

**Minutes from Science and Data Management Team
meeting, 15 July, 1999, UC, Riverside**

Agenda

0900-0905 - Introductions

0905-0935 - Update on budget (John Hamill), Update on Mojave Desert Ecosystem Science Program (Dave Miller)

0935-1000 - Discussion of how many coordinators should be considered

1000-1030 - Do we need a raven program coordinator (Larry Foreman and Bill Boarman)

1030-1045 - Break

1045-1230 - Drafting the position description(s)

1230-1300 - Other issues, assignments, next meeting, adjourn

In attendance: Jeff Lovich, John Hamill, Clarence Everly, Larry Foreman, Bill Presch, Jim Kenna, Ray Bransfield, Jill Heaton, Dave Miller (contact info below).

Minutes

Funding for the various DMG initiatives is faring poorly in the latest round of Congressional budget wrangling. No money was allocated to Mojave in the Senate subcommittee. The House said no NPS spending on ecosystem projects like Mojave.

Dave Miller indicated that the \$500K increase to the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Science Program (MDESP) is not expected to go through.

Some concern was expressed that the MDESP program might only be partly relevant to the needs of the DMG. The Work Plan for MDESP in FY2000 was recently completed and USGS will provide an opportunity for the S&DMT to examine the package before presentation to the DMG in September.

The group worked on the filling in the blanks in the following matrix to prepare for drafting the Position Descriptions for the Coordinators.

Position	Supervisor	Perm/Term	Duty Station	Grade	Recruit. Off.
Ecological			BLM		NPS and or

research and monitoring	NPS/USGS*	Perm	Riverside	12-13	USGS
Tortoise monitoring	FWS (Bob Williams)	Perm	BLM Riverside	12-13	FWS

We agreed to the idea of including responsibility for coordinating raven issues with the Tortoise Monitoring Coordinator starting in FY2001.

There was a lot of discussion about where to locate the coordinators. We were in overwhelming agreement that they should be co-located. Larry indicated that Tim Salt said they had room in Riverside BLM. Another advantage of putting them in a BLM office is that they would have the fingerprints of several agencies on the positions (USGS, NPS, BLM, FWS). We felt that this was consistent with the intent of the DMG to work across agency boundaries. Another advantage is that the cooperators in the Colorado Desert feel like poor step children of the DMG. Locating the Coordinators in Riverside shifts the balance more equitably between Mojave and Colorado Desert issues. Finally, having the Ecological Research and Monitoring Coordinator in Las Vegas would not be viewed as desirable by the California DMG. In short, the table contains the recommendations that will be made at the next DMG meeting.

We worked on the PD for Ecological Research and Monitoring. John will provide some boilerplate on the DMG to include in the introduction of the PD's. Both he and Clarence will review all Coordinator PD's for consistency with DMG vision. Jeff and Jim will cobble up a rough draft based on comments and pass to Allan O'Neill for review before sending to John before the end of July.

We had various views on the exact chain of command for the Coordinators. In the case of the Ecological Research and Monitoring Coordinator, there were two basic models:

- 1) The Coordinator would be Chair of the S&DMT. The Team would act as an advisory group and the Coordinator would report directly to the DMG.
- 2) The S&DMT would retain a Chair and direct/advise the Coordinator with the Chair reporting to the DMG

The next meeting is scheduled for August 26 from 0900-1300 at the UC Riverside Library.

Sign up sheet for Science and Data Management Team

Date: 07-15-1999

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