

2 September 2011

Mr. David Spicer, President
STORM-OV
P.O. Box 278
Beatty, Nevada 89003

Dear Dave,

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the fantastic work that STORM-OV has done in the Oasis Valley to further the conservation goals for the Amargosa Toad and its habitat. The spring restoration work on Torrance Ranch, a Conservancy property for 12 years, has exemplified the kind of innovative approach that you and your organization take towards achieving positive results on the ground with as minimal expense as needed to get the job done. Your work has been recognized by both our State and Federal partners as an important alternative to the typical spring and wetland restoration projects that have been attempted in the past.

Secondly, it must be recognized the STORM-OV has broken new ground in the mediation between the land user groups including miners, ranchers and off-road vehicle enthusiasts, and the conservation community. In many Western arenas there has been little to no common ground to serve as a platform for productive dialogue leading to positive results. Your work with these user groups has brought us to a position where we can now start exploring common goals of responsible and shared land use on our public lands. That has been monumental in my view and should be shared and emulated wherever possible throughout the West.

Lastly – it should not go unnoticed that you and the other partners associated with STORM-OV have volunteered not only your time, but real cost items such as mechanical equipment and operator labor to accomplish these restoration and habitat enhancement projects in the Oasis Valley in a timely and cost-effective manner. The number of man-hours and equipment operating hours that you have contributed are significant and have resulted in several projects making it through to full completion in a short amount of time – with the desired results of new environments for Amargosa Toads to breed in when they emerge in Spring, and increased success of toadlets to maturity once they develop and leave the water. All of this has contributed to the continued avoidance of the need to federally list this species and regulate its habitat in a community that is struggling to survive economically.

For all these reasons and more I would like to whole-heartedly endorse the goals and the vision of STORM-OV and wish you continued success in bridging this gap between habitat conservation and the responsible enjoyment and use of our public lands. I look forward to working with you on several upcoming projects together.

Sincerely,



James Moore
Oasis Valley Project Director
The Nature Conservancy in Nevada