



**Washington, DC Briefings
March 15 through 19, 2010
Summary**

Consistent messages for all briefs

- History, form, and function of DMG
 - That DMG is a valuable collaborative tool for both on-the-ground project implementation and regional planning and policy issues.
 - DMG and Southern Nevada Agency Partnership should be the framework for a Mojave Desert subunit of the Desert LCC.
 - Education is a critical recovery action for the desert tortoise and that the DMG DTIYE program has established success and should be continued.
 - A federal MGS listing would significantly impact many DMG members and DMG is working on a conservation strategy to avert listing. The conservation strategy could also be a component of the DRECP.
 - DMG members generally support alternative energy development in the desert but not all members support all projects. As a body, DMG wants to support REAT agencies in their coordinated project analyses, cumulative analyses, mitigation planning, and DRECP development but does not want to become involved with individual project permitting.
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- **Fred Pease**- DOD DOI Liaison
 - Provided abbreviated DMG briefing
 - Fred was involved in the DMG overflight workgroup in 1990s and was aware of older DMG successes.
 - *Fred recommended that DMG engage in additional overflight coordination projects.* He provided a book titled US Air Force and National Park Service Western Pacific Regional Sourcebook as an example of a product that DMG could expand.
 - **Gary Frazer**- FWS AD Endangered Species, Rick Sayers- FWS Chief Division of Consolation, HCPs, Recovery, State Grants
 - Provided full DMG briefing.
 - Gary was involved in DMG in 1990s budget initiatives.
 - Group was impressed by Desert Tortoise Youth Education (DTYE) program
 - Group wanted to be sure DTRO and DTSDSS was integrated into DMG initiatives. We reassured them that both were.
 - Group supported the idea of the California RITs being DMG workgroups.
 - **Mary Tisdale**- BLM Education Division Chief
 - Provided abbreviated DMG brief with focus on DTYE.

- Mary was very interested in our DTIYE program.
- She suggested Russell contact Elizabeth Wooster of her staff to hone a BLM budget proposal.
- Mary said we need to tie youth education to jobs and climate change as much as we can.
- **Mary suggested we add our programs to the Hands on the Land website located at <http://www.blm.gov/education/LearningLandscapes/index.html>. Note- after examining the website DTIYE does not directly fit the Hands on the Land criteria but some of our partners' programs do.**
- **Robin O'Malley- USGS Climate Change Wildlife Research Science Center Partnership Coordinator**
 - Provided full DMG brief with focus on LCC and science.
 - Specifically discussed the value of continued USGS niche and landscape genetic modeling that elucidates adaptation and migration corridors.
 - Robin provided information on LCC evolution and emphasized that LCCs are still a moving target.
 - Robin said that DMG and SNAP are ideal framework for LCCs.
 - Robin agreed that niche modeling and landscape genetics will be critical for climate change mitigation planning.
- **Bea Van Horne- USGS Ecosystem Program Coordinator**
 - Provided abbreviated DMG brief. Cut short by next meeting.
- **Marcia McNutt- USGS Director, USGS Directorate**
 - Provided full DMG brief with focus on LCC and science.
 - Specifically discussed the value of continued USGS niche and landscape genetic modeling that elucidates adaptation and migration corridors.
 - Dennis discussed the value of DMG to him as a manager.
 - Marcia stated that she was from California and was somewhat familiar with many desert issues.
 - Marcia articulated support for the DMG collaborative process.
 - Marcia suggested that the LCC should focus efforts on a few keystone or high profile species such as desert tortoise. The *canary in the coalmine* cliché was suggested.
- **Deanna Archulata- DAS-WS**
 - Provided full DMG brief with focus on LCC and science.
 - Dennis discussed the value of DMG to him as a manager.
 - Deanna provided information on LCCs and we discussed the value of using DMG and similar partnerships as framework for LCCs.
 - Deanna asked about challenges to the DMG and Dennis discussed the challenge of funding related to both coordinated budget request and pooling funding for collaborative projects. The examples of desert tortoise line distance sampling, conferences, DTIYE program, the raven film were provided. Deanna asked about the DOI Coordinator funding and Russell provided the position's history and current status. **Deanna suggested that the DOI Coordinator should be funded by the DOI Working Capital Fund and requested that we follow up with her assistant.**
- **Olivia Ferriter - Director of Office of Policy Analysis and Karen Siderelis- DOI Geospatial Information Officer, Kim Magraw-Program Analyst**
 - Both Olivia and Karen are familiar with DMG so an update on current accomplishments and programs was provided.

- *Olivia provided her perspective on LCCs and suggested that we meet with Kit Batton and that we attempt to get on the agenda of a Climate Change Task Force meeting.*
- Olivia felt the DMG is well positioned to serve as the LCC for the Mojave and congratulated our good work thus far.
- **Dan Wenk**- DD Operations NPS, Mickey Fearn DD NPS, Janea Scott- Special Assistant to the AS-FWP Counselor, Michael Bean, Counselor to AS-FWP, Eileen Sobeck- DAS-FWP, Fatima Ahmad- Special Assistant to AS-FWP
 - Provided full DMG brief.
 - Dennis discussed the value of DMG to him as a manager.
 - There was some discussion of alternative energy development in the desert. The DMG position of supporting the permitting agencies in project and mitigation planning and analysis was strongly stated.
 - Dennis discussed the cumulative impacts of all desert land uses (development and conservation) and the absolute need to sound, long-term planning.
 - Mickey asked about challenges to the DMG and Dennis discussed the challenge of funding related to both coordinated budget request and pooling funding for collaborative projects. The examples of desert tortoise line distance sampling, conferences, DTIYE program, the raven film were provided. ***Mickey requested a follow-up of challenges that we have overcome and challenges we have yet to overcome.***
- **Nate Hawley**- Deputy Director Office of Youth in Natural Resources, Robin Snyder- Volunteer and Youth Programs Coordinator, Eugenie Bostrom- Office of Youth in Natural Resources
 - Provided abbreviated DMG brief focusing on DTIYE.
 - Nate and Robin were very impressed by DTIYE accomplishments and our partnerships with TLD, DOW, and San Diego Zoo.
 - ***Nate suggested that Mojave Max should attend next year's Earth Day Celebration on the National Mall.***
- **Karen Siderelis**- DOI Geospatial Information Officer, Kim Magraw-Program Analyst
 - Fon discussed MDEP and activities the program is looking into.
 - Karen asked about data standards across various agencies and how MDEP deals with those issues along with research in mobile data collection.
 - Fon and Karen discussed data repositories, data.gov, and other portals with which MDEP could be associated.
 - The idea of developing a Smartphone application that could link desert tortoise monitoring with youth education and citizen science was discussed. The application would allow the user to document a tortoise sighting and teach the user about tortoise ecology. ***A prospectus for the application will be provided to Karen.***
- **Bruce Beard**- Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Basing Directorate, Jan Larkin- Outreach Coordinator Sustainable Rangers Initiative
 - Provided full DMG briefing and update
 - Dennis discussed the value of DMG to him as a manager.
 - Bruce and Jan have been directly involved in DMG in the past and support DMG and its mission within the geographic area.
 - We discussed WRP, their mission, and the relationship between WRP and DMG. Parties agreed that DMG and WRP needed close coordination. ***Russell and Fon will try to attend the next WRP meeting.***
 - Fon provided a brief of MDEP. Jan and Bruce seemed unaware of MDEP and its programs.

- We discussed the difficulties of coordinated budget requests and interagency transfers to pool money for interagency projects. ***Bruce suggested that we raise the issue with OMB and volunteered to get an audience for us. Bruce also requested a white paper outlining the problem.***
- **Kit Batten**- Science Advisor to the DS
 - Provided full DMG brief with focus on LCC and science.
 - Discussed DMG role in the LCCs
 - Kit suggested that we request funding and support for a Mojave subunit of the Desert LCC to the BLM Director. *Note- we did not do this.*
 - ***Kit suggested that we brief the Climate Change Task Force.***
- **Bob Abbey**- BLM Director, Dan Lechefskey- BLM Climate Change Coordinator
 - Provided full DMG brief focusing on DTIYE, desert tortoise, and LCCs
 - Bob supported DMG efforts in all areas.
 - Sharing of resources and the associated difficulties therein were discussed and Bob suggested that if we encountered opposition to the collaborative paradigm, he would be willing to become involved.
- **Ray Brady**- BLM Energy Team Lead, Linda Resseguie- Solar PEIS Project Manager
 - Abbreviated DMG brief with focus on energy related topics.
 - The message that DMG members generally support alternative energy development in the desert but not all members support all projects was clearly communicated. Using DMG as a coordinative body with the non-REAT agencies was discussed. There was also discussion on ways to involve the non-REAT agencies without slowing down project analyses.
 - DMG involvement in the Solar PEIS and DRECP was discussed. ***Linda requested that DMG become more involved in the California Working Group for the PEIS.*** Russell discussed the DMG MGS conservation strategy and how that could fit into the DRECP.
 - Russell discussed DMG science initiatives, their timing, and how to fit results into the various alternative energy planning efforts.