

Minutes of Science Data Management Team meeting.  
Jan 14, 1999. Riverside, CA

ATTENDEES: Mickey Quillman (Ft. Irwin), Clarence Everly (DOD Coordinator), Kip Otis-Diehl (MCAGCC), Ed Lorentzen (BLM Sacramento), Patrick Clemans (MCAGCC), Ric Williams (EAFB), Hank McCutchen (Joshua Tree NP), John Hamill (DOI Coordinator), Robert Shanaberger (CA State Parks), Llouise Jee (CA State Parks), Marvin Urban (BLM Barstow), S. Mark Meyers (OSU, Corvallis), Dave Van Cleve (CA State Parks), Rob Lileholm (Utah State University, Logan), Richard Toth (Utah State University), Bill Fisher (Dept. Navy), Larry Foreman (BLM, Riverside), Jeff Lovich (USGS/BRD), Doug Scovill (Mojave Nat. Pres.).

- After introductions the GIS subgroup, chaired by Chrissie McAllister, adjourned to a separate meeting (summary notes below).
- Jeff Lovich briefed the group on the status of the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Science Program of the USGS. Because of budget problems research supported under this program will not be fully implemented in the Mojave Desert this year. Dr. Robert Fisher of the USGS/BRD San Diego Field Station will initiate preliminary research on how communities of reptiles and small mammals change in disturbance gradients at MCAGCC and Joshua Tree National Park. The study is expected to expand in FY2000.
- Jeff also briefed the group on the situation regarding experimental releases of biocontrol insects for control of saltcedar or tamarisk at over a dozen sites in the southwestern U.S. this spring. A meeting will be held in San Diego Feb 10-11 to discuss development and implementation of a research and monitoring program to determine the effects of biocontrol. Release sites were originally proposed in the Mojave but were not authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Service due to concerns for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher; a species that now nests in saltcedar thickets that replaced native riparian vegetation. The closest site to the Mojave is in the Owens Valley. For more information on the effort contact Dr. Jack DeLoach of the USDA/ARS at [deloach@brcsun0.tamu.edu](mailto:deloach@brcsun0.tamu.edu).
- Jeff reminded the group about the upcoming Mojave Desert Science Symposium at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Feb 25-27, 1999. Registration must be received no later than Feb 1 to attend the highly recommended field trip to the Nevada Test Site. See the web site at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/cc/symposium.htm> for more details and registration forms.
- The group received a briefing on the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) from principal investigators at Oregon State University and the University of Utah. Of particular interest was the discussion of "thresholds" of change in the Mojave. The idea is that change might continue along some predictable gradient until some critical threshold is reached. At that point conditions might change rapidly and states may be altered irrevocably. The SERDP team is trying to evaluate such scenarios in the Mojave in their analyses.
- SERDP proposals can be submitted for FY2000. See <http://www.serdp.gov/> for details.
- Ed Lorentzen from the BLM California State Office gave an overview of the Technical

Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Management Oversight Group (MOG) for the desert tortoise. The group is composed of representatives from state and federal resource management agencies from Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah who meet on a more-or-less annual basis to prioritize research activities for the desert tortoise. They in turn make recommendations to the MOG which includes BLM State Directors, FWS Regional Directors, and heads of the state game and fish agencies in the four states listed above. The TAC has been instrumental in finalizing recommendations for rangewide monitoring of tortoise populations recommended in the Recovery Plan for the species. For more information on the MOG and the TAC see <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/cc/tacmog.htm>.

- The meeting concluded with a discussion of issues to present at the next meeting of the Desert Managers Group in Laughlin Feb 23-24. Our new organization (with a GIS subgroup) will be the key item to present to the DMG. We will also discuss the SDMT's interest in reviewing developing plans prior to public release of drafts. Our review will help facilitate coordination and data sharing among agencies represented on the SDMT.

- The next meeting of the SDMT is March 17, 1999 at the BLM office in Riverside from 0900-1300 h.

Meeting Minutes from GIS Break-Out Session  
January 14, 1999 (Meeting held concurrently with the SDMT meeting)

Attendees: Chrissy McAllister (MDEP), Ric Williams (EAFB), Patrick Clemans (MCAGCC), Gary Lindberg (JOT), L. Louise Jee (Anza-Borrego), Robert Shanaberger (CA State Parks), Nanette Prantini (BLM Riverside), Jonathan Lee (Lake Mead), and Tom Zmudka (BLM Riverside)

- The group discussed the idea of having a permanent GIS sub-committee underneath the SDMT. The general consensus was that the need and the necessary level of attendance were not adequate at this time. We decided that continuing to meet as a break-out session during scheduled SDMT meetings was adequate. When the need for those meetings dropped off, reliance on a GIS listserver would be sufficient to keep all members up-to-date and informed of GIS and SDMT-related happenings in the desert. We also agreed that an in-person meeting of the GIS group could be called on an as-needed basis by anyone who felt the need to convene the group.
- The group solidified a March 1 deadline for compiling a first draft of a Mojave Desert GIS data catalog. All drafts will be submitted to Chrissy McAllister for compilation.
- Chrissy McAllister will circulate the list of GIS users and managers that she has collected over the last few months to all GIS members on the mailing list.
- The MDEP office will create a listserver for GIS users in the Mojave, to be used by GIS professionals to facilitate communication and data sharing.