

3.0 The 5 Year Work Plan

The 5 Year Work Plan is intended to facilitate internal and external communication about the goals and activities of the DMG and serve as a tool to allow the DMG and its Work Groups to track activities and projects. The 5 Year Work Plan is updated and approved annually by the DMG.

A brief description of the goals and activities for FY 07 – FY 11 are provided below. Fiscal year of activity completion, lead agency, and current activity status are noted in parentheses.

Goal 1. Restore selected upland and riparian habitats identified for restoration.

- A. The DMG will work with the Mojave Weed Management Area (MWMA) to coordinate weed management activities in the Mojave Desert and implement the WMA long-range plan, including assisting the MWMA with coordination of restoration activities in the Mojave River. **The DMG will partner with the MWMA to obtain funding and implement priority weed control activities identified in the long-range plan. (FY 07-11, All, ongoing.)**
- B. **The DMG will work with the Low Desert Weed Management Area (LDWMA) to coordinate weed management activities in the Low Desert and implement the WMA strategic plan. The DMG will partner with the LDWMA to obtain funding and implement priority weed control activities identified in the LDWMA strategic plan. (FY 07-11, All, ongoing.)**
- C. **The DMG will provide information on new/current restoration techniques, sources of labor and material, partnership opportunities, ongoing restoration projects, and monitoring via the DMG's restoration webpage. (FY 06, BLM/MDEP, behind schedule.)**
- D. **Create a database of restoration projects in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts and analyze the effectiveness of various restoration projects and techniques. (FY 06-07, USGS, on track)**
- E. **The DMG will provide guidance and recommendations to USGS researchers within the Mojave Desert, including the Recoverability and Vulnerability of Desert Ecosystems project, aimed at improving the management applicability of research efforts. (FY 06-10, BLM/NPS, ongoing.)**
- F. **BLM, GS, State Parks, and CDFG will implement the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the conservation and restoration of the San Felipe Creek-San Sebastian Marsh Watershed. (FY 06-10 BLM/ABDSP, ongoing.)**

G. The DMG will continue to develop partnerships to secure grant funding, support existing grants, and implement the following high priority riparian restoration projects:

1. Amargosa River
 2. San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek
 3. Mojave River
 4. Dos Palmas
 5. East Mojave Desert
- (FY 06-10, BLM/NPS/CDFG/ABDSP, ongoing.)**

H. The DMG will support NPS efforts to update and reprint the **Beginners Guide to Upland Habitat Restoration**. **(FY 06, NPS/USGS, behind schedule/funding dependent.)**

I. The DMG will coordinate and sponsor the 2nd Arid Southwest Lands Habitat Restoration Conference. **(FY 08, all, ongoing)**

Goal 2. Clean up and restore illegal dumps that pose a public health or environmental threat, and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping in the future.

A. The illegal dump database will be maintained and high priority sites will be identified for cleanup based on threats to public health, safety or the environment. A report of priority dumpsites will be provided to the managers. **(FY 06, BLM/NPS/Kern County/San Bernardino County, behind schedule, dependent on staff support.)**

B. The DMG will clean up and restore illegal dumps by leveraging budgets with grants and partnerships, and sponsoring community/volunteer illegal dump cleanups on public lands. **(FY 07-11, BLM, NPS, Kern County, funding dependent/ongoing.)**

C. The DMG will coordinate and implement actions to prevent illegal dumping in the California deserts. The DMG focus will be on cooperating with state and local government to increase the awareness of illegal dumping and its environmental consequences, create prevention solutions, and improve illegal dumping laws. **(FY 07-11, BLM, NPS, Kern County, San Bernardino County, Imperial County, ongoing)**

D. The Hazmat Work Group will provide information to the Raven Work Group/EA team concerning solid waste disposal as needed/requested. **(FY 06, BLM, ongoing)**

Goal 3. Recover the desert tortoise in the California recovery units.

A. USGS will finalize and distribute their report on the Effectiveness of Desert Tortoise Recovery Actions. **(FY 06, GS, behind schedule)**

- B. The DMG will work with the **U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution** FWS and other stakeholders to develop recovery action plans for desert tortoise recovery units in the California deserts that identify and cost share high priority DT recovery, monitoring, and research actions. **(FY 07, DT Implementation and Planning Work Group/FWS)**
- C. The DMG will implement a multifaceted education and outreach campaign aimed at increasing public support for and involvement in desert tortoise recovery in California. Required actions include:
1. Maintain support for the Tortoise Outreach Coordinator **(FY 07-08, NPS)**
 2. Maintain Media campaign. **(FY 07-08, NPS)**
 3. **Maintain the Mojave Max Program (FY 07-11, NPS)**
 4. Develop and distribute a Desert tortoise education module. **(FY 07-08, NPS)**
 5. Conduct a public attitude and effectiveness study **(FY 07, NPS)**
 6. Develop a desert tortoise website. **(FY 07, FWS/MDEP/Redlands Institute)**
- D. The DMG will implement a raven management program in the California deserts. Actions include:
1. **Complete appropriate NEPA documentation and secure the necessary permits required by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to implement a raven management program. (FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**
 2. **The DMG will implement raven management actions to reduce raven predation on the desert tortoise in selected Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs), critical habitat, and/or NPS units. (FY 07-08, FWS, funding dependent)**
 3. **The DMG, in cooperation with the University of Redlands, USGS, and interested stakeholders will continue inventory of raven nests. (FY 07, FWS, funding dependent)**
 4. **Develop and implement protocols to determine baseline and effectiveness monitoring of raven management actions to reduce raven predation on the desert tortoise (e.g., landfill operation). (FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**
 5. **Develop a raven management outreach plan. (FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**
 6. **The Hazmat Work Group will provide information to the Raven Work Group/EA team concerning solid waste disposal as needed/requested. (FY 07, ongoing)**
 7. **Work with utility companies to implement management actions for the common raven on their facilities. (FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**
- E. The DMG Free Roaming Dog Work Group will, in cooperation with local animal control agencies, acquire and analyze data and produce GIS maps depicting information on occurrences of "uncontrolled dogs" in the desert. An effort will be made to assess the threat of free roaming dogs associated with current and projected urban development in terms of its proximity to desert tortoise critical habitat and DWMAs. A completed draft report will be presented to the DMG. **(FY 07, CDFG, funding dependent)**

- F. Develop a coordinated Desert Tortoise Headstarting and Translocation Plan. **(FY 07, DOD/USGS/FWS/CDFG, ongoing)**
- G. The DMG will support DTRO efforts to collect information that will lead to a better understanding of diseases that affect desert tortoise and identify disease control mechanisms. **(FY 07-11, FWS, ongoing)**
- H. The DMG will monitor desert tortoise population status in relation to recovery goals for California desert recovery units. Actions include:
1. Evaluate, modify as necessary, and continue the Line Distance Sampling (LDS) program to assess desert tortoise density, habitat quality, and threats. **(FY 07-11, FWS/MDEP, on track)**
 2. Publish an annual report of desert tortoise LDS monitoring results. **(FY 07, FWS, ongoing)**
 3. Identify opportunities to integrate LDS and PSP efforts to produce the best data in the most cost effective manner possible and provide a method by which managers can prioritize funding. **(FY 07-11, FWS/CDFG/BLM)**
 4. Sample selected desert tortoise Permanent Study Plots (PSP) in California. **(FY 07-11, CDFG/USGS, ongoing)**
 5. Establish and maintain a recovery decision support system and an in-house repository for all desert tortoise research, monitoring, and recovery implementation data via an MOU. The MOU will outline protocols for the structure and maintenance of the data repository and accessing data in the repository. The DOD Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will coordinate with the FWS and the Redlands Institute to develop the decision support system and database. **(FY 07-08, FWS/MDEP, ongoing)**
- I. As a condition of any new or renewed Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or California Endangered Species Act (CESA) research permit, the FWS DTRO and CDFG will require all agencies/institutions/researchers to abide by established data management protocols and submit to the desert tortoise data repository a brief annual report along with a complete copy of their field data. **(FY 07, FWS/DFG, complete data requirements pending development of DTRO recovery database)**
- J. The DMG will identify opportunities for and implement effectiveness monitoring in conjunction with desert tortoise recovery actions. Information from recovery action implementation and effectiveness monitoring will be integrated into the recovery decision support system identified in J.5. **(FY 07-11, All)**
- K. The DMG will explore and identify opportunities for increasing funding to support DT recovery action implementation, population monitoring, and effectiveness monitoring. **(FY 07, All, ongoing)**

Goal 4. Reduce and maintain burro populations to appropriate management levels and in appropriate locations.

- A. BLM, FWS, DOD and the State will continue work to reduce burro populations to appropriate management levels (AML). **(FY 07, BLM/NPS/DOD, funding dependent.)**
- B. BLM will continue to monitor the habitat within the three remaining herd management areas, Chocolate/Mule Mountain, Chemehuevi, and Chicago Valley. **(FY 07-11, BLM, ongoing)**
- C. **BLM will continue to place a large emphasis on adoptions in FY07. (FY 07, BLM, ongoing)**

Goal 5. Protect cultural resources and enhance public awareness of the sensitivity and value of paleontological and cultural resources in the California deserts.

- A. **Complete development of a functional Mojave Desert Historical Resources GIS (MDHRGIS);** The DMG will conduct training meetings to familiarize member agencies with the MDCUP system. MDEP will continue to assist the San Bernardino Information Center with conversion and proofing of geospatial data related to cultural resources located within San Bernardino County. **(FY 07, OHP/SBIC/PACRAT/MDEP, on track)**
- B. **Develop an MDCUP implementation plan in cooperation with the California Office of Historic Preservation. (FY 07, OHP/PACRAT/MDEP, on track)**
- C. Conduct the first annual 2-day PACRAT Workshop, designed as a forum for sharing new information/methods and identifying high priority regional research questions, during the summer of 2006. **(FY 07, PACRAT, behind schedule)**
- D. The DMG will consider whether general overviews of the ethnography, rock art and historic/prehistoric archaeology of the California Deserts are of continued interest to member agencies and will create an inventory/bibliography of those documents already in place. **(FY 07, PACRAT, behind schedule)**
- E. The DMG will continue to provide a means for disseminating information to the general public on new archaeological or paleontological work in the desert through short (abstract length) written discussions and annotated bibliographies posted on the DMG website. **(FY 07, PACRAT/MDEP, ongoing)**
- F. **Develop an annual outreach program that contributes to other statewide events during California Archaeology Week. (FY 06, PACRAT)**
- G. Initiate effort towards scoping and implementing consistent regional standards in archaeological recording and reporting. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**

- H. Continue efforts to develop an overarching Mojave Desert site protection plan to assist member agencies in dealing with looting of archaeological and paleontological sites. Distribute results of the Edwards AFB survey. Reassess training needs and program requirements following review of the survey. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**
- I. Identify and review means for protecting significant cultural and paleontological resources as new wind energy generation fields are developed and new energy transmission corridors are created or existing corridors are expanded. **(FY 07-11, PACRAT, ongoing)**
- J. The DMG will provide support for the Three Corners Conference, a one-day archaeological meeting to be held at UNLV in October 2007. **(FY 07, PACRAT, ongoing)**

Goal 6. DMG agencies will strive to understand and work collaboratively to resolve conflicts in each agency's mission.

- A. Each agency will actively consider DMG partner agency mission requirements in their land and resource management and planning activities and analyze/consider potential impacts of their proposed land management decisions/actions on other agencies. **(Ongoing, all)**

Goal 7. Develop a coordinated interagency system for delivering useful, comprehensive and consistent information about desert resources and recreation opportunities.

- A. The California deserts website, www.californiadesert.gov, will be maintained by the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP). **(Ongoing, MDEP, on track)**
- B. Agency webmasters will input information on recreation opportunities and sites in the California deserts on www.californiadesert.gov and update their information as needed. **(Ongoing, agency webmasters)**
- C. DMG agencies will maintain interpretive posters currently installed at Caltrans roadside rest areas in the California deserts. **(FY 06, Caltrans/State Parks/NPS/BLM/MDEP, on track)**
- D. DMG agencies (Caltrans, State Parks, NPS, BLM, MDEP, San Bernardino County) will complete conceptual exhibit plans for the exhibits at the reconstructed Valley Wells rest area. This will be followed up with formal exhibit designs in FY 06 and exhibit fabrication during FY07. **(FY 06 - 07, NPS/Caltrans, on track)**
- E. Maintain and operate the interagency "gateway" visitor center at Lancaster, California. **(Ongoing, State Parks, on track)**

F. Work with private partners to assess the feasibility and scope of establishing national scenic byways on selected routes in the California desert. (FY 06, Caltrans/State Parks/NPS/Counties, on track)

Goal 8. Coordinate scientific studies and monitoring programs needed for effective resource management.

A. Publish THE MOJAVE DESERT: Ecosystem Processes and Sustainability, a compendium of papers from the 3rd Mojave Desert Science Symposium. (FY 07, NPS/USGS, ongoing)

B. Coordinate the development of standard protocols for monitoring of climate and precipitation patterns in the desert. (FY 06-07, USGS, behind schedule)

C. Mine existing data on high priority monitoring needs. (FY 06-07, NPS/USGS/CDFG/BLM/DOD, ongoing)

D. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will maintain and update the web accessible Research Inventory Database. Managers will encourage scientists and their staff to input data and/or update the database with projects as they occur. (FY 07-11, NPS, ongoing)

Goal 9. Inventory, monitor, and protect desert water resources.

A. Use DMG endorsed Level 1 spring survey protocols to inventory/characterize springs/wetlands in the deserts. (FY 07-11, NPS/BLM/DOD, funding dependent)

B. Develop a web accessible database for spring and wetland data. (FY 07-08, MDEP, on hold)

C. DOI agencies (BLM, FWS, GS and NPS) will continue to work cooperatively to manage and protect water resources in the Amargosa Basin pursuant to the January 2004 MOA. Priority emphasis will be on:

1. encouraging the NV State Engineer to require meters on all existing water uses in the basin; (FY 06, NPS, on track)
2. developing a coordinated interagency groundwater monitoring plan; (FY 06, USGS, on track)
3. refining the Death Valley Regional Flow System Model to answer specific management questions within the Ash Meadows and Lower Amargosa areas (FY 06-8, NPS/BLM/USGS, funding dependent)
4. continuing development of an agreement between DOI agencies and Nye County re: protesting water right applications in the Amargosa Basin; (FY 06, NPS, on track)

- D. Assess the scope and feasibility of a DMG sponsored workshop or conference to bring attention to the importance of and strategies for protecting water in the desert. **(FY 06, NPS, USGS, BLM, California State Parks, on track)**

Goal 10. Integrate and share data and database management systems needed for effective resource management and planning.

- A. The Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program (MDEP) will maintain its GIS database (www.mojavedata.gov) of natural and cultural resources in the California deserts. **(Ongoing, MDEP, on track.)**

Goal 11. Ensure the orderly and efficient operation of the DMG and its work groups.

- A. Update the DMG Work Plan to reflect FY 07 priorities and FY 06 accomplishments. Detailed annual work plans will be developed for specific initiatives as needed. **(FY 07, DOD/DOI Coordinators, on track)**
- B. The BLM Natural Resources Restoration Coordinator will coordinate implementation of dump clean up and habitat restoration efforts on behalf of the DMG. **(FY 06, BLM, on track)**
- C. The FWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) will coordinate implementation of various tortoise monitoring, research and recovery activities on behalf of the DMG. **(FY 07, FWS, on track)**
- D. MDEP will maintain the DMG website (www.dmg.gov) to allow for the efficient dissemination of information about DMG and work group activities. **(Ongoing, MDEP, on track)**
- E. The DMG will coordinate its desert tortoise activities with the Clark County HCP and the SNPLMA Conservation Initiative where there is program overlap. **(FY 06, DOI, on track)**
- F. DMG member agencies will provide incentives/time for appropriate staff to attend and actively participate in standing and ad hoc DMG work groups. **(FY 07, Managers, ongoing)**
- G. DMG member agency Managers will participate in and provide management guidance to standing DMG work groups.
1. PACRAT **(Wood, Reynolds)**
 2. HAZMAT **(Trost, Maben)**
 3. DT Information and Education **(Sauer, Wood)**
 4. DT Planning and Implementation Work Group **(Williams, Schramm)**
(FY 07, all DMG agencies, on track)

Goal 12. Garner support for the DMG, its mission, activities, and funding initiatives.

- A. DMG representatives will brief federal, state, and local agencies, Congressional representatives, and interested parties about DMG activities and initiatives, as requested. **(FY 07-11, DOD/DOI, ongoing)**
- B. The DMG will cooperate with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to secure funding for DMG initiatives and establish a California Deserts Conservation Fund. **(FY 06, DOI, ongoing.)**

Goal 13. Make high priority Abandoned Mine Land (AML) sites that pose a significant environmental and safety threat safe by reducing or removing physical and chemical hazards associated with the site.

- A. Reclaim high priority AML sites that pose a significant environmental and safety threat. **(FY 07 – 11, BLM, NPS, Kern County, Ongoing, funding dependent)**
- B. Gain a better understanding of AML sites by combining existing AML data into one database/data layer. **(FY 07, BLM, NPS, Kern County, MDEP, resource dependent)**
- C. Form partnerships to leverage funding and accomplish initiatives and goal objectives. **(FY 07-11, BLM, NPS, Kern County, ongoing, on track)**

Goal 14. Ensure the long-term protection of Mojave Ground Squirrel habitat and the viability of the species.

- A. 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. **(FY 06, CDFG/FWS/BLM/NPS/DOD/Kern County, San Bernardino County, ongoing)**
- B. Conduct research needed to further define the range and ecological requirements of the species. **(FY 06, CDFG/FWS/BLM/NPS/ DOD/Kern County, San Bernardino County, ongoing)**
- C. Implement conservation actions in accordance with a science-based adaptive management program. **(FY 07, CDFG/FWS/BLM/NPS/DOD/Kern County, San Bernardino County, ongoing)**