

Prospectus

Desert Tortoise Summit

December 19, 2002

Goals:

- Share information on the status of the desert tortoise populations, factors that are contributing to its decline, and efforts and accomplishments related to recovery of the desert tortoise.
- Promote a dialogue and collaborative approach to resolving ESA (especially desert tortoise) issues among government, stakeholders, and business
- Build support for implementation of an effective and timely desert tortoise recovery effort

Target Audience

- **Congress:** Congressional delegation (CA, NV, UT); Congressional Committee staff
- **Stakeholders:** desert tortoise interest groups, environmental groups, off-highway vehicle groups, equestrian groups, ranchers, general public, other stakeholders
- **Business:** DaimlerChrysler Corp, Other
- **Media**
- **State, Federal, Local Government Officials and Tribes.** local governments; desert managers, Regional, State and Washington office agency/department executives; Native American Tribes
- **Academia:** University of Redlands, University of California, Riverside, Cal State University Fullerton, University of Nevada, Reno;

Time Frame/Location: October 10-11, 2003, in Palm Springs, CA

Preliminary Program Topics/Options:

- Keynote speakers
 - Sustainable desert resources and uses for people and wildlife
 - Political setting and perspectives
 - Integrating science with recovery
- Synthesis of current scientific knowledge related to desert tortoise
 - Life history and ecology
 - Population status, trends and viability
 - Threats and impacts (disease, predation, habitat loss/degradation, fragmentation, climate change/drought
 - Effectiveness of recovery actions (vehicle management, grazing control,
- Success stories
- Historical perspectives
- Implementation plans and priority recovery actions
- Stakeholder perspectives and solutions
- Outreach and education
- Stakeholder involvement
- Funding needs and opportunities

Prospective Speakers:

- NGO's leaders – user and environmental groups
- Business leaders
- Leading desert ecologists
- Leading desert tortoise biologists
- Political Leaders
 - Bob Hight (D-CDFG)
 - Congressman Jerry Lewis (CA)
 - Congresswoman Mary Bono (CA)
 - Senator Diane Feinstein (CA)
 - Senator Harry Reid (NV)
 - Senator Bennett (UT)
 - Judge Harold Manson (AS-FWP)
 - Steve Williams (D-FWS)

Planning Committee Invitees:

- John Hamill DOI (lead)
- Clarence Everly DOD
- Bob Williams FWS
- Todd Jones FWS-NCTC
- Linda Hansen BLM
- Steve Razo BLM
- Mary Martin NPS
- Sherry DuFault USGS
- Becky Jones Cal Department of Fish and Game
- Roy Denner Off Highway Business Association
- Gerry Hillier Quad State Coalition
- Mike Connor Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
- Elden Hughes Sierra Club
- Bill Mader Administrator, Red Cliffs Desert Preserve, UT
- Jill Heaton University of Redlands
- Bill Presh Cal State University, Fullerton
- Richard Tracy University of Nevada, Reno
- Clair Thorpe National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Note: Other agencies or organizations that support the goals of the Summit are welcome to participate in the Planning Committee.

Executive Advisors:

- Steve Thompson, FWS
- Mike Pool, BLM
- John Jarvis, NPS
- Michael Carr, USGS
- Bob Hight/Ron Rempel, CDFG