

January 25, 2000

Memorandum

To: California Desert Managers Group
California Desert Managers Group Interagency Working Group Team Leaders

From: Executive Coordinator, California Desert Managers Group
DOD Coordinator, California Desert Managers Group

Subject: December 1 – 3, 1999 California Desert Managers Group Meeting Summary

Attached for your review are the draft action items and assignments and the draft summary of the California Desert Managers Group meeting conducted December 1 - 3, 1999. Please review these items and contact either John Hamill (760-255-8888) or Clarence Everly (760-255-8896) if you have any changes.

Attachments (5):

- (a) Action Items and Assignments
- (b) Meeting Summary
- (c) Meeting attendees
- (d) DMG Outreach Plan
- (e) DMG FY 00 Work Plan

Desert Mangers Group Meeting

**December 1 - 3, 1999
Death Valley, California**

Action Items and Assignments

Action Items:

1. The Managers approved presentation of the desert book "Still Wild, Always Wild" as a gift to Alan O'Neil for all of his contributions to the DMG.
2. The Managers agreed to change the April 4, 5 DMG meeting location from Anza Barrego State Park to El Centro. Greg Thompson, BLM El Centro Resource Area Manager will host the meeting.
3. The Managers agreed to hold a DMG meeting on June 20, 21, 2000 and on September 19, 20 2000. The June meeting will be held at Camp Pendleton and hosted by the Region Nine Marine Corps Regional Environmental Coordinator's Office. The September meeting will be held in San Diego and be hosted by Dave Van Cleve. The September meeting will also represent the DMG annual executive coordination meeting.
4. The Managers approved the DMG outreach plan including the assignments contained therein (attached).
5. The DMG members agreed to work internally to ensure active agency support for DMG funding initiatives.
6. The Managers agreed to add the following to the DMG outreach program: each DOI agency; Congressmen McKeon and Lewis; California Recreation Roundtable; and the NPS NPCA.
7. DOI and DOD agreed to develop a joint effort in approaching Congressman Lewis.
8. The Managers agreed to notify the DOI Coordinator when they plan to conduct an outreach effort.
9. The Managers approved the DGM Cooperative Agreement and Charter subject to minor revisions agreed to at the meeting.
10. The Managers agreed to pursue a DMG specific signing event for signature of the DMG Cooperative Agreement.
11. The Managers agreed to the names presented by the DOI and DOD Coordinators for participation in the DSS ad hoc working group.
12. DOD and DOI agreed to pursue joint funding for implementation of the pilot phase of the DSS project.

13. The Managers agreed to establish an ad hoc working group to review the feasibility of establishing a non-profit organization, including whether a new group should be formed or whether expanding the scope of an existing organization will suffice to support the DMG.
14. The Managers approved the HAZMAT Working Group FY 00 Work Plan subject to changes specified.
15. The Managers approved the PACRAT Working Group FY 00 Work Plan.
16. The Managers approved the Data Management Working Group FY 00 Work Plan.
17. The Managers approved and agreed to sign the Wilderness Working Group Wilderness Annex Preface document.
18. The DMG approved its FY 00 work plan (attached). The DMG work plan includes the major activities of the DMG work groups.

Assignments:

1. FY 00 Budget: NPS received \$27M additional funds in the FY 00 budget. However, congressional language continues to prevent use of NPS funds for new California desert efforts. Stephen Saunders and Karen Atkinson agreed to take this issue back to Washington D.C. to see if they can get the restriction removed to allow use of some of these monies in the Cal Desert.
2. Following discussion of the USGS Mojave Desert Ecosystem Science Project status, the DMG asked Mike Shulters to review the project and USGS policy to determine whether they will be responsive to the needs of the DMG. Mark Schaefer and John Hamill will also take up this issue with the Director, USGS, in a December meeting.
3. In conjunction with the DOD installations and other interested parties, Bob Williams will Chair a meeting at Edwards AFB on 20 January 2000 to review and discuss the proposed strata for the desert tortoise in California. Those participating in this meeting will also assess the need for another desert tortoise workshop, a proposed date for the workshop, and cost sharing for its implementation.
4. The DOD installations will develop a coordinated desert tortoise Legacy proposal for FY 01.
5. Bob Williams will identify the DOI matching funds available for desert tortoise monitoring. He will provide this info to the DOD DMG Coordinator for use in developing a request for end of year Legacy funds.

6. John Hamill will set up a meeting involving NPS, USGS, BLM and all other interested parties to discuss the scope of a USGS review of proposed Cadiz underground water storage project.
7. DOI and DOD (Stephen Saunders/Bruce Beard) will develop a strategy for briefing Congressman Lewis on the DMG and its FY 01 funding initiative. Target date for this meeting is February 2000.
8. The DIRT IWG and DOI Coordinator will develop and provide to all managers briefing materials to implement the DMG outreach program. Target date for dissemination is 1 February 2000. Briefing materials include an updated briefing package and DMG brochure.
9. DOI Coordinator will submit the proposed DMG Cooperative Agreement to the DOI regional solicitor for review and comment. Target date for revised document is 10 December 99.
10. DOD and DOI (Bruce Beard/Karen Atkinson) will review proposed signatures for the Cooperative agreement and provide feedback to the DMG NLT end of February 2000.
11. Ernie Quintana, Jim Kenna, and MCAGCC were designated as the cooperative agreement signing event team. They will research people availability and dates in the Easter time frame for possible signature events. Bruce Beard, DOD, will check on Ms. Goodman's availability. John Hamill will check on Secretary Babbitt's availability.
12. DOI and DOD Coordinators tasked to synthesize recommended 5-year plan changes into the current document.
13. Science Team tasked to refine/expand the Cal desert water study work plan as part of their FY 00 work plan.
14. DOD Coordinator tasked to coordinate the agenda and time for the DSS ad hoc working group to meet. Goal for the group is to develop finalized plans for implementation of a pilot DSS by April 2000. Members of the group include: Dennis Schramm, Mark Depoy, Len Gaydos, Roy Madden, Ray Bransfield, Clarence Everly, Tom Gunther (DOI Advisor), Bruce Beard (DOD Advisor). Diane Noda will confirm the availability of Ray Bransfield to participate in the group.
15. DOI Coordinator tasked to coordinate the agenda and time for the Non Profit Organization ad hoc working group to meet. Goal of the group is to determine the viability of such a group for the DMG, provide a report on these findings and next steps. Meeting set for 1 Feb. 2000, 9:00 a.m. in the Barstow Mojave National Preserve office. Meeting participants include: John Hamill, Kathleen Franklin, Dave Van Cleve, Mary Martin, Tim Salt, and Richard Wood.
16. DOI Coordinator tasked to develop methodology/process for obtaining additional candidates from the WELL Program for participation in DMG working groups.

17. DOD and DOI Coordinators tasked to review working group membership and DMG manager assignments to the working groups. Goal is to provide a listing of all participants and manager assignments to review equitable participation/distribution.
18. DOI Coordinator tasked to resolve issues related to the location and responsibilities of the DMG Program Coordinators. Meeting is set for 31 Jan. 2000, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Barstow Mojave National Preserve office. Meeting participants include: Jeff Lovich, Ernie Quintana, Dick Martin, Tim Salt, Molly Brady, Bob Williams, Dave Van Cleve, and Clarence Everly.

Desert Mangers Group Meeting

**December 1 - 3, 1999
Death Valley, California**

Meeting Summary

1 December 1999

Desert Managers Group Update

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. A review of the agenda was conducted. The Managers accepted the agenda as written. Dick Martin, the host of this meeting, welcomed all to Death Valley. He provided an overview of Friday's field trip and reviewed administrative support details for the meeting. The initial discussion item centered on a proposal to give Alan O'Neill a book "Still Wild, Always Wild" about the California Desert in appreciation for his significant contributions to the Desert Managers Group. The Managers also reviewed and approved dates and locations for all FY 2000 DMG meetings. The September 2000 meeting will serve as the annual executive coordination meeting. Mention was made that the DMG's California Desert website is up and functional. Additional review of the website is ongoing to better refine content and address the correct target audience. Announcement was made of a January desert tortoise line distance sampling meeting whose purpose is to refine line distance sampling strata recommendations. Edwards AFB agreed to host the meeting and Bob Williams, USFWS, will chair the discussions.

FY 2000 Budget

BLM received \$600K for burro removal. The question was asked if to these funds could be used for burro removal on non-BLM land. BLM received no funding to support the Hazmat IWG dump initiative. BLM currently has no plans to reallocate existing base funds in support of this effort. NPS was given an additional \$27M for FY00. However, the budget language prohibits the NPS from allocating additional funds to the California Desert. NPS can only spend in FY 00 what they spent in FY 99. Stephen Saunders and Karen Atkinson will pursue this issue to determine flexibility in providing NPS funds for the Cal desert. Should reallocation be possible, NPS top priority is burro removal. It is expected that a portion (e.g. \$150K) of the funds requested by USFWS will be approved. No funding was provided to USGS for the Cal Desert. Priority is funding the desert tortoise coordinator position and providing some resources to the desert tortoise monitoring project. Currently, no funding is earmarked from DOD for the Cal desert.

USGS Research/MDESP Project

Discussion centered on the flexibility of the USGS Mojave Desert Ecosystem Science Program (MDESP) to include/consider desert manager needs/requirements. Mike Shulters, USGS, articulated MDESP is part of a desert national program and has to address national requirements on a priority basis. However, to the extent that local needs can be included and are compatible with the national requirements for the project USGS can include them. The DMG was not satisfied with this explanation and recommended that this discussion item be referred to Mark Schaefer and the Director, USGS for resolution. Mike Shulters stated he would work with the

national program director to see if the project could be more flexible to include desert manager needs. This will in large measure determine the ability of the DMG to influence this project. The DOI Coordinator will address this issue in an upcoming meeting with the USGS Director.

Desert Tortoise

Discussion focused on the status of the funding match between DOD and DOI for the tortoise monitoring project. No FY 00 DOD funds are earmarked for this effort. Investigation and determination of funding match amounts must be done quickly to establish a placeholder for possible DOD FY 00 year end funds. It was also recommended the DMG develop a formal proposal and request for FY 01 Legacy Program funding. There is also a need to revisit the line distance sampling strata determination methodology. The managers support the USFWS proposal to hold a workshop early in FY 00 to address this issue. DOD and USFWS agreed to investigate possible cost sharing for conducting this event.

Water Resources

The managers reaffirmed the Science IWG will oversee the desert water resource study. Hydrologists are beginning to attend Science IWG meetings and participate in this process. USGS reaffirmed the availability of approximately \$200K in matching funds as part of the federal/state cooperative program. To date no state/local government cooperator is available to provide matching funds. Discussions are ongoing with Inyo County as a possibility. USGS, BLM, and NPS agreed to meet to discuss the scope of a USGS review of the Cadiz project EIS/EIR. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

FY 2001 Budget

Of the \$10M requested by the DMG for FY 01, DOI approved and agreed to forward about \$8M to OMB. A request is also being made to USFWS to use approximately \$230K of its base funds in the National Wetlands Inventory Program to conduct riparian and wetlands mapping in the California desert. DMG members agreed to work internally in each of their agencies to ensure active agency support for DMG initiatives. A recommendation was made to identify cost savings and cost offsets achieved by the DMG for use in explaining to agencies why they should support the DMG. The DIRT IWG's recommended outreach plan, including the assignments contained therein, was approved. The DIRT IWG will develop briefing materials that can be used by managers in their outreach activities. In order to track who has been informed about the DMG and when, the managers agreed to inform the DMG DOI Coordinator when they conduct these efforts.

2 December 1999

DMG Charter and Cooperative Agreement

State review of both the charter and cooperative agreement was positive. They recommended each of the state agencies sign the document. The state is actively pursuing funding for a full time DMG State Coordinator. They are working on the budget request to support this position. The state is looking at a timeline of 19 months minimum for funding approval and hiring. They are investigating use of a state annuitant to serve as part time interim State Coordinator. Several DOD installations provided comments for incorporation into the documents. For the most part these comments were minor. Fort Irwin has not yet completed review and staffing of the

documents. They estimate one more week for completion of staffing. Bruce Beard reminded the DMG that the documents needed to be staffed with each of the military service staffs prior to coming to Ms. Goodman for signature. USFWS and BLM are comfortable with the documents. The documents are currently with the regional DOI solicitor undergoing review. The group established 10 December 1999 as the date for completion of updates to both documents pending DOI solicitor comments. Bruce Beard and Karen Atkinson will review appropriate department signatures. A goal was established to complete DOD service staffing by the end of January 2000. The group agreed the DMG should pursue a specific event signing ceremony. The group established the week prior to Easter as the target for a signing event pending availability of the appropriate department level personnel. Ernie Quintana, Jim Kenna, and MCAGCC volunteered to develop and host an appropriate signing event.

DMG 5 Year Plan

The Managers divided into three groups, each focusing on a specific portion of the draft 5-year plan. Group 1 conducted a review of paragraphs 1 and 4; Group 2 reviewed paragraph 2 with special attention paid to budget; Group 3 addressed paragraph 3. Each group provided a brief to the entire DMG on their recommended changes. The DOD and DOI Coordinators were tasked to make the recommended adjustments then send out to the Managers for review. The 5-year plan will be discussed further at the next DMG meeting.

Decision Support System

The Coordinators recommended formation of an ad hoc committee, with potential members of the committee delineated, to develop the scope of work for a DSS Pilot project. The managers approved formation of the ad hoc group as well as the recommended participants. The DOD Coordinator will contact members of the group and coordinate the initial meeting date and agenda. Mark Schaefer, DOI, and Bruce Beard, DOD, committed to pursue joint funding efforts to provide monies necessary to implement the pilot project.

Caltrans Land Ownership

Dick Doyle presented a Caltrans issue to the DMG that involved use and management of Caltrans right of way. Several years ago, a proposal was made within the DMG to develop an MOU that would address consistent management of DMG member lands. As the DMG evolved, the need for such an MOU diminished. Following general discussion the Managers agreed there was no issue here that required DMG action.

Non – Profit Organizations

John Hamill led a discussion on the use of non-profit organizations and the possible support such a group could provide the DMG. Following general discussion, the Managers agreed to form an ad hoc group to address the viability and feasibility of such a group for the DMG and if feasible whether a new group should be formed or the scope of an existing group expanded. The ad hoc group will provide its findings to the DMG general membership at its next meeting.

Work Group Reports/FY 00 Work Plans

John Hamill provided the DMG a draft document articulating the DMG's FY 99 accomplishments. The managers approved the document. John Hamill also provided a draft DMG FY 00 Work Plan. The Managers approved the DMG outreach plan and work plan with

the following exceptions: modify #4 of the state and federal budget initiative; add an initiative to pursue additional use of WELL Program persons; add conduct a review of DMG IWG member participation and DMG Manager assignments to the IWGs; add dump sites and aml inventory to the DMG work plan.

Hazmat IWG: FY 00 work plan is approved following revision to focus FY 00 efforts on tangible products and deliverables such as inventories, HAZWOPER training, development of a wire burning information paper, and an action to address the road litter issue.

DIRT IWG: FY 00 work plan is approved subject to the following changes: delete item number 10; add identify the target audience for the DMG newsletter, how often is it distributed and how is it distributed.

DLRTF IWG: The Managers approved the DLRTF IWG work plan including a restoration workshop to be sponsored jointly with the Science IWG. The Managers requested the DLRTF IWG Chair provide them with an update on who from their respective organizations is or is not participating in this group.

PACRAT IWG: The Managers approved the PACRAT IWG FY 00 work plan.

Data Management IWG: The Managers approved the Data Management IWG FY 00 work plan.

Wilderness IWG: The Wilderness IWG presented a preface document for the wilderness annexes. The Managers reviewed and approved the document. Available Managers signed the document.

Several Managers reiterated the need to review DMG IWG participation as well as DMG Manager Oversight assignments to the IWGs. The DOI and DOD Coordinators committed to affecting such a review and providing the results to the Managers for review.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Desert Managers Group
1 - 2 December 1999
Attendees

Name	Organization	Telephone/Fax	E-mail
Atkinson, Karen	DOI/FWP	202-208-0809	Karen_Atkinson@os.doi.gov
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Cox, Dale Alan	USGS	916-278-3033	dacox@usgs.gov
Doyle, Dick	Caltrans District 8	909-383-4147/4364	Dick.doyle@dot.ca.gov
Evanko, Steven	USMC DOD REC	760-725-2635/2659	evankosp@mail.cpp.usmc.mil
Everly, Clarence	DOD Coordinator	760-256-7033/256-6863	Everlyc@mojavedata.gov
Franklin, Kathleen	CA State Parks - Mojave Desert	661-726-1668/661-940-7327	kfranklin@calparks Mojave.com
Gully, Ed LTC	DPW Fort Irwin	760-380-3433/5293	Edward.gully@irwin.army.mil
Hagan, Mark	Edwards AFB	661-277-1418/6145	Mark.hagan@edwards.af.mil
Hamill, John	DOI Coordinator	760-255-8888/8809	John_hamill@nps.gov
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Key, John	BLM CA Desert District	909-697-5383/5299	John_key@ca.blm.gov
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Martin, Peter	USGS	858-637-6827/9201	pmmartin@usgs.gov
McGlothlin, Dan	NPS Water Resources	970-225-3536/9965	Dan_mcglathlin@nps.gov
Miller, Bruce	NREA MCAGCC	760-830-7396x210/5819	millerb@29palms.usmc.mil
Noda, Diane	USFWS Ventura	805-644-1766/3958	Diane_noda@fws.gov
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Quillman,	DPW Fort Irwin	760-380-3740/5293	Mickey.quillman@irwin.army.

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