

CLAWG Meeting Minutes (29 Oct 09)

Twenty five people attended the meeting in Barstow; two, Karen Montgomery and Judy Hohman, attended the meeting via telecom. Mr. Sam Cox chaired the meeting; he opened the meeting at 10:05.

A new agenda and sign-in sheet were distributed and introductions were given.

Mohave Ground Squirrel Presentation. Mr. Phil Leitner from Cal State University Stanislaus gave a presentation on the Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS). Mr. Leitner has been studying the MGS for several years and is considered an expert on this animal. He presented a map that indicated the current range and corridors of the MGS and where most of the MGS study has taken place. A copy of the map was available for everyone to take. Next he discussed the key issues related to the squirrel; 1) Conservation, 2) Core Areas, 3) Connections-Corridors, and 4) Desert Renewable Energy. Mr. Leitner discussed current conservation efforts associated with the MGS what steps will be necessary to protect the current range and populations. The core areas were discussed along with the corridors that connect these populations. He discussed the need to conserve those areas within the corridors in an effort to allow populations to migrate between core areas. Emphasis was placed on the Edwards core population and the need to preserve the Hwy 58-Mojave to Kramer Junction corridor. Finally, Mr. Leitner talked about Desert Renewable Energy and the encroachment it has and will have on the MGS population. Under the topic of Desert Renewable Energy he discussed the RETI process, CREZ distribution and DOD wildlife refuges.

CLAWG Map General Discussion and GIS Layer Naming Discussion. Wes King from CH2MHill GIS at Edwards AFB gave a demonstration of a pdf map. The demonstration showed how a portable document format (pdf) could be used to provide the necessary information for developing and distributing requested, specific maps for CLAWG members. In this format, map data can be extracted from the main CLAWG map layers for development of layered pdf maps that can be more easily sent due to the considerably smaller file size as compared to a GIS file. Further, these layered pdfs can be accessed on any computer that has Adobe Acrobat Reader loaded.

The CLAWG map, which consolidates the region's habitat and military mission data from all the CLAWG participants onto one accessible map, requires refinement. Discussion of the mapping indicated a need to 1) rename the layers, 2) clean up the data that is currently available, 3) make the data available for use, and 4) develop a list of all the acronyms. A key starting point is the need to rename the layers so each CLAWG member can easily determine what each layer is by simply reading the layer name. Further, additional data is needed that describes the layer in more detail. During this CLAWG session, attendees agreed upon the layer naming convention attached at the end of these minutes. Please use this information to modify the titles of the layers you provided to the CLAWG for our map.

Acronyms and their meanings should be sent to Ryan Schulz, GIS analyst, at

rschulz@mojavedata.gov. When finished, this map will serve as a useful tool for regional land acquisition planning.

White Paper Update. Karin Messaros from NPS has submitted her draft of the White Paper to Russell Scofield. Land acquisition “lessons learned” still need to be provided by CLAWG members for a new section in the white paper to help new members set up their land acquisition projects. This is our second call for White Paper lessons learned; please submit yours as soon as possible.

Update on FY09 Land Acquisition Efforts. Those in attendance indicated there were no significant changes to current land acquisition projects. Comments were made that private agencies are purchasing land as a mitigation measure for the future. There was a brief “Yellowbook” discussion. Nancy Karl from Mojave Desert Land Trust discussed Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF) money and that there was a large land acquisition campaign going on just north of Joshua Tree National Park and Twentynine Palms. Nicole Johnson from the Native American Land Conservancy indicated that her organization is trying to be more systematic about the land they are trying to acquire. Her organization is also looking for partners in acquiring land and announced that the Desert Land/Sacred Land Gathering was still taking place on 30-31 Oct 2009. The BLM is working with the RLFF on establishing grants. Two major acquisition projects are currently under way. Both acquisitions total about 5000 acres and are located in the Imperial Valley. Bill Christian discussed acquisition projects along the Amargosa River and near Palisades Ranch.

Energy Development Update. The CLAWG has mapped some green power locations, energy corridors and proposals. The CLAWG needs to stay current on proposal adds/deletes and mitigation locations for these efforts on a recurring basis. Though there were no new energy proposals or issues to discuss, members discussed concerns about numerous wind and solar project applications proposed and being processed through the BLM. Further, BLM applications are not the only efforts in the region. Many go through city and county agencies as well. All agree we can’t say no to every proposal in the region but we can prioritize the areas we want to conserve and work to direct them to areas that are low impact to habitats and military missions.

Roundtable.

The NALC is still hosting the Native American Land Conservation Conference 30 -31 Oct at the University of California, Riverside Palm Desert campus.

The two-day event originally hosted by NPS in Las Vegas has been cancelled until further notice.

Next Meeting. 12 January 2010 @ 10:00 in the main conference room at the Mojave Preserve in Barstow.

CLAWG MAP LAYER NAMING CONVENTION

GIS Naming Structure for CLAWG:

YYYYMMDD_Description_Extent

YYYYMMDD – To the best of the users knowledge, provide the year, month and day the file was created. Files for which the user is unsure of the creation date, use a default of “01” for the day and for the month as well. An example of a layer with only a known year and no known dates would be 20090101_Description_Extent.

Description – The specific data the shape file covers: roads, hydrology, etc.

Extent – The geographical area of the shape file and the agency the layer was provided by or created for.

IE: MPR-FWS – this shape file covers the Mojave National Preserve made for or by the Fish & Wildlife Service.

EXAMPLE:

20090101_Hydrology_MPR-FWS

20080701_Roads_FtIrwin-DOD

20080715_Roads_FtIrwin-DOD

Abbreviations:

4ST – California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona.

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

CDA – California Desert Area

CDD – California Desert District

CMAGR – Chocolate Mountain Air Gunnery Range

DEM – Digital Elevation Model

DOD – Department of Defense

DOI – Department of Interior

DOQ – Digital Ortho Quad

DOQQ – Digital Ortho Quarter-Quad
DRG – Digital Raster Orthographic
DVNP – Death Valley National Park
EAFB – Edwards Air Force Base
FWS – Fish & Wildlife Service
GBNP – Great Basin National Park
IRW – Ft. Irwin
JTNP – Joshua Tree National Park
LM – Lake Meade Recreational Area
MCAGCC – Marine Air-Ground Combat Center
MCLB – Marine Corps Logistics Base
MPR – Mojave National Preserve
NAWS – Naval Air Weapons Station
NEL – Nellis Air Force Base
NPS – National Park Service
NWI – National Wetlands Inventory
RR – Railroads
SEI – Seismology
TRB – Native American Tribes
USFS – U.S. Forest Service
VEG – Vegetation