

November 4, 2002

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, December 3-4, 2002, Needles CA

This is final confirmation of the next DMG meeting that will be held at Elks Lodge, 1000 Lily Hill Dr, Needles CA on December 3-4, 2002. The meeting will begin at 8:00 am on December 3 and adjourn at 3:30 pm on December 4, 2002. The meeting will be hosted by Molly Brady, BLM's Needles Field Office Managers.

A block of rooms has been reserved under the name "BLM" at the:

Best Western - Colorado River Inn
2372 W Broadway
Needles, CA 92363
(760)326-4552

Room reservations should be made prior to November 15, 2002.

A draft meeting agenda and information on the field trip down the Colorado River is attached. If you have input on the agenda, please contact us. Meeting review materials and a revised agenda will be sent out in late November.

If you need additional information, 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 December 3-4, 2002 Needles, CA

8:00 am Introductions and Review/Modify agenda (Hamill and Everly)

8:15 am Welcome and Overview BLM Needles Field Office Resource and Activities
(Brady)

8:45 am Desert Tortoise Recovery

- GAO desert tortoise audit results/implications (Williams)
- Results of the MOG/MOG TAC meeting (Williams/Medica)
 - recovery plan review - process and timeframe
 - petition review - process and timeframe
 - other
- Proposed desert tortoise science team/office (Williams)
- Result of the Tortoise Monitoring Workshop (Heaton)
- Desert tortoise monitoring budget and work plan (Medica)
- Results of the Tortoise Disease Workshop (Jones)
- Desert Tortoise Summit (Hamill)
- Education and Outreach Plan (Sanchez/Zarki)
- Raven Management - next steps (Williams)
- Feral Dog Management - next steps (Kenna)
- Threats Workshop -(Medica)
- Stakeholder Discussions and Participation (Hamill)
- Implementation/Budget Strategy(Kenna)

12:30 pm

1:00 pm -- Colorado River-Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip(enclosed)

- Greg Wolfe -- Havasu NWR
- Ad hoc Burro Strategy Group Report (Martin)
- FY 03 Burro Management Work Plan (Sjaastad)

4:00 pm - Return from Field Trip

4:15 pm - California Wild Heritage Act (tentative)

5:00 pm -- Social event and dinner to follow at the Marina.

7:00 pm -- Return to Needles

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8:00 pm California Legacy Program Workshop (Madelyn Glickfeld, Cal Res. Agency)

- Purpose and scope
- DMG involvement and support
- Relationship to desert tortoise summit
- Workshop Participants

8:45 am USGS Recoverability and Vulnerability Project (USGS)

- Purpose, scope and results
- Future activities and plans
- Discussion and Feedback
- Next Step

9:45 am Break

10:00 am DIRT Report (Sanchez/Zarki)

- FY 02 Accomplishments/Issues
- Funding Support for the Mojave Desert Info Center
- FY 03 DIRT work plan

10:30 am PACRAT Report (Kaldenberg/Kelly)

- FY 02 Accomplishments/Issues
- FY 03 Work Plan

10:45 am Hazmat Work Group Report (Key/Brown)

- FY 02 Accomplishments/Issues
- FY 03 Work plan

11:15 am Habitat Restoration Report (Scofield)

- FY 02 Accomplishments/Issues
- FY 03 Work plan

11:45 am -- Lunch

12:45 pm Water Work Group Report (Kearns)

- FY 02 accomplishments
- FY 03 activities

1:15 pm Research Work Group (Hughson)

- FY 02 Accomplishments/Issues
- Science Symposium
- FY 03 Work plan

1:45 pm Review/Amend 5-Year Plan(Hamill/Everly)

2:15 pm Roundtable reports (Group)

3:15 pm Next Meetings

- March 12-13, 2003, Palm Springs, CA Host: Jim Kenna
- Spring Meeting, location/host to be determined

3:30 pm Adjourn

Attachment
Colorado River Field Trip

Trip Overview: On Tuesday afternoon we will be taking a boat trip down the majestic Colorado River through the Topock Gorge, sometimes referred to as the "Little Grand Canyon." The cruise through this wildlife sanctuary, offers breathtaking photo opportunities of flora, fauna and geology. This is part of the Havasu Wildlife Refuge and is surrounded by Wilderness areas. Greg Wolf, Refuge Manager, will accompany us on this trip and provide an overview of the major challenges they face in ensuring the integrity of this valuable area.

At Trampas Wash, we will stop to review the damage being done by the burros in the Refuge and the Wilderness. BLM employee Dave Sjaastad will brief us on plans to conduct a gather using barges to transport the burros.

What to Bring:

- Jacket/windbreaker
- Sun screen
- Hat
- Hiking shoes
- Camera
- Binoculars