

History and Issues Related to the DMG Hazmat Workgroup (HMWG)

- The HMWG was originally formed in the mid 1990's to coordinate activities between the National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). John Key, the BLM hazmat specialist was instrumental in the group's formation and expansion to include additional agencies. Major accomplishments in that period were:
 - Coordination of MolyCorp investigation and cleanup
 - Transfer for contaminated lands from BLM to NPS
 - The Mojave plastics case which resulted in felony convictions
 - Response to various spills and releases
 - Support to criminal investigations
 - Sponsor coordinated, interagency training
 - Development of interagency BLM and NPS cleanup contracts

At this time, the group was focusing primarily on hazardous materials with little emphasis on solid waste or illegal dumping.

- In the late 1990's the HMWG, in cooperation with the now defunct Desert Lands Restoration Task Force (DLRTF), developed an initiative for a coordinated illegal dump cleanup and restoration program (attachment 1). The managers eventually supported the initiative and funding for the initiative was included in the President's 2000 budget. Congress removed the initiative, as written. BLM was partially funded for the initiative as a Congressional add-on by Congressman Lewis. Several other DMG budget initiatives (restoration, information, science) received a similar fate with only dumping and restoration ever receiving any funding.
- In November 2001, Russell Scofield was hired as a combined restoration, dumping coordinator with the vision of the position coordinating and managing interagency projects on the ground.
- In the winter of 2001/2002, BLM entered into a cost sharing agreement with the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to cleanup large legacy dumpsites (Wide World of Dumps attachment).
- In 2002, Scofield wrote several successful grants from CIWMB for cleanups in the Yucca Valley area and developed budgets, workplans, and projects proposals for about five additional cleanups.
- HMWG proposed and facilitated the development of an illegal dump database. The database is currently in its second version but has never been fully utilized.
- The HMWG as a whole began to evolve from being hazardous materials centric to more of a concentration on solid waste. Additional HMWG projects included (attachment 2):
 - Abandoned mine lands initiatives
 - Wire burning initiatives
 - Grease hauler enforcement
 - Reduction of highway litter
- Due to budget cutbacks, few large cleanups have occurred since 2002. The cleanups that have occurred have been accomplished through the use of volunteers and are largely uncoordinated, single agency efforts at smaller dumpsites. As a result, the illegal dumping program shifted focus from cleanups to prevention, outreach, and

education. A relationship was formed with Keep California Beautiful (KCB) and the counties became more involved (attachment 3).

- In 2004 the HMWG, in cooperation with Riverside County Board of Supervisors and others, sponsored a pilot Illegal Dumping Enforcement Workshop (attachment 4 and 5). The workshop was a huge success and additional workshops were envisioned in San Bernardino, Kern, and LA Counties.
- Currently, all of the DMG goals that relate to the HMWG pertain to solid waste (attachment 6). While not stated as DMG goals, the group's function to coordinate among agency specialists for training, enforcement, and response still exist.