

## 1.0 Background and Purpose

The California deserts (Figure 1) include some 100 communities, two national parks, one national preserve, six military bases, eight counties, 10 state parks, 37 federally recognized Native American Indian tribes, and more than 11 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The 25 million-acre desert region is situated within a day's drive of 40 million people and is a well-known destination for hundreds of thousands of out-of-state visitors each year. It is also the home of many unique wildlife and plant species and contains many outstanding cultural and paleontological resources. In addition, the California deserts are critically important training and testing grounds for the U.S. military.

By 2020 the deserts' permanent population is expected to increase by over 1 million and the population of the surrounding area is expected to increase by about 10 million. The demands of increasing use by millions of visitors and permanent residents will create mounting pressure and new challenges for land management agencies in the deserts. A mechanism for addressing desert-wide issues was established in 1994 in the form of the Desert Managers Group (DMG), an interagency group that is coordinating and integrating desert conservation, visitor services, and public safety efforts in the California deserts.

Partners involved with the DMG include the State of California (Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, and Caltrans), Kern, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties, the Department of Defense (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps), the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Geological Survey), and the U.S. Forest Service. More information on the DMG, including the Group's charter, organization, and current events is available at [www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov).

The purpose of this document is to summarize the accomplishments of the DMG in fiscal year 2007 and describe the goals and objectives established by the DMG for fiscal years 2008-2012. This document was approved by the DMG at its regular meeting **2 February, 2007**. As with all crosscutting multi-agency efforts, performance is dependent on the availability of adequate funds and staff for each agency to actively participate in these efforts.

## 2.0 FY 07 Accomplishments

DMG accomplishments for FY 07 are summarized below.

### *Goal 1. Restore selected upland and riparian habitats identified for restoration.*

- A. DMG agencies actively participated in the Mojave Weed Management Area (MWMA). Major activities focused on developing a plan for inventorying invasive species (tamarisk) and implementing control measures in the Mojave River.

- B. DMG agencies actively participated in the Low Desert Weed Management Area (LDWMA).

***Goal 3. Recover the desert tortoise in the California recovery units.***

- A. The DMG implemented a multifaceted education and outreach campaign.
1. Supported the Desert Tortoise Outreach Coordinator (DTOC). Awarded \$95 K grant through the OHV Commission Green Sticker Fund.
  2. Conducted a Mojave Max Emergence Contest in California. 315 students entered the contest.
  3. Wrote, recorded and distributed 6 new desert tortoise radio public service announcements. Subjects included:
    - i. Desert Tortoise the State Reptile
    - ii. Tires and Fires
    - iii. Tortoise on the Road
    - iv. Headstarting
    - v. Tortoise Tidbits
    - vi. Mojave Max Contest – 2008
  4. Edited the Nevada Mojave Max Program TV PSA making it more appropriate for California audiences. Distributed the TV PSA to Southern California theaters and TV stations.
  5. Produced a short Mojave Max/desert tortoise video clip for presentation on YouTube. Video featured Mojave Max dancing with a child to the tune of “The Tortoise Trot” performed by a local Joshua Tree singer/song writer.
  6. Wrote and released four press releases to print media. Topics included:
    - i. Mojave Max Emergence Contest.
    - ii. Punxsutawney Phil vs. Mojave Max.
    - iii. Desert Managers Group Awarded Off Highway Vehicle Green Sticker Funds.
    - iv. Desert Tortoise Ambassador Mojave Max Arrives in California.
  7. Conducted two Desert Tortoise education kit (Tortoise Trunks) workshops instructing local teachers on what is in the trunks and how to effectively utilize them in a classroom environment.
  8. Published Volume Three of the *Tortoise Times*.
  9. Attended and provided outreach material and Mojave Max at the following events:
    - i. California Date Festival- February 15
    - ii. California Desert Nature Festival April 11,12, 13

1. Conducted two workshops (Pet Questions/Focus on reptiles, Keeping your tortoise legal)
  2. Provided desert tortoise activities for kids daily in the Discovery Room
- iii. Poppy Festival Lancaster April 19
  - iv. Turtle Days Joshua Tree May 3
  - v. Endangered Species Day Barstow May 16
  - vi. California Turtle and Tortoise Clubs and Yucca Valley Rotary Club.
- B. Coordination among DMG member agencies has continued relative to the Ft. Irwin desert tortoise translocation project as well as current headstarting research activities.
- C. All tortoise data related to the Ft. Irwin desert tortoise translocation project are currently being provided to and managed by the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP), as stipulated in the FWS recovery permit for the project.
- D. FWS completed the Raven Environmental Assessment.
- E. FWS conducted Line Distance Sampling throughout the range of the desert tortoise.
- F. MDEP created and administered a Fort Irwin Translocation Project Internet Mapping Service to display data and facilitate project coordination among the numerous Fort Irwin translocation studies.

***Goal 4. Reduce and maintain burro populations to appropriate management levels and in appropriate locations.***

- A. BLM, in coordination with the Mojave National Preserve and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) removed 210 burros in FY 2007.
- B. BLM collected monitoring data within the Chicago Valley wild horse HMA for the Amargosa niterwort (*Nitrophila mohavensis*), a federally list species. No above ground stems were counted. This was attributed to the severe drought conditions. Habitat monitoring data for the Chocolate-Mule Mountain and the Chmeheuvi HMAs indicate the continued recovery of dry washes and riparian areas located within these HMAs.
- C. The BLM installed a below ground water storage tank and trough at West Well located within the southern portion of the Chemehuevi HMA. This project continues to greatly reduce the previously observed burro impacts within the residential areas of Havasu Landing and the riparian areas along this reach of the Colorado River. It was also an integral part of the successful water/bait trapping conducted during the summer of 2007 accounting for 46 of the 64 burros removed from this HMA.
- D. In FY07, BLM adopted 224 animals out of the Ridgecrest Regional Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Holding Facility. An additional 189 animals were adopted out at

satellite adoptions held throughout southern California for a total of 423 animals adopted within the California Desert District.

***Goal 5. Protect cultural resources and enhance public awareness of the sensitivity and value of paleontological and cultural resources in the California deserts.***

- A. A subgroup of the Paleontological and Cultural Resources Action Team (PACRAT) continued testing and evaluation of the automated Mojave Desert Cultural Resource Program (MDCUP) formerly known as MDHRGIS.

***Goal 6. DMG agencies will strive to understand and work collaboratively to resolve conflicts in each agency's mission.***

- A. Through regular DMG meetings and related activities, DMG agencies gained a greater appreciation of each agency's mission and programs.

***Goal 7. Develop a coordinated interagency system for delivering useful, comprehensive and consistent information about desert resources and recreation opportunities.***

- A. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) maintained the California deserts website, [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov).
- B. California State Parks maintained and operated the interagency "gateway" visitor center at Lancaster, California.

***Goal 8. Coordinate scientific studies and monitoring programs needed for effective resource management.***

- A. A book length manuscript, *THE MOJAVE DESERT: Ecosystem Processes and Sustainability*, resulting from the Mojave Desert Science Symposium, was submitted and externally peer-reviewed by University of Nevada Press. Based on those reviews it was accepted for publication.
- B. The DMG partnered with the University of Arizona Extension to host The Climate and Deserts Workshop: Adaptive Management of Desert Ecosystems in a Changing Climate. Over 150 scientists, and managers, and agency staff attended the workshop.

***Goal 9. Inventory, monitor, and protect desert water resources.***

- A. DMG agencies utilized the Level I protocols provided by the Desert Research Institute for inventorying the hydrological and biological characteristics and quality of desert springs.
- B. DOI agencies held coordination meetings in accordance with the 2004 Amargosa Basin MOA.

***Goal 10. Integrate and share data and database management systems needed for effective resource management and planning.***

- A. The MDEP maintained its GIS database ([www.mojavedata.gov](http://www.mojavedata.gov)) of natural and cultural resources in the California deserts.

***Goal 11. Ensure the orderly and efficient operation of the DMG and its work groups.***

- A. The DMG updated and finalized its FY 08 Work Plan and accomplishment report in May 2008.
- B. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (DOD) maintained the DMG website ([www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov)) to allow for the efficient dissemination of information about the DMG and its work group activities.
- C. The DMG continued coordination with the Clark County HCP on development and implementation of its desert tortoise education and outreach program in California.
- D. The DMG initiated coordination with the Southern Nevada Agency Partners (SNAP) and the Nevada Mojave Desert Initiative to identify potential areas for future collaboration.

***Goal 12. Garner support for the DMG, its mission, activities, and funding initiatives.***

- A. Briefings on DMG activities and accomplishments were provided to a variety of government and non-government entities.

***Goal 13. Make high priority Abandoned Mine Land (AML) sites that pose a significant environmental and safety threat safe by reducing or removing physical and chemical hazards associated with the site.***

- A. The AML/Hazmat Work Group worked with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to develop protocols to significantly expedite Section 106 compliance of AML treatments. DMG agencies can incorporate the protocols into existing Section 106 protocols or establish them as a new programmatic agreement with SHPO.
- B. Joshua Tree National Park and the Needles BLM Field Office worked collaboratively to install bat gates on numerous hazardous mine features.
- C. The AML/Hazmat Work Group continued discussion on prioritization of AML sites and initiated development of contracting tools that will expedite remediation of priority AML physical hazards. Currently the AML/Hazmat Work Group is working with the California Department of Conservation Abandoned Mines Lands Unit to develop a prioritization schema and contracting solutions.

### **3.0 The 5 Year Work Plan**

The 5 Year Work Plan is intended to facilitate internal and external communication about the goals and activities of the DMG and serve as a tool to allow the DMG and its Work Groups to track activities and projects. The 5 Year Work Plan is updated and approved annually by the DMG.

A brief description of the goals and activities for FY 08 – FY 12 are provided below. Fiscal year of activity completion, lead agency, and current activity status are noted in parentheses.

#### ***Goal 1. Restore selected upland and riparian habitats identified for restoration.***

- A. The DMG will work with the Mojave Weed Management Area (MWMA) to coordinate weed management activities in the Mojave Desert and implement the WMA long-range plan, including assisting the MWMA with coordination of restoration activities in the Mojave River. The DMG will partner with the MWMA to obtain funding and implement priority weed control activities identified in the long-range plan. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing.)**
- B. The DMG will work with the Low Desert Weed Management Area (LDWMA) to coordinate weed management activities in the Low Desert and implement the WMA strategic plan. The DMG will partner with the LDWMA to obtain funding and implement priority weed control activities identified in the LDWMA strategic plan. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing.)**
- C. The DMG will continue to develop partnerships to secure grant funding, support existing grants, and implement the following high priority riparian restoration projects:
  - 1. Amargosa River
  - 2. San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek
  - 3. Mojave River
  - 4. Dos Palmas
  - 5. East Mojave Desert**(FY 08-12, BLM/NPS/CDFG/ABDSP, ongoing.)**
- D. The DMG will coordinate and sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Arid Southwest Lands Habitat Restoration Conference. **(FY 09, All, ongoing)**

#### ***Goal 2. Clean up and restore illegal dumps that pose a public health or environmental threat, and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping in the future.***

- A. The DMG will clean up and restore illegal dumps by leveraging budgets with grants and partnerships, and sponsoring community/volunteer illegal dump cleanups on public lands. **(FY 08-12, BLM/NPS/Kern County, ongoing.)**

- B. The DMG will coordinate and implement actions to prevent illegal dumping in the California deserts. The DMG focus will be on cooperating with state and local government to increase the awareness of illegal dumping and its environmental consequences, create prevention solutions, and improve illegal dumping laws. **(FY 08-12, BLM/NPS/Kern County/San Bernardino County/Imperial County, ongoing)**

***Goal 3. Recover the desert tortoise in the California recovery units.***

- A. The DMG will establish regional Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams (RITs), as specified in the revised draft Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan, to work with the FWS and other stakeholders to develop recovery action plans for desert tortoise recovery units in the California deserts that identify and cost share high priority desert tortoise recovery, monitoring, and research actions **(FY 08-12, All)**.

1. Establish and maintain a recovery decision support system and an in-house repository for all desert tortoise research, monitoring, and recovery implementation data. The DOD Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will coordinate with the FWS and the Redlands Institute to develop the decision support system and database. **(FY 08-12, FWS, ongoing)**
2. The DMG will implement a raven management program in the California deserts according to the priorities identified by the RITs. Actions include:
  - a. The DMG will implement raven management actions, in accordance with the Raven EA, to reduce raven predation on the desert tortoise in selected Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs), critical habitat, and/or NPS units. **(FY 08-12, All, funding dependent)**
  - b. The DMG will continue inventory of raven nests. **(FY 08-12, All, funding dependent)**
  - c. Develop and implement protocols to determine baseline and effectiveness monitoring of raven management actions to reduce raven predation on the desert tortoise (e.g., landfill operation). **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**
  - d. Develop a raven management outreach plan. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**
  - e. Work with utility companies to implement management actions for the common raven on their facilities. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**
3. The DMG will identify opportunities for and implement effectiveness monitoring in conjunction with desert tortoise recovery actions. Information from recovery action implementation and effectiveness monitoring will be integrated into the recovery decision support system identified in A.1. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**
4. The DMG will explore and identify opportunities for increasing funding to support DT recovery action implementation, population monitoring, and effectiveness monitoring. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**

- B. The DMG will implement a multifaceted education and outreach campaign aimed at increasing public support for and involvement in desert tortoise recovery in California. Required actions include:
1. Maintain support for the Tortoise Outreach Coordinator (FY 08-09, NPS, ongoing)
  2. Maintain Media campaign. (FY 08-09, NPS, ongoing)
  3. Maintain the Mojave Max Program (FY 08-12, NPS, ongoing)
  4. Develop, distribute and maintain a Desert tortoise education module. (FY 08-09, NPS, ongoing)
  5. Maintain the desert tortoise website. (FY 08-12, FWS/MDEP, ongoing)
- C. Develop a coordinated Desert Tortoise Population Augmentation strategy. Facilitate replication of research in multiple land management areas to develop data sets with wider applicability across a broad geographic range. (FY 08-12, All, ongoing)
- D. The DMG will monitor desert tortoise population status in relation to recovery goals for California desert recovery units. Actions include:
1. Evaluate, modify as necessary, and continue the Line Distance Sampling (LDS) program to assess desert tortoise density, habitat quality, and threats. (FY 08-12, FWS, ongoing)
  2. Publish an annual report of desert tortoise LDS monitoring results. (FY 08, FWS, ongoing)
  3. Identify opportunities to integrate LDS and PSP efforts to produce the best data in the most cost effective manner possible and provide a method by which managers can prioritize funding for population monitoring. (FY 08-09, FWS/CDFG/BLM, ongoing)
  4. Sample selected desert tortoise Permanent Study Plots (PSP) in California. (FY 09-12, CDFG/BLM/USGS, funding dependent).
- E. The DMG will support DTRO efforts to collect information that will lead to a better understanding of diseases that affect desert tortoise and identify disease control mechanisms. (FY 08-12, FWS, ongoing)

***Goal 4. Reduce and maintain burro populations to appropriate management levels and in appropriate locations.***

- A. BLM, FWS, DOD and the State will continue work to reduce burro populations to appropriate management levels (AML); NPS will work to eliminate burros entirely from Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve. Water/bait trapping will be conducted when it is advantageous within the Mojave National Preserve, NAWS China Lake, Ft. Irwin, Clark Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA), Centennial HMA, along the Colorado River within the Picacho State Recreation Area west of Yuma AZ, and along the Coachella Canal adjacent to the

Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range. An estimated 100 burros and 25 horses will be removed during FY08. (FY 08-12, BLM/NPS/DOD, ongoing)

Table reflecting current estimated burro population within the California Desert District

<b>California Desert District Burro Herd Areas and Herd Management Areas as of 5/23/2008</b>			
<b>HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS AREAS MANAGED FOR BURROS</b>	<b>Burro AML</b>	<b>Estimated Burro Population</b>	<b>Last Gather Year</b>
CHEMEHUEVI	108	137	Aug-07
CHOCOLATE-MULE MOUNTAINS	121	120	Mar-06
LEE FLAT	0	0	Oct-01
PIPER MOUNTAIN	82	0	Apr-94
WAUCOBA-HUNTER MOUNTAIN	11	14	Oct-01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>271</b>	
<b>HERD AREAS (HAs) AREAS NOT MANAGED FOR BURROS</b>			
CENTENNIAL - BLM & NAWS		80	Feb-08
CLARK MOUNTAIN - BLM & NPS (Mojave National Preserve)		52	Jan-07
DEAD MOUNTAIN		29	Apr-82
PANAMINT - BLM & NPS (Death Valley)		75	Mar-08
PIUTE MOUNTAIN		29	Oct-87
SLATE RANGE - BLM & NAWS		40	Feb-08
OUTSIDE OF HERD AREAS		100	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>405</b>	

- B. BLM will continue to monitor the habitat within the three remaining herd management areas, Chocolate/Mule Mountain, Chemehuevi, and Chicago Valley. (FY 08-12, BLM, ongoing)
- C. BLM will continue to place a large emphasis on adoptions in FY08. The target for the State is 1,000 animals. Of those, 325 animals will be adopted in Ridgecrest with an additional 325 animals adopted at scheduled satellite adoptions within Southern California. (FY 08, BLM, ongoing)

*Goal 5. Protect cultural resources and enhance public awareness of the sensitivity and value of paleontological and cultural resources in the California deserts.*

- A. The DMG will conduct training meetings to familiarize member agencies with the MDCUP system. MDEP will continue to assist the San Bernardino Information Center with conversion and proofing of geospatial data related to cultural resources located within San Bernardino County. (FY 07, OHP/SBIC/PACRAT, ongoing)

- B. Develop an MDCUP implementation plan in cooperation with the California Office of Historic Preservation. **(FY 07, OHP/PACRAT, ongoing)**
- C. Continue conducting annual 2-day PACRAT Workshops. Workshops will be designed as a forum for sharing new information/methods and identifying high priority regional research questions. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**
- D. The DMG will consider whether general overviews of the ethnography, rock art and historic/prehistoric archaeology of the California Deserts are of continued interest to member agencies and will create an inventory/bibliography of those documents already in place. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**
- E. The DMG will continue to provide a means for disseminating information to the general public on new archaeological or paleontological work in the desert through short (abstract length) written discussions and annotated bibliographies posted on the DMG website. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**
- F. Initiate effort towards scoping and implementing consistent regional standards in archaeological recording and reporting. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**
- G. Continue efforts to develop an overarching Mojave Desert site protection plan to assist member agencies in dealing with looting of archaeological and paleontological sites. Distribute results of the Edwards AFB survey. Reassess training needs and program requirements following review of the survey. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**
- H. Identify and review means for protecting significant cultural and paleontological resources as new wind energy generation fields are developed and new energy transmission corridors are created or existing corridors are expanded. **(FY 07-11, PACRAT, ongoing)**

*Goal 6. DMG agencies will strive to understand and work collaboratively to resolve conflicts in each agency's mission.*

- A. Each agency will actively consider DMG partner agency mission requirements in their land and resource management and planning activities and analyze/consider potential impacts of their proposed land management decisions/actions on other agencies. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**
- B. The Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG) will develop a white paper regarding DMG member agency policies and practices for mitigation land acquisition and the management of mitigation lands. Inconsistencies will be identified in an accompanying issue paper. **(FY08, BLM, FWS, CDFG, Caltrans, on track)**

***Goal 7. Develop a coordinated interagency system for delivering useful, comprehensive and consistent information about desert resources and recreation opportunities.***

- A. The California deserts website, [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov), will be maintained by the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP). **(FY 08-12, MDEP, ongoing)**
- B. DMG agencies will continue to maintain interpretive posters currently installed at Caltrans roadside rest areas in the California deserts. **(FY 08, All, funding dependent)**
- C. DMG agencies will complete conceptual exhibit plans for the exhibits at the reconstructed CV Kane rest area. This will be followed up with formal exhibit designs in FY 08 and exhibit fabrication during FY09. **(FY 08-10, Caltrans/State Parks/NPS/BLM/MDEP/San Bernardino County, funding dependent)**
- D. Maintain and operate the interagency “gateway” visitor center at Lancaster, California. **(FY 08-12, State Parks, ongoing)**

***Goal 8. Coordinate scientific studies and monitoring programs needed for effective resource management.***

- A. Publish THE MOJAVE DESERT: Ecosystem Processes and Sustainability, a compendium of papers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mojave Desert Science Symposium. **(FY 08, NPS/USGS, ongoing)**
- B. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will maintain and update the web accessible Research Inventory Database. Managers will encourage scientists and their staff to input data and/or update the database with projects as they occur. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**

***Goal 9. Inventory, monitor, and protect desert water resources.***

- A. Use DMG endorsed Level 1 spring survey protocols to inventory/characterize springs/wetlands in the deserts. **(FY 08-12, NPS/BLM/DOD, funding dependent)**
- B. DMG agencies will continue to work cooperatively to manage and protect water resources in the Amargosa Basin. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**

***Goal 10. Integrate and share data and database management systems needed for effective resource management and planning.***

- A. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will maintain its GIS database ([www.mojavedata.gov](http://www.mojavedata.gov)) of natural and cultural resources in the California deserts. **(FY 08-12, MDEP, ongoing)**

- B. DMG member agencies will share information on new/current restoration techniques, sources of labor and material, partnership opportunities, ongoing restoration projects, and monitoring via the DMG's restoration webpage. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**
- C. The DMG will provide guidance and recommendations to USGS researchers within the Mojave Desert, including the Recoverability and Vulnerability of Desert Ecosystems project, aimed at improving the management applicability of research efforts. **(FY 08, All, ongoing.)**
- D. DMG member agencies will share data on land use, important resources, planned acquisitions, and other related information to develop a secure GIS Internet Mapping Service to be used by Conservations Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG) members to facilitate and prioritize agency land acquisition efforts. **(FY08 All, on tract)**

***Goal 11. Ensure the orderly and efficient operation of the DMG and its work groups.***

- A. Update the DMG Work Plan to reflect FY 07 priorities and FY 06 accomplishments. Detailed annual work plans will be developed for specific initiatives as needed. **(FY 08, DOD/DOI Coordinators, ongoing)**
- B. The FWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) will coordinate implementation of various tortoise monitoring, research and recovery activities on behalf of the DMG. **(FY 08-12, FWS, ongoing)**
- C. MDEP will maintain the DMG website ([www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov)) to allow for the efficient dissemination of information about DMG and work group activities. **(FY 08-12, MDEP, ongoing)**
- D. DMG member agencies will provide incentives/time for appropriate staff to attend and actively participate in standing and ad hoc DMG work groups. **(FY 08-12, All, ongoing)**
- E. DMG member agency Managers will participate in and provide management guidance to standing DMG work groups.
  1. PACRAT (**Wood, Reynolds**)
  2. HAZMAT (**Trost, Maben**)
  3. DT Information and Education (**Sauer, Wood**)
  4. CLAWG (**Borchard, Wood**)

***Goal 12. Garner support for the DMG, its mission, activities, and funding initiatives.***

- A. DMG representatives will brief federal, state, and local agencies, Congressional representatives, and interested parties about DMG activities and initiatives, as requested. **(FY 08-12, DOD/DOI, ongoing)**

- B. The DMG will cooperate with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to secure funding for DMG initiatives and establish a California Deserts Conservation Fund. **(FY 08, DMG Coordinators, ongoing.)**

***Goal 13. High priority Abandoned Mine Land (AML) sites that pose a significant environmental and safety threat will be made safe by reducing or removing physical and chemical hazards associated with the site.***

- A. Reclaim high priority AML sites that pose a significant environmental and safety threat. **(FY 08 – 12, BLM/NPS/Kern County, ongoing)**
- B. Gain a better understanding of AML sites by combining existing AML data into one database/data layer. **(FY 08, BLM/NPS/Kern County/MDEP, ongoing)**
- C. Form partnerships to leverage funding and accomplish initiatives and goal objectives. **(FY 08-12, BLM/NPS/Kern County, ongoing)**

***Goal 14. Ensure the long-term protection of Mojave Ground Squirrel habitat and the viability of the species.***

- A. Foster communication and coordination among participants and other interested parties to identify opportunities for collaborative action to further the acquisition, protection, restoration and management of MGS habitat. **(FY 08, CDFG/FWS/BLM/NPS/DOD/Kern County/San Bernardino County, ongoing)**
- B. Conduct research needed to further define the range and ecological requirements of the species. **(FY 08, CDFG/FWS/BLM/NPS/ DOD/Kern County/San Bernardino County, ongoing)**
- C. Implement conservation actions in accordance with a science-based adaptive management program. **(FY 09, CDFG/FWS/BLM/NPS/DOD/Kern County/San Bernardino County, ongoing)**
- D. Coordinate with the West Mojave HCP process and maintain consistency between conservation strategies on private and federal lands.

Figure 1

