

MEETING NOTES
TASK GROUP 1
WILDLIFE AND PLANT CONSERVATION STRATEGIES
NOVEMBER 22, 1999

Task Group Members Present: Ileene Anderson, Dana Bell, Marie Brashear, Paul Condon, Mike Connor, Mark Dedon, Tom Egan, Jeri Ferguson, Art Gleason, John Gustafson, Art Guzman, Gerry Hillier, Grant Jensen, Becky Jones, Peter Kiriakos, Gene Kulesza, Lowell Landowski, Steve Lilburn, Lorelei Oviatt, Bob Parker, Valery Pilmer, Mickey Quillman, Bob Rudnick, Tamara Sasaki, Iain Scarr, Pat Smith, Bill Standard, Donna Thomas, Barbara Veale, Ed Waldheim, Jessica Walker.

Agenda Item #1 Background Information

The Task Force reviewed the list of maps that would be available to the group. They requested that desert washes be denoted. There was a discussion of how to incorporate the Fort Irwin expansion proposal into their deliberations. The Task Group decided that they would use the current Fort Irwin expansion proposal as a "placeholder" and develop recommendations that assumed there would be the expansion. The recommendations could always be modified should there be a different reconciliation worked out between Interior and Defense.

The Group also requested additional information on the DWMA's:

- acreage of each, amount of critical habitat included, and the basis for each DWMA proposal.
- summary chart of acreage needs of each species and how the proposed DWMA's meet these needs
- Agency mandated areas for tortoise vs. the DWMA
- 1/400,000 scale maps with better prediction of boundaries

Agenda Item #2 Topics to be addressed by the Task Group

The Task Group agreed to the following first step in completing its assignment:

Members will look at the goals for the Tortoise and the proposed conservation measures listed beginning on page 2-17. Each member is to identify 1) what proposals are acceptable; 2) what ones have problems but it will be possible to try to resolve and 3) what measures are unacceptable. Maps will be provided to enable the group to complete this task. The product of this exercise will be for the group to decide if member organizations can buy into the specific measurable goals and objectives.

The Task group will use the Tortoise as the planning target species for now with the understanding that measures for other species can be added later as more information becomes available.

Other topics that will be considered by the Task group are listed below:

- non-native plants including fire hazard associated with them
- enhancement packages
- use of fences along highways
- species list (to be included or not)
- what happens to other ACEC's
- priority vegetative recovery efforts
- habitat capability rating
- habitat recovery potential
- "no action" alternative analysis and how have current plans worked thus far
- prioritization of species (e.g. endemics, names of endemics)

The group discussed the possibility of Sub Task groups working with experts in special areas e.g. BLM expert on grazing) to cover all of the material that needs to be addressed by the Group.

Agenda Item #3 Schedule; Housekeeping Issues

Mickey Quillman agreed to serve as contact person for the group with the understanding that the contact person can change from meeting to meeting.

The April 3 target date is unrealistic, but the Group decided to keep it as a target for now.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 17 9:30 A.M. (VICTORVILLE)