



**Draft  
Meeting Summary  
August 20-21, 2008  
Camp Pendleton, California**

**Summary of Action and Calendar Items**

1. Managers can place EOY funds into the desert tortoise monitoring task order for FY 2009 at any time now.
2. Tentative date and location for the FAST workshop is November 6 at the Lynwood Hampton Inn in Barstow.
3. A MOG meeting has been scheduled for October 23, 2008 in Las Vegas
4. The DMG Raven Work Group requested representatives from Caltrans and MCAGCC to participate in the work group. Please provide contacts to Jody.
5. The next Raven Work Group meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2008 at the Mojave National Preserve in Barstow.
6. The next LDMWA meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2008 at 9:00 in the NRCS Indio Service Center.
7. The next PACRAT meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2008 at 10:00 at the Mojave National Preserve in Barstow.
8. A follow-up DMG Energy Coordination meeting is scheduled for October 15 in the BLM Moreno Valley Office.

**Wednesday, August 20, 2008**

1. **Overview of Camp Pendleton-** Mike Hamilton welcomed everyone aboard Camp Pendleton and showed a DVD describing Camp Pendleton's mission.
2. **Desert Tortoise Information and Education Work Group Update-** Anne Staley provided Managers an update of work group activities since the last DMG meeting. Topics discussed included:
  - a. Working with a local studio to produce eight TV public service announcements. Clark County is allowing usage of their existing footage. A marketing plan for the outreach campaign is still under development.
  - b. The latest issue of *Tortoise Times* was distributed (see attached file). If you require additional printed copies please contact Anne Staley.

- c. D'Anne Albers with Defenders of Wildlife is contacting county building and safety departments to assess their needs for tortoise clearance and ESA regulatory training. She has offered to do workshops for the counties. A "builders" brochure is in development which would provide ESA information, especially for the desert tortoise, to contractors and builders.
  - d. Mojave Max died this summer but Clark County plans to replace him. This provides an opportunity for the DMG to create our own Mojave Max or Maxine. Anne has been talking to the Living Desert in Palm Desert about hosting a California Mojave Max. Talks are very promising and would greatly expand our educational opportunities. Last year the Living Desert conducted programs for over 60k students.
  - e. Lorna Lange and Anne have also been working on additions to the Tortoise Trunks. The trunks are in mass production and should be ready for use soon. A graphic artist is working on a design for Tortoise Trunk branding. The brand will go on educators' DVDs, CDs, and the teachers guide. Defenders of Wildlife purchased two tortoise trunks for the Desert Discovery Center in Barstow.
3. **Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group Update-** Russell Scofield provided Managers an update of work group activities.
- a. The workgroup is currently developing a white paper which will cover agency/NGO policies and procedures, acquisition funding and partnership opportunities, and issues which need daylighting.
  - b. Mike Hamilton stated that USMC has \$200k available for GIS support of the Western Regional Partnership. It was suggested that the Friends of Desert Mountains be included in the CLAWG.
  - c. ***The next CLAWG meeting is October 22 at Barstow BLM.*** The white paper group has a conference call scheduled for September 23.
  - d. Please review the CLAWG map and send additional data to Russell.
4. **Abandoned Mine Lands-** Russell Scofield updated managers on the AML Work Group.
- a. BLM requested the DMG participate in a Fix A Shaft Today (FAST) workshop. FAST is a National BLM partnership initiative for eradicating unsafe abandoned mine land features. Plans are to invite members of the mining and off-highway vehicle industries and volunteer and other non-government organizations to participate. FAST goals are:
    - 1. Develop partnerships which result in the donation of time, labor and use of mining equipment to aid in closing dangerous mine shafts and structures.
    - 2. Encourage knowledge-sharing and technology transfer among government and stakeholder groups.
    - 3. Solicit technical volunteers from wildlife agencies, academia, bat enthusiasts, and amateur archeologists to assist with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearances.

Additional information about FAST is available at [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Abandoned\\_Mine\\_Lands.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Abandoned_Mine_Lands.html). The DMG agreed the FAST workshop will be beneficial. ***It is tentatively scheduled for November 6, 2008 at the Lynwood Hampton Inn in Barstow.*** Russell will send out an announcement to the AML and managers list. Partners will also be invited.
  - b. Bob Bryson stated that due to personnel changes at SHPO, the AML programmatic agreement has not moved. Bob will follow-up on the status of the agreements.

## 5. Stakeholder Input

- a. Gerry Hillier commented that the FAST campaign is excellent.
- b. Pat Flannigan asked if DOD provided information to the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) and if not would the Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) change. The military installations stated they have been involved in RETI.

## 6. Desert Tortoise Recovery Office

- a. Linda Allison briefed the group on FY 2007, 2008 and 2009 tortoise monitoring (see PowerPoint titled DTRO Monitoring Update)
    1. The FY 2007 database looks good and is in the mail to MDEP
    2. G<sub>0</sub> Precision was improved for FY 2007 and 2008
    3. ***Managers can place EOY funds into the task order for FY 2009 at any time now.***
  - b. Jody Fraser briefed the group on the status of the recovery plan revision (see PowerPoint titled DTRO Recovery Plan Update) and the Raven Work Group.
    1. The Draft Revised Recovery Plan is open for official public comment until November 3, 2008. The plan is available at [http://www.fws.gov/nevada/desert\\_tortoise/documents/recovery\\_plan/](http://www.fws.gov/nevada/desert_tortoise/documents/recovery_plan/). Written comments can be emailed to [dtrecovery@fws.gov](mailto:dtrecovery@fws.gov).
    2. ***A MOG meeting has been scheduled for October 23, 2008 in Las Vegas***
    3. ***Jody requested that Caltrans and MCAGCC participate in the Raven Work Group. Please provide contacts to Jody.***
    4. ***The next Raven Work Group meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2008 at Mojave National Preserve HQ in Barstow.***
7. **Piute Ponds Wetlands at Edwards AFB-** Danny Reinke provided a PowerPoint (attached) on the Piute Ponds Wetlands at Edwards AFB. Edwards is hosting a research project to be completed by the University of California, Santa Barbara, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management on the ponds and scoping alternatives for their management. Edwards would like to conduct scoping within DMG on the ponds' management.

## Thursday, August 21, 2008

### 8. Fort Irwin Desert Tortoise Translocation Project Update

- a. Muhammad Bari provided a PowerPoint overview of the Fort Irwin translocation project and its background (Fort Irwin Desert Tortoise Translocation I).
- b. Bill Boorman provided a PowerPoint with a summary of current status of the translocation project (Fort Irwin Desert Tortoise Translocation II).
- c. Brigadier General Pittard, National Training Center Commander, stated Fort Irwin would be installing a 40 megawatt solar facility to power the base within three years. He said it will be the largest solar array currently in North America. The facility will be sited on previously disturbed lands within the installation boundary.

### 9. Mojave Fringe-toed lizard (MFTL) - Russell Scofield provided a PowerPoint updating MFTL monitoring (attached).

- a. The lizard appears to be more widely distributed than originally thought. BLM, through random surveys, has encountered large numbers of MFTL in the Kingston Range wilderness just north of Dumont Dunes. Transect surveys by Dr. Bill Presch also seem to indicate higher densities than originally thought.

- b. BLM Barstow has developed a draft MFTL conservation strategy that just addresses Dumont Dunes. Conservation actions include protective barriers along the wilderness boundary and education. FWS and CBD have been given the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy. Barstow BLM wishes to include the Ibex Dunes (DEVA) and Coyote Holes (NEFO) populations as conservation areas. Russell will convene a MFTL meeting in October.
10. **Mojave Weed Management Area (MWMA)** - A representative from MWMA was not able to attend the meeting so Russell highlighted a list of current projects they have and a letter they sent the DMG (attached). Main projects are tamarisk control along the Mojave River in the Victorville area and Saharan mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) control. ***The next MWMA meeting is October 14, 2008 at 10:00 at the Mojave National Preserve in Barstow.***
11. **Low Desert Weed Management Area (LDWMA)** - Ilima Hawkins (NRCS, Southern Low Desert RC&D Coordinator) provided a PowerPoint update of LDWMA actions. LDWMA is initiating a rapid watershed inventory (RWI) in the low desert and had a planning meeting the day following the DMG meeting. Ilima asked for managers' support of the RWI. NRCS will staff the RWI but agencies will need to participate and provide any data they have. ***The next LDMWA meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2008 at 9:00 in the NRCS Indio Service Center.***
12. **PACRAT-** Dave Ruggles (Edwards AFB) Provided PowerPoint slides of the updated PACRAT 5-year plan goals (attached). The goals are:
- a. Coordinate with existing, ongoing digital data systems in support of multiple applications including modeling, as needed and appropriate.
  - b. The PACRAT committee will meet as necessary to continue monitoring of progress against these goals and reporting to the DMG as needed. Additional meetings may be organized as needed and desired for continued training and professional development in paleontological, historical, and cultural resources research, preservation and outreach activities.
  - c. Develop and organize a paleontological site stewardship training program.
  - d. Design and establish pages on the DMG website for usage both internally (for confidential information, research, and scholarly exchange) and for public access to information of a non-classified but informative character (such as new paleontological or archaeological work in the desert). Some other examples of information to be included are various lists and tables desired to carry out PACRAT functions such as the following: Emergency Contact List of PACRAT members where expertise is identified and available to support each other across organizational boundaries; bibliographies by subject with read & write capabilities for ongoing additions and revisions (internal) and read only (external - public); Tribal government contact lists; Museum and Curation facility locations, contacts and other information; and, other information as deemed appropriate.
  - e. Continue efforts to increase interagency cooperation, administration and education in dealing with paleontological and cultural resources site protection. Provide access to training resources for ARPA and PRPA as desired and necessary.
  - f. Develop general statements of work (SOW) on several common topics for studies directed at regional or inter-regional scale syntheses of data and interpretations.
  - g. Identify and review means for assessing Cumulative Effects and/or Secondary Effects of proposed undertakings at various scales of research from local to regional or inter-regional.
  - h. ***The next PACRAT meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2008 at 10:00 at Mojave National Preserve in Barstow.*** The goals will be finalized at that meeting.

13. **MCAGCC Expansion**- Pat Chrisman (Marine Corps Regional Environmental Coordinator) provided a Power Point (attached) outlining the need for the MCAGCC expansion. The Marine Corps filed a segregation notice for 556,000 acres of public lands administered by BLM and they expect to need 422,000 of those acres. The Marine Corps will issue an NOI in October or November 2009.
14. **Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI)** - Roger Johnson (CEC) provided a PowerPoint (attached) on the CEC RETI process and the designation of Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ).
  - a. The RETI Phase 1B Draft Report is available at [http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/documents/2008-08-16\\_PHASE\\_1B\\_DRAFT\\_RESOURCE\\_REPORT.PDF](http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/documents/2008-08-16_PHASE_1B_DRAFT_RESOURCE_REPORT.PDF).
  - b. All RETI documents and more information is available at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/index.html>. You can sign up for the RETI list serve on the webpage. Agencies that are not participating in RETI are invited to do so.
15. **DMG Renewable Energy and Land Use Coordination**
  - a. Russell discussed modeling opportunities. The first step is to identify the questions we need a tool to answer. Those questions will dictate the type and complexity of the modeling tool. In the simplest form, a map similar to the CLAWG map could serve modeling needs. Clarence suggested that if a more robust model is required, a funding proposal should be submitted to SERDP.
  - b. The group agreed to develop best management practices for energy development. BMPs exist for wind energy development in the BLM wind PEIS.
  - c. Russell and John Kalish will reach out to Riverside County to engage them in the DMG and/or DMG energy coordination.
  - d. *A follow-up DMG Energy Coordination meeting is scheduled for October 15 in the BLM Moreno Valley Office.*
  - e. An online forum has been established for managers to exchange information about energy development and land use. This tool will help consolidate information into one location and keep managers abreast of current issues. The forum is open to all DMG agencies and the CEC.
16. **Climate Change Proposal**- Carl Benz proposed establishing an ad hoc work group to keep the DMG focused on climate change. FWS is putting together a climate change strategy which should be out in November. Ron Krueper, Danny Reinke, Cat Darst, DOD, BLM, Dennis Schramm, Carl Benz, and USGS were suggested for the group. Russell and Carl will call a meeting this fall.