



**DMG Meeting  
Meeting Notes  
February 17 and 18, 2010  
Laughlin, Nevada**

***Action Items***

- *If you have funding for FY 2010 desert tortoise line distance sampling, please contact Linda Allison at (775) 861-6324.*
- *DMG members need to examine their budgets to see how they can fund the coordination of the Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education Program.*
- *Once the California chapter for the Solar PEIS is released in May, CEC will host a meeting with California Cooperators. DMG members are encouraged to participate. Russell will notify members of that meeting.*
- *Please go to <http://www.wr.usgs.gov/workshops/> and register today for the Mojave Desert Climate Change Workshop April 20-22 in Las Vegas.*

***Upcoming Meetings***

- *CLAWG April 13 in Barstow however may replace meeting with a WebEx*
- *Climate Change Workshop April 20-22 in Las Vegas*
- *Devils Hole Workshop and Amargosa DOI Meeting May 5-7 in Death Valley*
- *DMG Meeting May 18-19 in Death Valley*
- *Solar PEIS Workgroup May 26 WebEx*

All handouts and PowerPoint's are available at the DMG website.

<http://www.dmg.gov/announcements.php?id=110>

**Wednesday, February 17 (Open Session)**

- **Welcome and Introductions and Overview of Needles Field Office** (Rusty Lee) PowerPoint provided.
- **Mojave Desert Ecosystem Project Updates** (Fon Duke) PowerPoint provided and questions included any costs for services with the reply of in kind work unless the work exceeded current system levels that would then require additional hardware or software.

- **Desert Tortoise Recovery Office** Roy Averill-Murray was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Russell Scofield reported that Linda has only received funding from Ft. Irwin for FY 2010 line distance sampling in California. Additional funding was promised from various groups but nothing developed yet. *If you have funding for FY 2010 line distance sampling, please contact Linda.* Within the next month, Desert Tortoise Recovery Office plans to publish the draft of 2007 and 2008.
- **Mohave Ground Squirrel Work Group** (Russell Scofield):
  - The Mohave Ground Squirrel Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting is February 23 in Ridgecrest. Russell will forward the meeting announcement to all list serve member of the DMG.
  - The MGS workgroup has put together a research strategy for the MGS (handout). Some potential funding has been identified but no commitments have been made.

**Thursday, February 18 (DMG Executive Coordination Session)**

- **Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education** (Russell Scofield)
  - The Living Desert and the San Diego Zoo are will take on the coordination role of DTIYE Program but require \$70k per annum to do it. By having these groups coordinate, we will have a very strong presence in San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties and a stronger presence in the desert counties. The Living desert is applying for an Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (Green Sticker) grant but success is speculative. Russell and Fon will send a letter of support on DMG letterhead. *DMG members need to examine their budgets to see how they can fund DTIYE.*
  - Russell received a full proposal for the raven film. Many of the members of the DMG feel that we should request a script first before moving into an entire film. Cost for the script is \$4k. Russell will move forward on procuring the script. A time line needed for the projects as well as the script outline. *Update: The entire film should be complete within the year is we get started.*
- **California Desert Protection Act of 2010** James Peterson provided background for the Act and its highlights.
- **DMG Strategic Plan** (Russell Scofield/Fon Duke) The group walked through the first mission area with some comments. Major revisions included creating a separate education mission area and expanding education beyond the tortoise. The fire goals that were requested at the previous meeting were scraped. Managers were asked to review the remained of the plan and get comments to Russell by March 5. *Update: One comment was received. Russell will resend the updates plan for comments.*
- **Energy Update**
  - Solar PEIS: Linda Resseguie (BLM PEIS Project Manager) and Heidi Harmen (DOE) joined the meeting electronically. DOE has put together a map of the west showing solar energy study zones. The California chapter should be out in May. *Once that is released to cooperators, CEC will host a meeting with California Cooperators. DMG members are*

<http://solareis.anl.gov>.

- Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT): Scott Flint (CDFG) provided a PowerPoint describing the DRECP and REAT. Preliminary DRECP maps were shown and discussed. The maps cannot be released yet.
- **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives** Rick Kearny, the FWS Assistant Regional Director for Climate Change presented a PowerPoint overview of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). We are in the Desert LCC, which includes all of the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Deserts. Russell distributed a proposal for a Mojave subunit of the Desert LCC that would utilize DMG and the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) as a backbone. Managers generally supported the concept but needed more detail before agreeing to move forward. Update: LCCs are quickly evolving and Bureau of Reclamation will now take a leadership role in the Desert LCC. DOI now has a LCC information webpage at <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/climate/>.

### Open session

- **Mojave-Great Basin Climate Change Workshop:** Registration is now open. *Please go to <http://www.wr.usgs.gov/workshops/> and register today.* DMG is cosponsoring this event. The workshop is April 20-22 in Las Vegas.
- **Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group Update** Russell Scofield provided an overview of the CLAWG. The next meeting is April 13. Karin Messaros at Joshua Tree finished formatting the CLAWG White Paper. Russell will send it out and it will be posted to the CLAWG website once the work group sees it.
- **Ecoregional Assessment Update** Russell Scofield presented an overview of the BLM Ecoregional strategy (handout). Russell will have TNC provide an update of their Mojave ecoregional assessment update at the next meeting. The BLM ecoregional assessments have developed management questions and contractors will be collected the data. The BLM assessments are ARRA funded and all data collection should be completed within the year. Upon data collection, BLM will develop management strategies. These assessments will involve all lands, not just BLM land and are intended to be collaborative.
- **National Park Service Abandoned Mine Lands Program** Bob Bryson provided a PowerPoint on the program and described IDIQ contracts that he has developed for abandoned mine lands work. Other agencies can issue task orders on these contracts.
- **Mojave Weed Management Area** Everett Bartz of Needles Field Office provided a PowerPoint update of the Weed Management Area. Currently, Mojave Weed Management Area is updating its MOU. Many DMG members are signatories to the MOU.
- **Next Meeting** May 18-19 in Death Valley. Russell will plan a DMG Executive Committee meeting late summer or early fall. The California Desert District offered to host that meeting.