

MGS Working Group

September 21, 2009 Meeting
Mojave Preserve HQ, Barstow, CA

Attendees:

Russell Scofield, DMG

Fon Duke, DMG

D'Anne Albers, Defenders

Tonya Moore, DGF

Eric Weiss, DFG

Liana Aker, DoD

Meeting Minutes:

10:10 – 10:30 Review of Agenda and introductions (no agenda comments or additions were received prior to meeting).

10:30 – 12:00 Discussion regarding the direction to take current draft of the MGS Conservation Strategy (CS). The following is a summary of comments and suggestions from the group.

The decision about whether to start over with a new CS draft or continue with existing draft was addressed. The group prefers to continue with the basic format of the current draft and incorporate changes, additions and updates to the strategy as follows:

- Energy project development has become a huge West Mojave consideration in recent years. This topic must be expanded upon within the strategy with regard to updates of threat level to MGS, and extent of habitat fragmentation / habitat destruction.
- Need to update range maps and core population areas as per last three years' survey data (Leitner?).
- Need to compile all known sources of available research, survey data, etc. for MGS – develop a MGS data repository (Fon / Clarence) where participants can post literature.
- The following sections of the (October 2006) draft strategy were identified as needing obvious updating and revision:
 - Pg 2 (B); **Distribution:** (update as per new data)
 - Pg 3 (C); **Habitat Requirements:** (incorporate Dr. Leitner's et al newest data)
 - Pg 6 (E); **Food Habits:** (update with any new information)

- Pg 10 (I); **Interspecific interactions:** (include roundtail g.s. discussion)
- Pg 14 (4); **Energy Production:** (Expand and update)
- Pg 15 (C); Include discussion of energy project development in “**Habitat Degradation**” section.
- Pg 17 (3): Include discussion of habitat fragmentation (largely due to energy developments) proposed on current mitigation lands.
- Pg 18: (new #6): Include section addressing **Invasive Species**
- Pg 18: **Listing History;** update to include 90-day finding and pending 12-month review, any other developments or petitions??
- Pg 19: **Summary of Current Actions:** Update – many are no longer valid, viable measures.
- Pp 19 – 21: Respective agencies; update current management actions.
- Pp 21 – 28: Conservation Strategy section needs refining as above issues are addressed / resolved.

12:00 – 12:30 Other comments and topics of discussion:

- DFG may soon be able to provide GIS maps of all (pending / proposed?) energy developments statewide. (Tonya)
- DFG is willing to consider development of an alternative MGS survey and monitoring protocol to heighten detection reliability but cautions that the current protocol is what most project developers are (required to be?) using in determining presence of MGS on project sites.
- The CEC should be approached as to willingness to participate in MGS conservation strategy development (Russ?)
- Do we need to review the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to ensure the MGS plan aligns with the DRECP strategies?
- Provide Fon with Edwards AFB bibliography cd (Liana) and other pertinent reports (All) for the MGS data repository development.
- The group will be provided a copy of the current solar project development BMPs (Russ)

- Should we pursue the idea of forming a workshop to assemble MGS ecologists in the formulation of new survey and monitoring strategies? Does Becky Jones still have the original (budget) proposal for this event (Liana)? What possible sources of funding for this workshop do we have? Any potential funds from DMG or Defenders (D'Anne)?

Agenda Item for Next Meeting: Request that the Group review the existing draft strategy and provide comments (by October 30?) for discussion at the November meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Early November Tuesday, Wed or Thursdays (confirm with group)

Adjourn