

Unofficial MOG Meeting Summary
October 9, 2002
Las Vegas, Nevada

1. The MOG supported DMG's proposed plan for desert tortoise recovery (Attached). A summary of Recovery Actions completed in each Recovery Unit is being compiled by Univ. of Redlands will be made available on the DMG website in the next 30 days. FWS confirmed they will take the lead for developing and implementing a raven management plan. The DMG will identify a separate lead and process for managing feral dogs.
2. Recovery Plan Review – FWS will establish a Recovery Team to review and synthesize all available information related to the desert tortoise and make recommendations on the scope Recovery Plan revisions, if needed. This task will be completed in the next 4-5 months.
3. Depending on the results of 2, above, FWS would establish a process/schedule to revise the Recovery Plan. Stakeholder will be invited to participate in the review/revision process.
4. FWS plans to review the petition to upgrade the status of the desert tortoise to endangered. Within 90 days they will determine whether there is sufficient information to support the petition. If the petition has merit, FWS will complete the review process within 12 months. The task is subject to availability of funds in the Service's FY 03 budget.
5. The MOG supported the proposal by the DMG to hold a desert tortoise summit in the spring of 2003 (see attached). Pool and Thompson will make sure the DOI was OK with the proposal and encourage their participation. Hamill will convene an organizing committee and asked for volunteer from the MOG and stakeholders to participate.
6. Disease workshop will be held Nov 14-17 in Zzyzx, CA. OHV and environmental interests will be invited to send an observer.
7. Monitoring workshop will be held Nov 25 at University of Redlands. The purpose will be to coordinate/integrate permanent study plot monitoring with Line Distance Sampling. Environmental groups and OHV interests will be invited to participate.
8. FWS will organize a workshop in Spring 2003 to evaluate and prioritize threats to desert tortoise by Recovery Unit/DWMA
9. GAO report should be out by Nov 1, 2002.

10. Thompson emphasized the need to implement on the ground recovery actions and to involve stakeholders in recovery implementation. He asked the MOG/TAC to identify non controversial actions that could be implemented immediately.
11. “Bridge Committee” established to investigate who to improve relationship between science, management and stakeholders.
12. Next MOG meeting set for Jan 13 at USGS in Las Vegas, NV.