

**Draft Summary**  
**DMG Meeting and Collaborative Management Workshop**  
**June 12-13, 2002**  
**Ventura CA**

The Collaborative Management Workshop was facilitated by Dr. Todd Jones (FWS, NCTC) and Dr. Mickey Benson (Monitor Associates). The first half of the workshop focused on collaborative management tools and skills; the second half on application of those tools and skills to helping determine the role of the DMG facilitating recovery and delisting of the desert tortoise in the California deserts.

Upon conclusion of the workshop, the DMG held a business meeting to discuss:

1. future activities related to the Cal Desert Fund
2. the Mojave Desert Weed Management Area MOU
3. the proposal for the Managers chair the DMG.

Workshop/meeting highlights and conclusions include:

**Workshop Highlights: Role of the DMG in Desert Tortoise Recovery**

**Key questions/issues**

- Why do tortoise populations continue to decline despite recovery efforts to date?
- What needs to be done to reverse the decline?
- Are current priorities properly aligned in light of continued population decline?
- What role will the DMG play in addressing these questions and leading research monitoring, and recovery efforts in California?

**Leadership**

- Sense of urgency in the DMG about continuing population decline of tortoise driving DMG to take more aggressive leadership posture
- The scientific and land and resource management that make up the DMG have the authority, capability and responsibility to effect recovery of the desert tortoise
- The DMG will be catalyst for shaping direction and policies related to DT recovery
- The DMG can create a climate that affords members the safe platform to take courageous actions (e.g., predator control)

*“We have a flag and we are going to plant it”*

**Coordination Implementation of Recovery, Monitoring, Research Actions**

- Compile a list what's been done to date to recover the DT in California
- Develop action priorities by recovery unit
- Develop research priorities – find out reasons for current massive decline
- Review and evaluate effectiveness
- Assimilate and disseminate info on Best Practices

- Conduct DOD “5 Step” Planning Process” at September Meeting

### **Obtaining the Resources to Achieve Recovery**

- ID funding needs
- Advocate for Funding
- Elevate issues to Headquarters/Congress
- ID strengths/weaknesses of agencies
- Internally - pool resources
- Externally - obtain ext. resources
- Collaborate on funding requests
- Involve all California players (including those not on DMG)

### **Coordinate with the DT Management Oversight Group**

- Provide data on DT in California to help MOG make informed decisions
- Keep MOG informed on status/activities related to DT in California
- Enlist their support

### **Educating Ourselves/Public**

- Collate and publicize what being done in California
- Be proactive to address critics (GAO; IG audits)
- Be forum for discussion of actual and perceived agency actions
- Network

### **Next Steps (Attachment 1)**

### **California Desert Fund**

1. The DMG (a) supports in principle the establishment of a CDF under the auspices of the NFWF and (b) endorses further discussions with Chrysler Corp to contribute to the fund.
2. NPS does not see a conflict between the CDF and the Cal Desert Parks Fund (CDPF) which is being pursued by NPS and the National Parks Foundation
3. The DMG requested NFWF to develop a proposal by Aug 15, 2002 that identifies:
  - Options for how a CDF would be set up and administered (including a formal and informal relationship between NFWF and DMG).
  - the role of the NFWF, the DMG, and potential corporate sponsors in administering the fund, including how funding would be allocated.
  - what Chrysler Corporation expects to receive in return for its contributions to the fund.
4. The DMG established an ad hoc work group to review the NFWF proposal prior to submission to DMG. JT Reynolds, Mary Martin, Clarence Everly, Diane Noda, Molly Brady, and John Hamill will participate in the ad hoc work group. A representative of Cal State Parks will also be invited to participate.
5. NPS will facilitate discussions on possible interaction/collaboration between NFWF and National Parks Foundation and discuss any potential conflicts between a CDF and a CDPF.

## **DMG Chair**

No consensus on proposal for managers to Chair the DMG; Managers will contact/discuss with Regional Managers.

## **Mojave Desert Weed Management Area MOU**

No major concerns were identified with the final draft of the subject MOU. John Hamill will send the draft to the signatories for final review and comments (30 days). The MOU will then be finalized and sent out for signature.

## Attachment 1 Next Steps and Assignments

**What:** Summarize what has been or is being done to recover the desert tortoise in the California deserts

**Who:** Becky Jones, Carl Benz, Phil Medica, Ray Bransfield

**Tasks/Schedule:**

- Develop format (Ray - 6/13)
- List past and current accomplishments by recovery unit (Ray 6/24/02)
- Send out for DMG review; managers review and update (All Managers; 7/15)
- Finalize by July 26

**What:** Solicit MOG input and/or support for DMG plans

- Share with MOG the DMG critical thinking about urgency of actions necessary to address tortoise decline
- Identify the policy issues that we need to be addresses
- Identify the "pre-work" that need to take place to prepare for Sept meeting with MOG chair

**Who:** Jim Kenna, Ernie Quintana, Phil Medica, Clarence Everly and John Hamill

**Tasks/Schedule:**

- sub-group meets (August 1) and drafts option paper (8/15).
- comments on due back to subgroup (8/30)
- final draft option paper; discuss at DMG meeting (9/11-12)
- present final option paper to MOG (9/19)

**What:** Establish Priority of Recovery Actions for each Recovery Unit

**Who:** Assigned: John, Clarence, Phil, Becky

**Tasks/Schedule:**

- Encourage Redlands to complete management plan review before September meeting (Hamill)
- Identify and prioritize what specific land managers can/should continue/begin doing
- Identify opportunities of "pooling" resources to accomplish established priorities
- Identify opportunities to leverage outside resources: develop outreach strategy

**What:** Focus tortoise research to get real answers for continued population decline

**Who:** Becky Jones, Phil Medica, Jim Kenna, Ray Bransfield

**Tasks/Schedule**

- Work w/USGS to prioritize research topics (Phil -- 7/22-23)
  - The DMG will advocate research understanding why tortoises are dying
- Request Regional Directors (BLM, NPS and FWS) to formally propose priority research to USGS (Hamill)
- Develop a proposal to establish a desert tortoise technical work groups to make recommendations to DMG (Becky Jones)