Minutes of Science Data Management Team meeting.
April 15, 1999. Riverside, CA

PARTIAL LIST OF ATTENDEES: Mickey Quillman (Ft. Irwin), Clarence Everly (DOD Coordinator), Kip Otis-Diehl (MCAGCC), Patrick Clemans (Ft. Irwin), Ric Williams (EAFB), Hank McCutchen (Joshua Tree NP), Gary Lindberg (Joshua Tree NP), Alan O'Neill (Lake Mead NRA), S. Mark Meyers (OSU, Corvallis), Dave Mouat (EPA), Larry Foreman (BLM, Riverside), Jeff Lovich (USGS/BRD).

- The meeting started with an overview of issues discussed at the last Desert Managers Group (DMG) meeting (February in Laughlin). Emphasis was placed on the SDMT report to the DMG and discussion of FY2000 and FY2001 budget packages.

- Jeff gave an overview of the Mojave Desert Science Symposium. Over 220 people attended and there were 33 oral presentations. The web page is at http://www.werc.usgs.gov/mojave-symposium/ and it contains links to all of the abstracts for papers and posters.

- The group then reviewed the SDMT Mission Statement and FY99 work plan as presented to the DMG in February. Larry Foreman suggested that we try to reach out more to the Desert Information Resources Team.

- The presentation on fire and weed issues in the Mojave by Dr. Matt Brooks was canceled and will be rescheduled in the future.

- The group reviewed the FY2001 budget proposal for *Integrated Ecological Monitoring in the Mojave Desert* sent in to John Hamill on April 30.

- Most discussion focused on the FY2000 budget for *Integrated Ecological Monitoring in the Mojave Desert*. The President's FY2000 budget includes $221K for Integrated Ecological Monitoring in the Mojave Desert that is going to NPS, and $129K that is going to USGS for the same. USGS funding for this project is still unclear. DMG leads on the development of the FY2000 work plan are Tim Salt (BLM) and Alan O'Neill (NPS). The SDMT is the group tasked with development of the plan.

Alan suggested a template for the work plan as follows:

I. Develop data management system
- A. Assess hardware, software needs
- B. Develop model for data storage, quality assurance
- C. Develop model and staffing plan for data integration
- D. Develop model for integration into management decision making system

II. Use Parks as core areas within the desert for vital signs assessments
- A. Select regional coordinator/detail for vital signs program
- B. Review Lake Mead Vital Signs model for completeness at the other three parks
- C. Hold mini-vital signs workshops at each park

D. Develop vital signs list for each park with scientific review
E. Review desert-wide active monitoring projects/programs for fit into region-wide monitoring program

III. Develop monitoring protocols
A. Develop monitoring protocols for top five vital signs
B. Develop monitoring protocols for intensive site monitoring
C. Select intensive monitoring sites at four parks

- Our discussion launched from this template. The group decided that the FY2000 work would focus on getting set up to begin collecting data in FY2001. Also, the group decided that the Vital Signs program of the NPS would serve as the starting point for development of the final plan.

- Alan proposed filling the Coordinator position with someone from BRD.

- There was much discussion about the scope of the project. Although the intent was originally assumed to be ecosystem-wide (including four Mojave states), Larry thought that it should include the Colorado Desert portion of the California Desert Conservation Area. Some thought that it should only focus on California since the DMG is focused on California. Still others held out for the broader ecosystem-wide scope. This will need to be re-visited.

- We identified several tasks to be developed in the plan:

- recruit a coordinator
- set up meetings to finalize an accepted list of vital signs
- scope out the work area (Mojave-wide or not)
- revisiting similar monitoring strategies (e.g. EMAP)
- protocol development
- develop experimental design alternatives
- address data management needs
- integration with other efforts (SERDP, EMAP, DSS, MDEP, MDESP, tortoise monitoring)

- Jeff agreed to take the first stab at drafting the work plan in coordination with Alan. The group would then be solicited for comments. The DEADLINE IS MAY 7, 1999.

- The GIS subgroup reported on the results of their separate meeting. We still don’t have a product in terms of an inventory of GIS users, data layers, platforms, etc. but that will be forthcoming. A draft progress report will be delivered at the next SDMT meeting.

- The next meeting will be from 0900-1300 on May 25 at the BLM office in Riverside.