



**Draft Meeting Summary**  
**DMG Mohave Ground Squirrel Partnership Ad Hoc Work Group**  
**August 30, 2006**  
**NPS Office, Barstow, California**

**Purpose:**

1. Compose letter to local agencies
2. Determine additional information needed for Conservation Strategy
3. Review of draft Conservation Strategy and propose changes if needed
4. Set date for next working group meeting.

**Participants:**

Becky Jones (CDFG)-chair  
Cynthia Wilkerson (DOW)  
Carol Sebastian (DOW)  
Martha Heath (NTC)  
Larry LaPre (BLM)

Manny Joia (MCLB)  
Clarence Everly (DOD)  
Robert McMorran (FWS) (Phone)  
Tonya Moore (CDFGS)

**Meeting Summary/Conclusions:**

- 1) Introductions were made and agenda approved
- 2) An update was given on the status of the MGS Workshop. Because the Fort Irwin and BLM funding has not materialized, the workshop will be postponed. If promised funding is made available, the group is targeting early December as the new workshop date. The cost for the facilitator is estimated at approximately \$5,000. Cynthia has a couple of people who would be interested in facilitating the workshop. Becky submitted a request for funding from CDFG. Larry mentioned that Russell Scofield is taking the lead for BLM to try and obtain funding to support the workshop. The group was assured Ft. Irwin is still interested in supporting the workshop and the promised funding will be made available after the start of the new federal fiscal year. It was

recommended the currently authorized MGS trappers be contacted to provide input into the pros and cons of the existing trapping protocol. It was agreed that instead of working on the letter to the cities at the meeting, Becky would write a draft and send it out to the group to review.

- 3) Larry passed out a paper on a protocol for characterizing Mohave Ground Squirrel habitat that is being used by BLM in the Ridgecrest area. Dr. Phil Leitner was involved with preparing the paper. Larry also mentioned a research proposal that had been submitted regarding continuing surveys to determine the current distribution and abundance of MGS and the effects of roads on their population. He asked if anyone in the group had heard of this proposal. No one had.
- 4) Discussion took place on the draft MGS conservation strategy. Everyone agreed that a new map was needed for the species range in light of recent finds either inside or outside of the currently used boundaries. Some comments were supplied on specific items, but most of the people had not had a chance for a detailed review of the document. It was also decided the new map should be included with the letter to be sent to the cities. Concerns were voiced regarding interim measures that need to be in effect now, along with insurance that everyone is going to participate in the conservation strategy, especially due to the low number of attendees at the meeting. Interim measures were added to the most recent version sent out.
- 5) Some of the information has already been compiled, so the main effort will be in pulling the remaining information together. The following are the writing assignments for the conservation strategy: Overview and Purpose –Cynthia and Becky, Overall goal – Becky, Conservation Objectives – Becky, Conservation Measure – Becky and Annette, Literature Cited – Larry.
- 6) **Agreed upon next steps –**
  - Cynthia will send an email to ESRP about postponing the workshop.
  - Tonya will contact trappers via the yahoo website to get their input.
  - Becky will write up draft letter for the Cities and send out to the group to review.
  - **All - review the conservation strategy and have comments back to Becky by October 2, if not we will assume you have no problems with it.**
  - Cynthia will send Clarence the GIS info on the map and he will work on making an updated version.
- 7) **Next meeting** – October 11 at 10:30 am at the Mojave National Preserve office in Barstow.