

Mojave National Preserve Conservancy Board Call December 13, 2021

In Attendance:
Chris, Shaun, Gary

The Preserve is getting funds from the infrastructure bill to repave roads. Most notably the material for repaving will come from Morningstar Mine road which will revert to dirt forcing drivers to slow down and hopefully reduce tortoise deaths on the road. (This needs to be kept quiet as unpaving the road is likely to be unpopular)

A private foundation has contacted NPCA about donating money for 'something related to MNP'.

Spring Star Party

Suitable dates from a New moon perspective:

April 30th, 23rd as alternate

May 28th, 21st as alternate

We selected May 28th as a preference as Chris isn't available on 21st and April might be too cold

Wildlife crossings on I15

Pressing State to require wildlife crossing I15 at Zzyzx and Mountain pass, between Cave mtn and ?? East of Afton Canyon

Bighorn sheep radio collar data shows need

Our outdoor education program

Resume this Spring?

Teachers were eager for this past Fall and then Delta happened, and now Omicron just arrived. Revisit if it's possible to resume in January?

(Editorial note - since the meeting much more is known about Omicron and it seems like the Omicron wave will peak end of January so delaying decision until sometime in Feb might make more sense)

Shaun's mom is superintendent of school district - retiring end of this school year which may make getting school district commitment harder.

Mojave Desert Land Trust

Kelly Herbinson and Cody Hanford have take over as joint Executive Directors

Can we get closer ties to MDLT?

MDLT has paid staff that may be able to assist us

We have our camping gear that is getting limited use - partnering with them would allow more use

Gary had just done a star party with them in late 2019 before Covid shut things down
MDLT just got a dark sky designation for Mojave Trails National Monument

Following which San Bernardino County passed a dark sky ordinance
(see <https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2021/12/11/san-bernardino-county-oks-ordinance-aimed-preserving-night-sky/6478163001/>)

Discussion about persuading Goffs and Baker to limit their lighting during the MNP Star Party

Cima Dome Replanting

Chris was out there and got interviewed (articles in LA Times and Guardian)

Gary went out second weekend but it was very cold and Drew had to cancel planting as ground was frozen

Will resume planting in Spring in the March time frame

Drew mentioned to Gary that he has an extensive mailing list of volunteers from this effort who would probably be willing to donate if MNPC could collect funds

He also mentioned that with limited Preserve staff available being able to hire professional contract help (as he did for Cima Dome planting) would greatly increase what he could accomplish in a year

This discussion led Shaun to realize that IECF should have a record of everyone who has donated to MNPC in past and that we should try to get that email list

Actions

Gary - Look further into 501(c)3

Gary - Star Party Date confirmation with astronomers and MNP

Chris - contact MDLT about partnering

Shaun - contact IECF for list of donors

Chris - Setup a January meeting