



# The Desert Managers Group: Coordinating DT Recover Actions Work Group Report

October 1, 2004



# Summary DMG Discussion July 2004

## **Purpose :**

1. Understand the role and responsibility of various organizations/groups involved with planning and implementation of DT recovery, monitoring and research activities
2. Define role and responsibility of the DMG



# Groups Evaluated

- **DT Management Oversight Group** (Williams)
- **Fort Irwin Mitigation Group** (DOD)
- **West Mojave Plan Implementation Group** (Hamill)
- **Desert Tortoise Monitoring Implementation Committee** – (Williams)
- **Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Assessment Committee** – (Williams)
- **FWS DT Recovery Office** (Williams).
- **DT Recovery Team.** Williams
- **Desert Managers Group** (Hamill).



# Comments/Concerns

- It's unclear how DT work gets coordinated or done.
- The relationship between the DMG and MOG is unclear.
- There appears to be duplication of effort and overlap among the groups.
- responsibility of the various groups and the land managers responsibilities is unclear.
- It's unclear how managers can get science support/advice.
- The focus needs to be getting recovery actions implemented on the ground. Staff are needed to make recovery actions happen (FWS-Ventura is allowing staff to dedicate a portion of their time to work on recovery actions)
- no one is clearly in charge
- Role of the DMG is to coordinate implementation of recovery actions in California (e.g., raven management)



# Conclusion

***Established work group to define:***

- 1. the role and function of the FWS recovery office and its relationship to various work groups/ organizations, including the DMG. The Work Group will also address the***
- 2. role and responsibilities of the DMG in the planning and implementation of recovery, monitoring, and research activities for the desert tortoise in California.***

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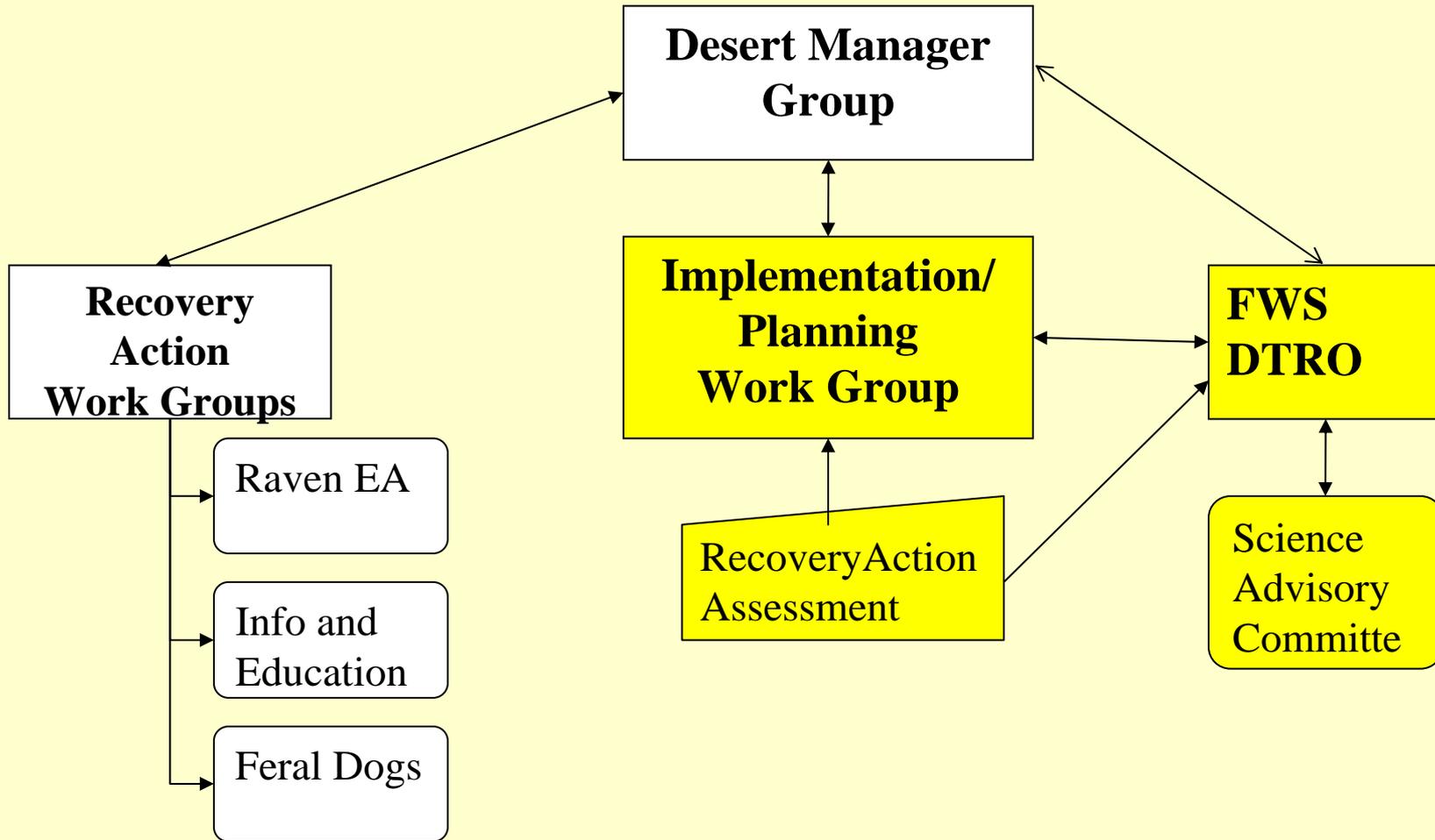


# Setting the Stage

- EAFB does not want the DMG to become a decision making body/forum—its role is coordination not decision making.
- FWS is looking for a commitment by the agencies to work cooperatively to share resources to accomplish high priority recovery actions.
- Funding is limited and incentives are needed to get the agencies to work cooperatively to recover the DT.
- focus should be on implementation of recovery actions and effectiveness monitoring—this will not happen without additional resources.



## Proposed Management Framework Desert Tortoise Recovery Actions in California



# DT Implementation/Planning Work Group

## Responsibilities:

- Oversee mgt plan/recovery action assessment
- Prioritize recovery actions- (based on commitments/actions included in existing agency land management plans)
- Develop step down implementation plan
- Annually review progress, evaluate effectiveness, develop coord work plan



# Membership:

- Agency senior level biologists/resource specialists
- DTRO Coordinator (staff support)
- GS Science Committee representative
- Invited Stakeholders



# Stakeholder Involvement

- DMG would set the ground rules for participation
- Invite stakeholders that will contribute to implementation (solution focused)
- Should not have veto over priorities
- Qualification requirements for involvement/participation



# Next Steps

- Establish DT implementation Planning work group
  - Clarify mission, assignment, membership
  - Stakeholder involvement/participation
- Land Management Plan/Recovery Action Evaluation
  - Define scope
  - Partner with University of Redlands

