



Workshop to Improve Inter-Agency Cooperation and Collaboration for Managing Sustainable Populations of Mohave Ground Squirrels

Project # 11-121

Background:

The Mohave ground squirrel (MGS; *Xerospermophilus mohavensis*) is state listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act and is a Priority 1 Species-At-Risk candidate within the Army. The MGS is threatened by a number of factors (i.e., habitat fragmentation and loss, degradation from urbanization, agricultural development, military activities, energy development, drought, and climate change), which could affect this species' ability to persist. The Department of Defense has a strong presence within the ground squirrel's range. Future military training capability would be substantially impacted if the MGS was to be federally listed. It was important that a workshop be convened to discuss and develop a conservation strategy for the long-term sustainability of the MGS to preclude future federal listing.

standardization and quality of field data collection so more informed and adaptive management and regulatory decisions can be made, and to provide input on how to enhance conservation efforts for MGS through improvements in field methodologies, protocols, and management strategies.

Summary of Approach:

A small group of recognized ground squirrel experts and stakeholders were convened to discuss ways to improve inter-agency cooperation and collaboration for managing MGS and to provide input for the development of a conservation strategy for this species. Output from the workshop will be distributed through a summary report, briefings, and access to workshop materials on the web.

Benefit:

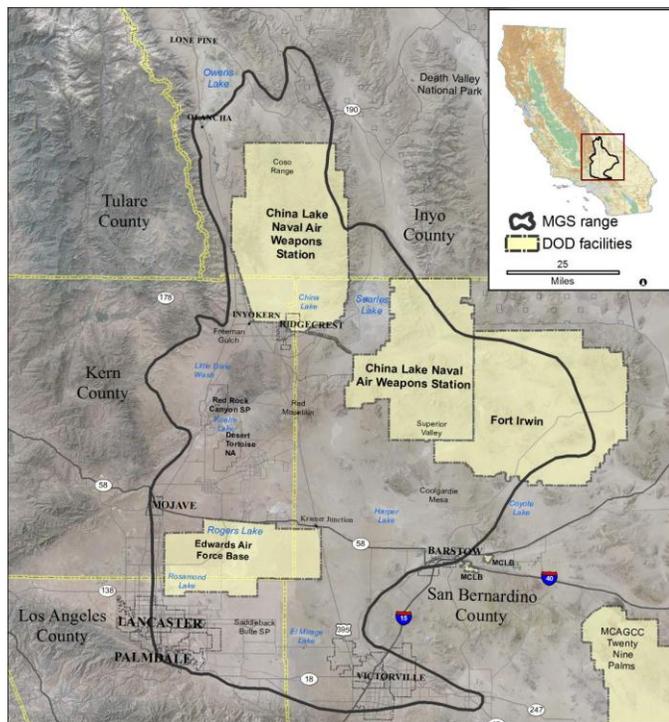
This workshop will improve cooperation/collaboration among land managers and other stakeholders, will assist the decision making/management process by targeting and prioritizing topic areas of concern, and provided a venue for stakeholders to discuss ways to improve and standardize field survey protocols/guidelines. It is important that all stakeholders be involved in the development, implementation, and costs in securing a sustainable future for MGS throughout its range.

Accomplishments:

A facilitated workshop was held to bring together recognized experts/stakeholders to discuss MGS management issues and ways to enhance conservation efforts for MGS. Information from the workshop will be distributed to stakeholders and other interested parties through web links (Desert Manager's Group, dmg.gov) and through presentations at environmental meetings/conferences. Information and discussions at the MGS workshop have been a catalyst for subsequent meetings between stakeholders on the development of future MGS conservation strategies and other associated workshops topic areas.

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Map of the historic range of the Mohave ground squirrel showing the strong presence of military installations within the western Mojave Desert region (shown with permission of the Endangered Species Recovery Program 2013)

Objective:

The main goals of this workshop were to improve agency cooperation, collaboration, and understanding of various management and regulatory actions, to develop protocols/guidelines to increase the

