieldtrip
Wednesday, June 11, 2003
1:00-5:00 pm

Where: Meet at the Discovery Center for Lunch and to group into vehicles

What to Bring: a high-clearance multi-passenger vehicle if possible, hat, water (we will also bring along an ice chest with cold bottled water to share), sunscreen, and hiking boots or rugged walking shoes. We won't stray far from vehicles, but we'll likely walk a bit in rugged terrain. Binoculars are always nice to have along if you are so inclined.

What we'll see: The trip will focus on a highly diverse area that supports many species that occur nowhere else in the world. Superimposed on this diverse landscape is heavy public recreational use and, on the north-slope, large-scale limestone mining. The trip will take us across the mountain-to-desert transition from 7000 feet at Big Bear to near 4000' at the desert base of the San Bernardino Mountains. We will see pebble plain and carbonate habitats, which support plant species that grow nowhere else in the world, Nelson's bighorn sheep habitat, popular Forest recreation areas, an OHV use area, historic gold mining areas, and the limestone-mining operations. Forest Service management challenges, opportunities, and solutions will be discussed along the way.