



DMG – DATA MANAGEMENT TEAM

# Annual Report – FY 00



*October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000*



*Mission: Improve the use and sharing of information and data management systems and promote cost effective data management in the California Deserts.*

# Desert Managers Group

## DATA MANAGEMENT TEAM

*Paul “Kip” Otis-Diehl, Chair*

### Introduction

A very challenging and busy year. We began to meet independently from the Science Team and were given our own Charter by the DMG. We increased the “quality” (if not quantity) participation at our meetings. We discussed our “customers.” Which of course were not only the DMG, but also the other DMG working groups and teams; the academic community; the general public; and last, but certainly not least, our own individual agencies.

We also discussed our individual goals for what we wanted out of this investment in time and energy; because it was more than just a job we were assigned to do. Professional growth, networking opportunities, skill building, and the sense of accomplishment for meeting goals assigned to us -- is what kept us going.

We reviewed the “Workplan” and prioritized those issues that would be the foundation for the myriad other issues that are very important to the DMG. We selected goals that we thought a few people could accomplish in the coming year:

1. Establish “Listservers” for both team members and interested personnel (see appendix)
2. Common “Data Standards” (see below)
3. Attended various other DMG “Team” meetings and provided technical advice
4. Established Subcommittees & Points of Contact for various initiatives (to be revised at the next DMT meeting)
  - a) Data Standards Subcommittee
  - b) Decision Support System
  - c) SERDP “Alternative Futures” Project
  - d) SPOT satellite data acquisition
  - e) Geo-community websites

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## GIS DataBase Survey Results / Implications

Mr. Jeff Foisy will present a more in-depth report on the results of the survey. But a couple of major points bear appearance here.

1. “Data Acquisition” is a significant issue among GIS personnel - how to acquire data in a timely manner at lowest cost.
2. “Data Sharing” – with minimal red-tape (and put it on the MDEP or CDCN web-site)
3. On-line forums – discussion groups; how to encourage use

The GIS DataBase will be an ongoing effort. Your support is needed and appreciated.

## Common “Data Standards”

Challenge: To establish common data standards... Our goal was to establish basic data standards for: 1) the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program; 2) the California Desert Clearinghouse Network; 3) any ‘data sharing’ activities among DMG members; 4) any ‘data acquisition or procurement’ activities sponsored by the DMG.

The following standards are preliminary recommendations. Final recommendations will be provided to the DMG following the next DMT meeting.

1. Projection – UTM, Zone 11, NAD 83 (WGS 84), Meters
2. Spatial Data Output Formats
  - a) ESRI Arc/Info<sup>1</sup> “Coverage” – Arc Interchange Format (.e00)
  - b) Multi- & Single-band raster data sets (e.g., Satellite Imagery, Digital Orthophotoquads, Digital Raster Graphics, etc.) as appropriate -
    1. ESRI Grid Stack format
    2. ERDAS<sup>2</sup> Imagine format
    3. “geotiff” format
    4. MrSid<sup>3</sup> format
3. File Transfer & Storage Compression – “gzip” / “TAR”
4. Data Structure(s)
5. File Naming Conventions

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<sup>1</sup> Arc/Info™ is a Geographic Information System (GIS) software application produced by ESRI, Redlands, California. No government endorsement implied.

<sup>2</sup> ERDAS Image™ is a proprietary format. No government endorsement is implied.

<sup>3</sup> MrSid™ is a proprietary raster compression algorithm produced by LizardTech Inc. No government endorsement implied.

6. Minimal Metadata Requirements – in accordance with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)
  - a) File name, Brief Description, Keywords
  - b) Projection, Datum, Units
  - c) Name / USGS Quadrangle Reference
  - d) Topology, Coordinates, Accuracy
  - e) Publication and/or acquisition date
  - f) Data source, Quality assessment
  - g) Dataset type and File Format
  - h) Agency, POC
7. Contract language for data deliverables

### **California Desert Clearinghouse Network (CDCN)**

Preliminary discussions were held on creating a “California Desert Clearinghouse Network” (CDCN).

1. Integrated local and regional data sets
2. Seamless, current, and accessible information network
3. Operational efficiencies (equipment & personnel), “reachback” support
4. Regional Resource Management & Planning assistance
5. Public access (FOIA)

### **Final Comment**

This was the year of preparing the soil for planting... The new Chair has the opportunity to sow the seeds and reap a bountiful harvest... to help the DMG accomplish its mission and reach its goals.

I enjoyed working with the Desert Managers, my fellow Team Members in all the disciplines, the multitudes of ‘interested’ people who participated in this DoI/DoD/State of California collaboration, and of course the coordinators, John Hamill and, especially, Clarence Everly.

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## Appendix

### 1. Team Members

Paul Kip Otis-Diehl  
MCAGCC (FY00 Chair)  
Tom Zmudka  
BLM CDD (FY01 Chair)  
Jeff Foisy  
MDEP (FY01 Vice-Chair)

Clarence Everly, DOD/MDEP  
John Hamill, DOI  
Mickey Quillman, Ft. Irwin

Lorrie Agnew, MCAGCC  
Matt Klein, Mojave NP  
Gary Lindberg, Joshua Tree NP  
Dan Pantone, Ft. Irwin  
Nanette Pratini, BLM, UCR  
John Vogel, USGS  
Ric Williams, Edwards AFB

### 2. "GIS" Listserv (Email)

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34 subscribers as of 9/26/00

### 3. DMG – DMT Brochure