Restoration Workgroup Recommendations

April 10, 2002

At the December DMG meeting in Death Valley, the future of the Restoration Workgroup was discussed. Many of the managers felt that there was sufficient work to retain the Restoration Workgroup. It was agreed upon to have the restoration coordinator interview many of the group's previous members and manger representatives in an attempt to redefine the group's mission. Staff and/or managers from each of the National Park Service units and Bureau of Land Management Field Offices were contacted. Colorado Desert State Parks, Fort Irwin, Marine Corps Logistics Base and Marine Corps Twentynine Palms were also contacted. During each interview, ten questions were used as a starting point for discussion (attachment).

< All persons contacted felt that the Restoration Workgroup should be retained as a part of the DMG. Although reasons for retaining the group varied somewhat.

< Everyone interviewed felt that one of the primary functions of the Workgroup should be coordinate restoration projects that cross agency boundaries. There was a great enthusiasm for the group to coordinate large, landscape or watershed based restoration projects. Examples might include the Mojave River, Amagosa River and the San Felipe Creek watershed.

< It was also felt that the Workgroup and restoration coordinator could serve as a facilitor or forum to obtain grants and form additional partnerships.

< Of the five-year goals, those relating to technology transfer and partnering were generally given a higher priority than actual individual restoration projects to be conducted by the Workgroup.

< Almost everyone interviewed stated that the primary way the Restoration Workgroup could help them in their job was to provide opprutunities to leverage funding and provide technology transfer.

< There is a strong sense of urgency with many staffers to focus on weeds. Many units within the Mojave are interested in collaborating with the Weed Management Area (WMA) to address weed issues. There is somewhat of a desire in the Colorado Desert to establish a WMA.

- Everyone contacted felt that they could not afford the time to attend a quarterly, all-day meeting. Most contacted were in favor reducing the size of the standing group to only several representatives per agency. All of the group's work should be conducted by smaller, ad-hoc committees comprised of the involved parties.

- Many felt that, especially if the size of the group is reduced, that an annual restoration workshop open to all staffers, managers and partners could be conducted. This could be a one or two-day affair that focuses on technology transfer, networking, and agency show-and-tell.

- Several individuals expressed an interest in becoming chair and vice-chair but do not wish to commit until the group becomes reestablished.

- Many of the staffers said that they would provide material for the group's dmg.gov webpage.