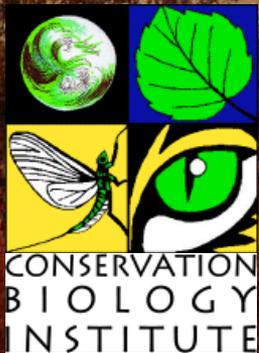


# Independent Science Advisory Process for California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Wayne Spencer  
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A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Providing science for efforts to conserve biological diversity.

# The DRECP Independent Advisors

- **Wayne Spencer** (CBI) – Wildlife conservation biology, reserve design, mammals.
- **Reed Noss** (U Central Florida) – General conservation biology, reserve design.
- **Kristin Berry** (USGS) – Desert wildlife ecology, tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel (and more).
- **Cam Barrows** (UC Riverside) – Desert ecology, reptiles, risk assessment.
- **Kimball Garrett** (LA Natural History Museum) – Birds.
- **Ted Weller** (US Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station) – Bats and wind turbines.
- **Richard Redak** (UC Riverside) – Invertebrates.
- **Todd Esque** (USGS) – Desert community ecology, vegetation, fire, invasive species, desert tortoise.
- **Chrissy Howell** (PRBO Conservation Science) – Spatial analyses, GIS, predictive modeling, bird ecology.
- **Scott Abella** (UNLV) – Restoration ecology.
- **Robin Kobaly** (SummerTree Institute) – Botany & plant ecology.
- **Robert Webb** (USGS) – Desert disturbance & recovery processes.

# NCCP Act Requires Independent Science Input on Four Topics:

- Principles for Addressing **Data Gaps and Uncertainties**
- Principles for **Conservation and Reserve Design**
- Principles for **Conserving Specific Target Species and Natural Communities**
- Principles and Framework for an **Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program**

## Also often addressed:

- Principles for **Analyzing Plan Effects**
- **Specific Questions** from Plan Participants and Stakeholders

# *Examples of Emerging Consensus Points*

- Match the scale and resolution of each analytical task to the scale and resolution of the issues being addressed.
- Subdivide the study area into units that are ecologically relevant and useful to plan analyses.
- Don't rely on species presence data (e.g., CNDDDB) as a primary guide to siting conservation or development areas.
- Invest in completing a seamless, up-to-date, high-resolution, hierarchical vegetation map as soon as possible.
- Use dynamic, spatially explicit models to fill information gaps.

# *Examples of Emerging Consensus Points*

- Concentrate developments within existing disturbed areas.
- Bundle linear developments (e.g., transmission lines, solar arrays) along existing linear features (e.g., roads, canals) and mitigate with wildlife crossing features.
- Maximize habitat connectivity.
- Avoid disrupting geological processes, such as dune dynamics and water flows.
- Implement and build on existing conservation and mitigation measures (e.g., from Recovery Plans) that have never been fully funded or implemented.

A landscape photograph featuring large, rounded boulders in the foreground, set against a field of dry, golden-brown grass. The sky is a deep blue, with a large, bright white cloud in the upper left quadrant. The word "Questions?" is written in a yellow, serif font with a slight shadow, centered in the upper half of the image.

Questions?