

Connecting People with the Desert Subgroup

Mission:

The California Desert District Bureau of Land Management manages 11 million acres of public land in southern California. These lands include sandy washes, remote canyons, riparian areas, rocky peaks and historic and archaeological sites. One of the key tenets of the BLM's mission is to educate visitors and residents about the California desert's rich history and archaeology; unique wildlife and vegetation; important geology and minerals; fragile water resources; and economic and recreational opportunities.

- This Subgroup of the California Desert Advisory Council will provide advice and recommendations to the BLM through the Desert Advisory Council.
- The focus of the subgroup will be to make recommendations on how to connect youth and adults with the spectacular resources of the California desert by identifying education and interpretation opportunities in the sciences, recreation, the arts, economics and history.
- The Subgroup will identify education and interpretation opportunities related to the Bureau of Land Management's current portfolio of multiple use land designations and will not recommend changes to these land designations.
- The BLM and the DAC will seek applicants for this for this subgroup from individuals throughout southern California.

Goals:

To deliver a series of recommendations about the following issues:

- Ways the Bureau of Land Management can educate youth and adults and connect them with the spectacular resources of the California desert.
- Topics and locations for interpretation and education.
- Opportunities for Outreach
- Identify "best practices" for outreach, interpretation and education efforts

Expertise Needed from Members:

Members of the Subgroup will be nominated by the DAC chairman, selected by the DAC and concurred with by the BLM. The applicants will have demonstrated interest and should have expertise in education, outreach or marketing combined with one or more of the following areas:

- Cultural, Performing or Visual Arts
- Recreation
- Archaeology
- Geology or Paleontology
- History (Military, Westward Expansion, Mining, or other)

- Economics
- Biological sciences
- Writing and Literature
- Film
- Sociology or Anthropology

The group will consist of 7-9 members, with at least one member from the DAC.

Term:

Three-year term, with option for consideration to serve a second term; staggered terms (1/3 each year).

Selection of Members and Election of Officers:

Interested persons submit applications to BLM per the application form. BLM submits applications to DAC chairman for nomination, and approval is by the DAC. The DAC chairman selects the Subgroup chair, and the Subgroup may vote annually to choose vice chair.

Meeting Schedule:

With a projected four (4) meetings a year, and public participation encouraged, the Subgroup Should continue to provide to the BLM through the DAC collaboration and advice on opportunities related to education and interpretation.

Process for Reporting to DAC:

Subgroup prepares summary of meetings, subgroup chair submits report to DAC chair, and DAC chair distributes to DAC members (and BLM posts on DAC website for public) with 14-day comment period before forwarding report with any comments to BLM. (Note: the comment period does not preclude BLM field staff from taking interim action where information from the DAC subgroup or other sources indicates more immediate action is needed.)