

# **Reduce Common Raven Predation on the Desert Tortoise in the California Desert**

## **Status of the Project**

▶ Status of the EA

▶ Working Group



# Status of the EA

- ▶ Reviewed comments from public scoping and compared with range of alternatives
- ▶ Asked working group for feedback on need to add a non-lethal alternative
- ▶ Work group recommended adding non-lethal alternative
- ▶ Expected comments in late August from Solicitor

# Status of EA

- ▶ Early September - Solicitor not available for a few weeks
- ▶ Edwards AFB offered the assistance of their NEPA expert
- ▶ Formulated Plan B

# Status of EA – Plan B

- review EA with EAFB NEPA expert to ensure strict compliance with CEQ regulations and guidance letters and case law
- brief FWS decisionmaker on draft EA
- late November - send EA to work group, Solicitor and editors and request quick review time (1 week)
- mid-December - distribute to public for comment

# Status of EA - Plan B

- early February – address comments, prepare final NEPA document and decision document
- implementation of raven removal would not begin until spring 2008

# Working Group

## ▶ Meeting in August

- Update on status of EA
- Identified upcoming tasks to implement actions in EA
- Learned about current efforts conducted outside the work group that are related to raven management (e.g., efforts by Anne Staley and Carol Sebastian)

# Upcoming Tasks

- Several identified, ones below recommended to implement or fund in next 12 months
- Spring 2007- Survey raven nests with evidence of desert tortoise predation
- Fall 2007 - Implement Wildlife Services activities for spring 2008
- Landfill subgroup - to determine effectiveness of current management actions at landfills

# Upcoming Tasks (cont'd)

- 2007 – develop standard protocol to evaluate the effectiveness of landfill operations over time

# Estimated Costs

- Survey nests, ID offending ravens - \$86K
- Wildlife Services to remove offending ravens - \$63K
- Landfill protocol - \$2.5K
- Request decision from DMG on these recommended actions

# Working Group

- Next meeting in December

