

DMG 5-Year Plan



Vision

To work together to conserve and enhance the California Deserts for current and future generations.



Mission

- Develop coordinated and complimentary management guidelines, practices, and programs.
- Coordinate and integrate efforts in the California deserts to:
 - Conserve and restore desert resources
 - Provide high quality recreation, public education, and visitor services
 - Provide for safety of desert users
- Develop and integrate the databases and scientific studies needed for effective resource management and planning.
- Promote compatibility in the application of each agency's mission.





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 07-11, 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 07-11, 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 07-11, BLM/NPS/CDFG/ABDSP, ongoing.)**
- D. The DMG will coordinate and sponsor the 2nd 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 07-11, 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 07-11, 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 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 DT recovery, monitoring, and research actions. **(FY 07, 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 07-08, NPS, ongoing)**
2. Maintain Media campaign. **(FY 07-08, NPS, ongoing)**
3. Maintain the Mojave Max Program **(FY 07-11, NPS, ongoing)**
4. Develop and distribute a Desert tortoise education module. **(FY 07-08, NPS, ongoing)**
5. Conduct a public attitude and effectiveness study **(FY 07, NPS, ongoing)**
6. Develop a desert tortoise website. **(FY 07, FWS/MDEP/Redlands Institute, ongoing)**



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- C. The DMG will implement a raven management program in the California deserts. Actions include:
1. Complete appropriate NEPA documentation and secure the necessary permits required by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to implement a raven management program. **(FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**
 2. The DMG will implement raven management actions to reduce raven predation on the desert tortoise in selected Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs), critical habitat, and/or NPS units. **(FY 07-11, FWS, funding dependent)**
 3. The DMG will continue inventory of raven nests. **(FY 07, FWS, funding dependent)**
 4. 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 07, FWS, ongoing)**
 5. Develop a raven management outreach plan. **(FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**
 6. The Hazmat Work Group will provide information to the Raven EA team concerning solid waste disposal as needed/requested. **(FY 07, Hazmat WG, ongoing)**
 7. Work with utility companies to implement management actions for the common raven on their facilities. **(FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**



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- D. The DMG Free Roaming Dog Work Group will, in cooperation with local animal control agencies, acquire and analyze data and produce GIS maps depicting information on occurrences of "uncontrolled dogs" in the desert. An effort will be made to assess the threat of free roaming dogs associated with current and projected urban development in terms of its proximity to desert tortoise critical habitat and DWMAs. A completed draft report will be presented to the DMG. **(FY 07, CDFG, funding dependent)**
- E. Develop a coordinated Desert Tortoise Headstarting and Translocation strategy. Facilitate replication of research in multiple land management areas to develop data sets with wider applicability across a broad geographic range. **(FY 07-11, All, ongoing)**
- F. 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 07-11, FWS, ongoing)**



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- 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 07-11, FWS, ongoing)**
 2. Publish an annual report of desert tortoise LDS monitoring results. **(FY 07, 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. **(FY 07-11, FWS/CDFG/BLM, ongoing)**
 4. Sample selected desert tortoise Permanent Study Plots (PSP) in California. **(FY 07-11, CDFG/BLM/USGS, funding dependent).**
 5. Establish and maintain a recovery decision support system and an in-house repository for all desert tortoise research, monitoring, and recovery implementation data via an MOU. The MOU will outline protocols for the structure and maintenance of the data repository and accessing data in the repository. 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 07-08, 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). **(FY 07-11, BLM/NPS/DOD, ongoing)**
- B. BLM will continue to monitor the habitat within the three remaining herd management areas, Chocolate/Mule Mountain, Chemehuevi, and Chicago Valley. **(FY 07-11, 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)**





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- 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)**
- I. The DMG will provide support for the Three Corners Conference, a one-day archaeological meeting to be held at UNLV in October 2007. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**





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

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 07-11, All, ongoing)**





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**, will be maintained by the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP). **(FY 07-11, MDEP, ongoing)**
- B. DMG agencies will continue to maintain interpretive posters currently installed at Caltrans roadside rest areas in the California deserts. **(FY 07, All, ongoing)**
- 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 07 - 09, Caltrans/State Parks/NPS/BLM/MDEP/San Bernardino County, ongoing)**
- D. Maintain and operate the interagency “gateway” visitor center at Lancaster, California. **(FY 07-11, 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 3rd Mojave Desert Science Symposium. **(FY 07, NPS/USGS, ongoing)**
- B. Coordinate development and implementation of standardized protocols for high priority ecosystem indicators. **(FY 06-07, NPS/USGS/ CDFG/BLM/DOD, ongoing)**
- C. 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 07-11, 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 07-11, NPS/BLM/DOD, ongoing)**
- B. Develop a web accessible database for spring and wetland data. **(FY 07-08, All/MDEP, on hold)**
- C. DMG agencies will continue to work cooperatively to manage and protect water resources in the Amargosa Basin. **(FY 07-11, All, ongoing)**
- D. Assess the scope and feasibility of a DMG sponsored workshop or conference to bring attention to the importance of and strategies for protecting water in the desert. **(FY 09, NPS/USGS/BLM/California State Parks, 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) of natural and cultural resources in the California deserts. **(FY 07-11, 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 07-11, All, ongoing)**
- C. Develop a disturbance/restoration database that will be used to document disturbances based on a standard protocol for all agencies to use and document the details of restoration activities so that restoration success can be monitored in the future. **(FY06-07, All, on track)**
- D. D. 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 07-11, All, ongoing.)**



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. **(FY07, DOD/DOI Coordinators, ongoing)**
- B. The BLM Natural Resources Restoration Coordinator will coordinate implementation of dump clean up and habitat restoration efforts on behalf of the DMG. **(FY 07-11, BLM, position vacant)**
- C. The FWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) will coordinate implementation of various tortoise monitoring, research and recovery activities on behalf of the DMG. **(FY 07-11, FWS, ongoing)**
- D. MDEP will maintain the DMG website (www.dmg.gov) to allow for the efficient dissemination of information about DMG and work group activities. **(FY 07-11, MDEP, ongoing)**
- E. DMG member agencies will provide incentives/time for appropriate staff to attend and actively participate in standing and ad hoc DMG work groups. **(FY 07-11, All, ongoing)**
- F. 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. DT Planning and Implementation Work Group **(Williams, Schramm) (FY 07, All, ongoing)**





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 07-11, 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 07 – 11, BLM/NPS/Kern County, ongoing)**
- B. Gain a better understanding of AML sites by combining existing AML data into one database/data layer. **(FY 07, BLM/NPS/Kern County/MDEP, ongoing)**
- C. Form partnerships to leverage funding and accomplish initiatives and goal objectives. **(FY 07-11, 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 07, 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 07, 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 08, CDFG/FWS/BLM/NPS/DOD/Kern County/San Bernardino County, ongoing)**

