



Meeting Summary
DMG Mohave Ground Squirrel Partnership Ad Hoc Work Group
November 9, 2005
BLM Office, Ridgecrest, California

Purpose:

1. Determine what information is needed from a trapping effort
2. Identify an acceptable large-scale monitoring method to be used by agencies
3. Determine what needs to be included the conservation strategy
4. Set date for next working group meeting.

Participants:

Becky Jones (CDFG)-chair
Tanya Moore (CDFG)
Annette Tenneboe (CDFG)
Dave Sjaastad (BLM)
Robert McMorran (FWS)
Shannon Collis (EAFB)
John O'Gara (NAWS)
Tom Campbell (NAWS)

Bob Parker (BLM)
Cynthia Wilkerson (DoW)
Phil Leitner (ESRP Cal State Stanislaus)
Clarence Everly (DOD)
Lorelei Oviatt (Kern County)
Manny Joia (MCLB)
Mickey Quillman (NTC)

Meeting Summary/Conclusions:

- 1) Introductions were made and agenda approved
- 2) Phil Leitner gave a presentation on how monitoring should fit into a Mojave ground squirrel conservation strategy. Monitoring is needed to detect trends in distribution or abundance and tell you if conservation strategy is succeeding. Do you monitor habitat, animals or both? Randomness is necessary to make valid inferences. Needs for data collection and management: standardization of procedures, date entry and forms, training for field crews, QC, standard database software and plan on how to manage data.

- 3) The group agreed the two main items we should focus on currently are to determine extent of the range and preferred habitat type. It was also agreed trapping efforts need to be standardized and if possible trapping done this next season should be conducted in a manner that can be used in the future for statistical analysis for population distribution and/or density. A population biologist needs to be consulted.
- 4) FWS indicated the Ventura office has not heard anything from Washington about the petition to list MGS that was sent in September
- 5) Defenders of Wildlife said they do not intend for the submission of the petition to interfere with this working group and hopes the conservation strategy will meet the needs for the species and will be well on its way before the FWS 90 day timeline is over. They plan on being an active participant of this group.
- 6) It was determined that the first step for working on the conservation strategy was to come up with the goal and some objectives. It was agreed the goal should be consistent with the West Mojave Plan.
- 7) During a brain storming effort the WMP along with other conservation strategies were used to determine come up with the goal and objectives. The follow is from the effort that took place.

Goal - Ensure long-term protection of MGS habitat & viability of species

- Objective 1) Determine the extent of the MGS range
- Objective 2) Determine habitat type
- Objective 3) Determine preferred habitat type and ecological requirements
- Objective 4) Continue to support research that promotes conservation of the species.
- Objective 5) Locate core populations
- Objective 6) Determine barriers to movement (id measure to minimize barriers)
- Objective 7) Limit the loss of habitat and effects on MGS populations through the application of effective conservation measures and when applicable through mitigation and compensation
- Objective 8) Secure and/or manage sufficient core habitat and corridors to maintain self sustaining populations
- Objective 9) Determine important corridors between core areas.
- Objective 10) Standardize data collection techniques
- Objective 11) Create and maintain central data base
- Objective 12) Prioritize areas to be surveyed or monitored
- Objective 13) Adaptive management plan
- Objective 14) Document and Maintain genetic variation through out the range
- Objective 15) Population estimates and baseline population data
- Objective 16) Long term monitoring for status trends

General topics or task under objectives
Restore and enhancement of habitat
Range of available conservation measure
Translocation/ reintroduction of MGS

8) **Agreed upon next steps** –

- The group will review the list and determine if there should be any additions or where objectives listed should be tasks under one of the other objectives. Comments should be sent to Becky by December 7th.
- Becky will contact Steve Juarez and John Gustafson (CDFG) to see what is happening with the possibility of organizing the sampling/trapping training class.
- Both Becky and Cynthia will see if they can find a population biologist who would be willing to work with us.
- Phil and Clarence will get together to discuss sampling methods and different problems that can arise.

9) **Next meeting** - January 9th 10:30am at BLM Ridgecrest office