

# Mojave Ground Squirrel Partnership Workgroup



# Goal

- ◆ **Ensure long-term protection of MGS habitat & viability of species**

# Objective 1

**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.**

# Tasks

- ◆ Task 1) Continue commitment to DMG MGS working group.
- ◆ Task 2) Identify funding opportunities
- ◆ Task 3) Identify other collaborators

# Objective 2

## Determine extent of MGS range

- ◆ Task 1) Prioritize areas for survey/monitoring
- ◆ Task 2) Update current map
- ◆ Task 3) Determine the most efficient and statistically valid method of locating MGS
- ◆ Task 4) Conduct surveys

# Objective 3

## Determine ecological requirements

- ◆ Task 1) Determine environmental parameters and limiting factors
- ◆ Task 2) Determine habitat elements of population sources, sinks and corridors

# Objective 4

## **Develop/implement conservation measures to sustain long term viability of the species**

- ◆ Task 1) Limit loss of habitat and effects on MGS through effective conservation measures and when applicable through mitigation and compensation
  - 1) Avoid/minimize impacts to MGS and its habitat
  - 2) Restore/enhance habitat

- ◆ Task 2) Secure and/or manage sufficient core habitat and corridors to maintain self sustaining populations
  - ◆ Task 3) Develop and implement interim conservation measures
  - ◆ Task 4) Maintain genetic variation throughout the range
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# Objective 5

## Develop and Implement an Adaptive management plan

- ◆ Task1) Long term monitoring for status trends
- ◆ Task 2) Population estimates and baseline population data

◆ Task 3) Continue to support research that promotes conservation of MGS

- 1) Locate core populations
- 2) Determine important corridors between core areas
- 3) Determine barriers to movement and id measure to minimize barriers
- 4) Document genetic variation through out the range

- ◆ Task 4) Create/maintain central data base
- ◆ Task 5) Standardize data collection
- ◆ Task 6) Investigate potential for translocation/reintroduction of MGS
- ◆ Task 7) Assess need for and develop education materials as necessary
- ◆ Task 8) Effectiveness monitoring of measures and make changes in implementation if needed.

# Conservation Strategy Format

- ◆ Executive Summary
- ◆ Preface
- ◆ Overview
- ◆ Species Description
- ◆ Threats
- ◆ Listing History
- ◆ Conservation Strategy
- ◆ Overall goal
- ◆ Conservation Objectives
- ◆ Overview and Purpose
- ◆ Planning Actions
- ◆ Summary of current Management Actions
- ◆ Implementation Schedule
- ◆ Habitat Management
- ◆ Mitigation
- ◆ Compensation
- ◆ Monitoring Program
- ◆ Restorative Measures.

# ESRP Proposal

## Statistician/population biologist

Convene a MGS Workshop

Workshop would be by invitation

Participation would be representative of the necessary expertise area (MGS biologists, Mojave Desert plant communities, GIS, etc.)

Some invitees will not be familiar with MGS ecology

They will have very specialized skills in population biology, experimental design, and statistics

They will also provide an unvarnished “outside” perspective on the issues involved

Participants paid an honorarium plus expenses for participation

Some would have more involvement

Tasks: literature review, workshop coordination/completion, synthesis of inputs, draft survey/monitoring Protocols, finalize protocols

ESRP lead on coordination and development of the protocols, but with specialized assistance from other experts, the workshop participants, and the DMG

# Workshop Specifics

- ◆ Workshop: 12-15 + facilitator
- ◆ 3-4 biologists with MGS knowledge and W. Mojave plant communities
- ◆ 2-3 Conservation Planning Expertise
- ◆ 3 USGS
- ◆ 3-4 sampling/population modeling experts

# Proposed dates

- ◆ June 23rd - potential mini-workshop in conjunction with Con Bio conference in San Jose
- ◆ July 17th – EPA proposal due date
- ◆ October 4-10th -proposed workshop dates
- ◆ November 30 - draft of report
- ◆ January 15th, 2007 - final report

# Possible Funding Sources

- ◆ EPA Grant for funding workshops, conferences and meetings
- ◆ Funds from DTPC
- ◆ DFG MGS Research funds
- ◆ ??????? (you could place your agency name here)



**Happy  
Earth Day**

# Ft. Irwin Ground Squirrel



