Clarence Everly
DOD Coordinator

DESERT
MANAGERS GROUP

John Hamill
DOI Coordinator

March 27, 2002

Phillip L. Doolittle, Vice President
Finance and Administration
University of Redlands
1200 E. Colton Avenue
Administration Bldg. 209
Redlands, CA 92373

Dear Mr. Doolittle:

The Desert Managers Group (DMG) is responsible for coordinating and integrating desert conservation, visitor services, and public safety efforts in the California deserts. Partners involved in the DMG include the Department of the Defense (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps), the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Geological Survey) and the State of California (Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, and Caltrans).

Currently, the DMG is coordinating several desert tortoise activities in the California deserts, including a range-wide desert tortoise population monitoring program and development of a data clearinghouse and support center. Over the past 6 months, representatives of the DMG have had several meetings with Dr. Jill Heaton and Mark Sorenson regarding the Redlands Institute's Desert Tortoise Project (DTP). We believe the DTP has developed an excellent work plan that will significantly contribute to desert tortoise recovery. In addition, the RI's generous offer to contribute to this year's desert tortoise line distance sampling project will help ensure the continued success of the desert tortoise population monitoring effort. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you to design and implement projects that will contribute to desert tortoise recovery.

To facilitate efficient communications and coordination, Mr. Phil Medica, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Desert Tortoise Coordinator, will be the DMG's principal liaison with the RI on the DTP. We would also like to invite you and your staff to attend our quarterly DMG meetings to brief the Group on proposals, progress or issues related to the DTP. Our next meeting will be held on April 10-11, 2002 in Borrego Springs. Information on this and future DMG meetings is/will be posted on the DMG website: www.dmg.gov.

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If you have questions about the DMG do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely

John Hamill, Executive Coordinator
Department of the Interior

Clarence Everly, Coordinator
Department of Defense

cc Desert Managers Group
Russell Harmon, Army Research Center
Robert D. Williams, Fish and Wildlife Service
Congressman Jerry Lewis, Washington DC