

Highlights:
DMG Collaborative Management Workshop
Role of the DMG in Desert Tortoise Recovery
June 12-13, 2002
Ventura CA

The Collaborative Management Workshop was facilitated by Dr. Todd Jones (FWS, NCTC) and Dr. Mickey Benson (Monitor Associates).

Key questions/issues

- Why do tortoise populations continue to decline despite recovery efforts to date?
- What needs to be done to reverse the decline?
- Are current priorities properly aligned in light of continued population decline?
- What role will the DMG play in addressing these questions and leading research monitoring, and recovery efforts in California?

Leadership

- Sense of urgency in the DMG about continuing population decline of tortoise driving DMG to take more aggressive leadership posture
- The scientific and land and resource management that make up the DMG have the authority, capability and responsibility to effect recovery of the desert tortoise
- The DMG will be catalyst for shaping direction and policies related to DT recovery
- The DMG can create a climate that affords members the safe platform to take courageous actions (e.g., predator control)

“We have a flag and we are going to plant it”

Coordination Implementation of Recovery, Monitoring, Research Actions

- Compile a list what's been done to date to recover the DT in California
- Develop action priorities by recovery unit
- Develop research priorities – find out reasons for current massive decline
- Review and evaluate effectiveness
- Assimilate and disseminate info on Best Practices
- Conduct DOD “5 Step” Planning Process” at September Meeting

Obtaining the Resources to Achieve Recovery

- ID funding needs
- Advocate for Funding
- Elevate issues to Headquarters/Congress
- ID strengths/weaknesses of agencies
- Internally - pool resources
- Externally - obtain ext. resources
- Collaborate on funding requests
- Involve all California players (including those not on DMG)

Coordinate with the DT Management Oversight Group

- Provide data on DT in California to help MOG make informed decisions
- Keep MOG informed on status/activities related to DT in California
- Enlist their support

Educating Ourselves/Public

- Collate and publicize what being done in California
- Be proactive to address critics (GAO; IG audits)
- Be forum for discussion of actual and perceived agency actions
- Network