

March 23, 2005

Memorandum

To: Desert Managers Group

From: John Hamill, Executive Coordinator, California Desert Management Project,
Department of the Interior

Clarence Everly, DMG Coordinator, Department of Defense

Subject: Desert Managers Group Meeting, April 27-28, 2005, CA

This is final confirmation of the Desert Managers Group meeting that will be held on April 27-28, 2005, at the Heritage Hotel Inn and Suites, 1050 North Norma, Ridgecrest , California. The meeting, co-hosted by John O’Gara (NAWS, China Lake) and Hector Villalobos (BLM), will begin at 9:00 am on April 27 and adjourn at 3:30 pm on April 28. Please note the following:

- A draft meeting agenda is attached for your review. Please provide any comments to Clarence Everly (everlyc@mojavedata.gov) or John Hamill (john_hamill@partner.nps.gov) by April 15, 2005.
- Review materials and the final agenda will be posted on the DMG Website at <http://www.dmg.gov/announcements.html> approximately one week before the meeting.
- A block of rooms has been reserved at the Heritage Inn and Suites under the name: Desert Managers Group. Phone: 800-843-0693 or 760-446-6543. Cut-off date for room reservations at the group rate is 15 April, 2005.
- On the afternoon of 27 April, there will be a field trip to visit various activities and sites in the area (details attached). The desert should be in full bloom at the time of the meeting. If we can gain access to the base, the field trip will visit the world class petroglyph site on China Lake NAWS. Following the field trip there will be a barbeque at the Ridgecrest Wild Horse and Burro Corrals. Guided tours of the Corrals will be available as part of the event.

Please let Cyn LaFever know by **April 15, 2005** if you will be attending the field trip and/or barbeque. Cyn can be reached at 760-256-7033 or clafever@mojavedata.gov.

If you have questions, please contact John Hamill at 760-252-6108, or Clarence Everly at 760-256-7033. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Attachments (2)

**Draft Agenda
DMG Meeting
April 27-28, 2005
Ridgecrest, CA**

April 27- Open to stakeholders

- 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions (Kern County, BLM, NAWS)
- 9:10 am China Lakes and BLM mission and activities (BLM and NAWS)
- 9:40 am Habitat Restoration and Illegal Dump Report (Scofield)
- Riparian Habitat Restoration Strategy and funding proposals
 - WMA update
 - Illegal dump database
- 10:10 am Valley Wells Rest Area conceptual design (Woolsey/Caltrans)
- 10:30 pm Mojave Ground Squirrel Conservation (BLM/CDFG) (30 min)
- 11:00 am Stakeholder comments
- 11:15 am Break
- 11:30 am Desert Tortoise (DT) Recovery Action Reports
- DT Education and Outreach Project Update (Zarki/Hamill) – 10 min
 - Feral Dog Management Plan update (Black)- 10 min
 - Raven Management EA (FWS)- 10 min
 - DT Implementation/Planning Work Group report (30 min)
 - Members and Chair
 - Stakeholder input
 - Evaluation of DT Recovery Action in agency plans
 - DT Science Advisory Committee
 - Next steps
- 12:30 pm Next Meetings
- Summer meeting: July ??, 2005 Ventura, CA Host: FWS
 - Fall Meeting: date, location and host TBD
- 12:40 pm Stakeholder Comments
- 1:00 pm Lunch/Field Trip (see attached)
- 5:30 pm Return from field trip
- 6:00 pm Barbeque at the Ridgecrest Wild Horse and Burro Corrals

April 28—DMG members and staff only

- 8:00 am Follow up from day 1 (Villalobos and O’Gara)
- 8:30 am DMG update (Coordinators)
- 5 year plan printing
 - wilderness training
 - upcoming events
- 8:40 am Ivanpah Airport development plans (Mike Loghides, Clark County Dept. of Aviation)
- 9:00 am PACRAT Report (Bryson)
- CHRIS GIS database Status report
- 9:20 am USGS Science and Research Reports
- 9:40 am Break
- 10:00 am DMG Charter and MOU (Everly and Hamill)
- Review recommended changes
 - Next steps
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 pm DT Update (Williams/Averill-Murray)
- Monitoring and Blood Sampling
 - Recovery Coordination
- 1:30 pm DMG Executive Coordination Meeting (Hamill and Everly)
- Agenda
 - Participants
- 1:50 pm 5 Year Plan Implementation – new starts (Hamill and Everly)
- Water Workshop
 - Coordinated monitoring
 - Weather/Climate monitoring protocols
 - Data mining
 - Conceptual Model
 - Scenic Byways Feasibility
- 2:10 pm Fire Management in the CDCA (Tom Patterson)
- 2:30 pm Roundtable Report (Managers and Coordinators)
- 3:00 pm Adjourn

Field Trip

When/Where: 1:00 – 5:30 pm, April 27, 2004, Meet at the Heritage Inn and Suites, Ridgecrest

Transportation: Car pool

Overview: Two options are being considered. The desert will be in full bloom and both options will feature excellent wildflower viewing.

- a. The first and preferred option is to visit the world class petroglyph site on China Lake. The Coso Rock Art National Historic Landmark is located within the North Range test complex at NAWS China Lake. 36,000 acres in size, this is the largest concentration of prehistoric Native American petroglyphs in the U.S. The Coso Rock Art NHL is the only archaeological National Historic Landmark on Department of Defense lands. This option is subject to being able to gain access to the base on April 27 (we should know whether access is feasible on April 25).
- b. The second field trip option is to visit the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station Museum and then travel about 40 minutes to Short Canyon for a 1-2 mile hike to view wildflowers.

Both field trips will conclude with a barbeque at the BLM Ridgecrest Regional Wild Horse and Burro Corrals from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A guided tour of the corrals will be provided by BLM. A modest fee will be charged for food and refreshments.

RSVP: By April 15 to Cyn LaFever at 760-256-7033 or clafever@mojavedata.gov

What to Bring:

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