



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2008-B-0013

April 2, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Environmental Assessment to Implement a Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Task: Reduce Common Raven Predation on the Desert Tortoise (Final EA). This source of mortality is a serious problem for the desert tortoise, and was identified in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan as a threat that needed to be reduced. As the Federal agency with lead responsibility to recover the desert tortoise, we have developed a document that identifies and evaluates several alternatives to reduce common raven predation on the desert tortoise in the Mojave and Colorado portions of the California desert. We developed these alternatives after reviewing the public's suggestions which they submitted during a scoping process. This input was valuable and helpful. We have prepared the Final EA and FONSI after considering input from the public during the comment period for the Draft EA. The FONSI and Final EA are enclosed. Both documents are also available on our office's website at [www.fws.gov/ventura](http://www.fws.gov/ventura).

The FONSI is available for your review and comment. Please send any comments you may have by regular mail to:

Field Supervisor  
Attn: Raven EA  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003;

by fax to:

Field Supervisor, Attn: Raven EA, to our fax number at (805) 644-3958;

or by e-mail to:

[fw8finalravenea@fws.gov](mailto:fw8finalravenea@fws.gov).

The comment period will open April 2, 2008 and close on May 9, 2008. All comments should be postmarked (if mailed) or sent (if faxed or e-mailed) by the closing date.

We have provided copies of the FONSI and Final EA to the following libraries:

Imperial County Library – Calipatria, Desert Shores, Heber, Holtville, Niland, Ocotillo, Salton Sea, Seeley, Westmoreland, and Winterhaven branches;  
Inyo County Free Library - Furnace Creek and Tecopa branches;  
Kern County Library – Boron, California City, Mojave, Ridgecrest, and Wanda Kirk-Rosamond branches;

Los Angeles County Library – Lancaster Regional and Lake Los Angeles (Palmdale) branches;  
Riverside County Library – Anza, Desert Hot Springs, Coachella, Cathedral City, Mecca-North Shore, Indio, La Quinta, Lake Tamarisk, and Palm Desert branches;  
San Bernardino County Public Library – Barstow, Trona, Adelanto, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley Serrano, Victorville, and Needles branches;  
Brawley Public Library;  
Camarena Memorial Public Library (Calexico);  
El Centro Public Library;  
City of Imperial Public Library;  
Palm Springs Public Library; and  
Rancho Mirage Public Library.

If you have specific questions, please contact Judy Hohman of my staff at (805) 644-1766, ext. 304.

Sincerely,



Diane K. Noda  
Field Supervisor

Enclosure