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## **Desert Tortoise Ambassador Mojave Max Arrives in California**

Mojave Max arrived at Joshua Tree National Park and was greeted warmly by park staff and Superintendent Curt Sauer. Max was driven over from his family home at Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area, Clark County, Nevada. He arrived with great anticipation and perfect timing, wildflowers are blooming and the weather is spectacular. Max is visiting California for both business and pleasure. He will be working with the Desert Managers Group (DMG). The (DMG) is a consortium of county, state, federal and military agencies that work together to manage federal and state lands within Southern California. Max will soon begin touring Southern California's community events, rodeos, nature festivals and OHV rallies. After a brief stay in Joshua Tree National Park, Max will start his duties as Desert Tortoise Ambassador at the California Desert Nature Festival's "Party for the Planet". The festival will be held at the Living Desert in Palm Desert California on April 11-13. For more information visit the Living Desert web site at <http://www.livingdesert.org/> or the Natural Science Collaborative site at <http://www.naturalsciencecollaborative.com/>

Mojave Max' duties will include distributing information to the public about desert tortoises as a threatened species. Max also has a contest for California's school children. **The Mojave Max Emergence Contest** ([www.mojavemax.com](http://www.mojavemax.com)) is a guessing game for students. Students may go on-line and register a guess when the real Mojave Max will emerge from his burrow for the first time in 2008. Mojave Max's scientific, yet capricious weather forecasting methods are a focal point of the contest. Students are encouraged to study the local environment and the weather, and then enter their prediction of when Mojave Max will emerge from brumation (reptilian form of hibernation). The Desert Managers Group and Max hope the contest will mature into a regional awareness campaign. Any student in grades 1-12 may enter the contest. Eligibility for prizes is restricted to students enrolled in public, private and registered home schools in the following counties in California: Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

For more desert tortoise media information including news stories, press releases, newsletters, and public service announcements go to: <http://www.deserttortoise.gov/information/news.aspx>

For Desert Managers Group information, go to <http://www.dmg.gov>



**Mojave Max visits Superintendent Sauer at Joshua Tree National Park  
March 13, 2008**



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