

June 8, 2001

Memorandum

To: Acting Assistant Secretary -- Lands and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

From: Executive Coordinator, California Desert Management Project, Department of the Interior, Barstow, CA

Subject: Desert Managers Group White Paper

Pursuant to your March 30, 2001 request, attached is the subject White Paper for your review. The purpose of the White Paper is to evaluate:

1. the role of Desert Managers Group (DMG) to effectively and proactively address Endangered Species Act (ESA) controversies in the California Desert; and
2. options for increasing citizen involvement in the DMG, including the possible establishment of a citizen advisory committee pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declined my invitation to participate in drafting the document. However, the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Geological Survey all provided valuable input to the document. While I believe these agencies generally support the recommendations in the Paper, they may have concerns with some of the details.

The report will be discussed by all the partners in the DMG at their meeting on June 21, 2001 in Palm Springs. I would appreciate Tom Fulton's initial feedback on the White Paper prior to the meeting. In addition, I hope that you or your representative will be able to attend the meeting.

I would like to meet with you, Tom Fulton and the AS/FWP and AS/WS in early July to discuss the DMG's and the Department's reaction to the White Paper and determine how you would like to proceed.

Attachment (1)

cc Acting Assistant Secretary - Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Acting Assistant Secretary - Water and Science
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington D.C.

Acting Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Director, Geological Survey, Washington, D.C
Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management, Washington D.C,
Acting Manager, CA/NV Operations, FWS, Sacramento
Regional Director, FWS, Region 1
Western Regional Director, NPS
Regional Geologist, USGS, Menlo Park, CA
State Director, BLM, Sacramento, CA
Desert Managers Group