

Summary
of
Desert Tortoise Recovery Actions
Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

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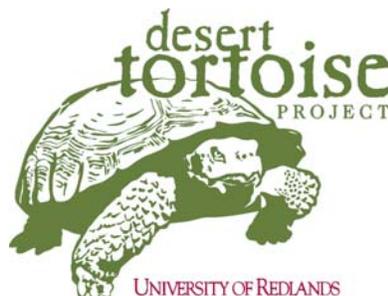


Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	5
2. Recovery Action Summary.....	6-26
Appendix A: Contact Information.....	30-34
Appendix B: Glossary.....	36-37

List of Figures

Figure 1. Desert Tortoise Recovery Units in the Mojave Desert

Figure 2. Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

Recovery Task Summary – Redlands Institute Desert Tortoise Project

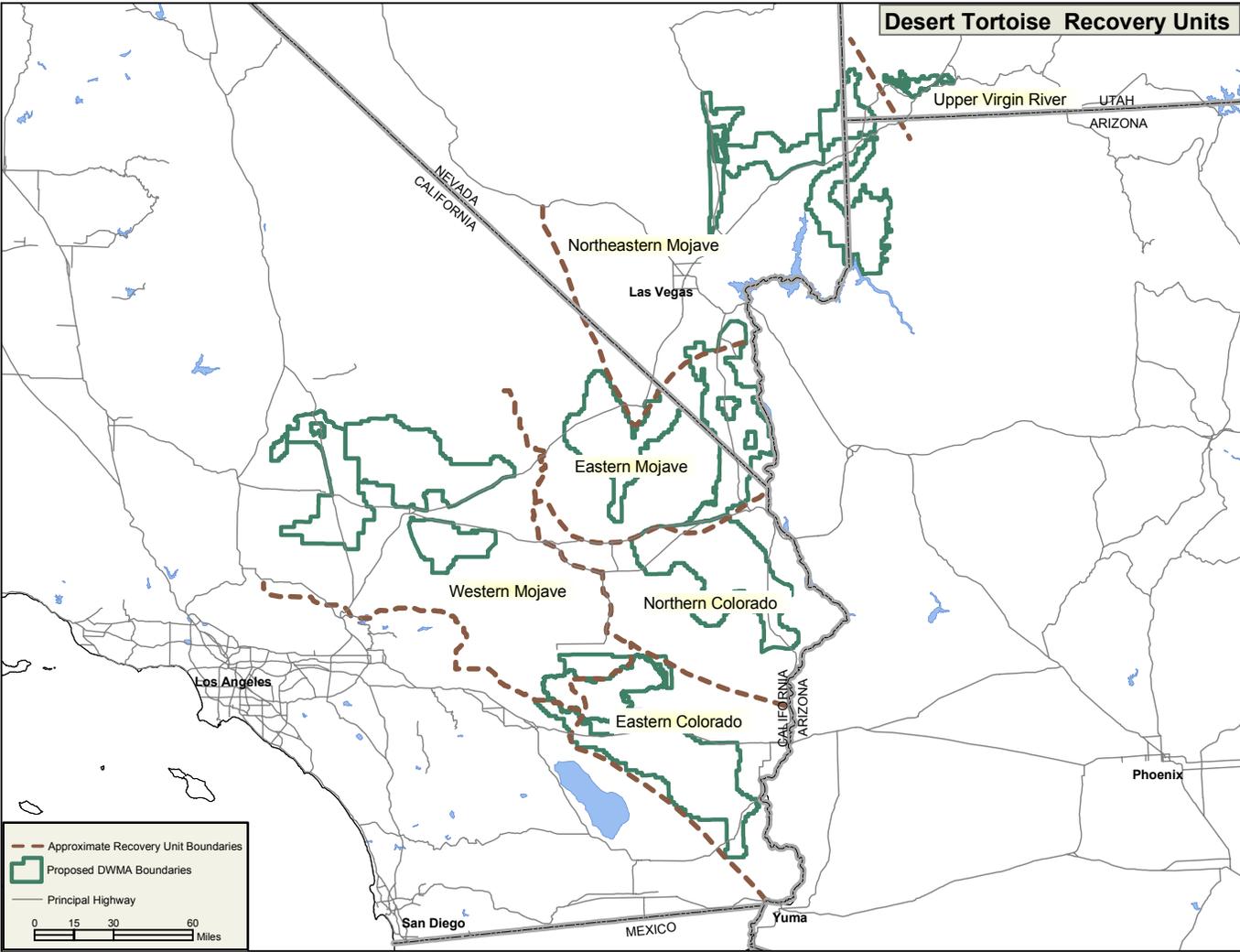


Figure 1. Desert Tortoise Recovery Units in the Mojave Desert.

Recovery Task Summary – Redlands Institute Desert Tortoise Project

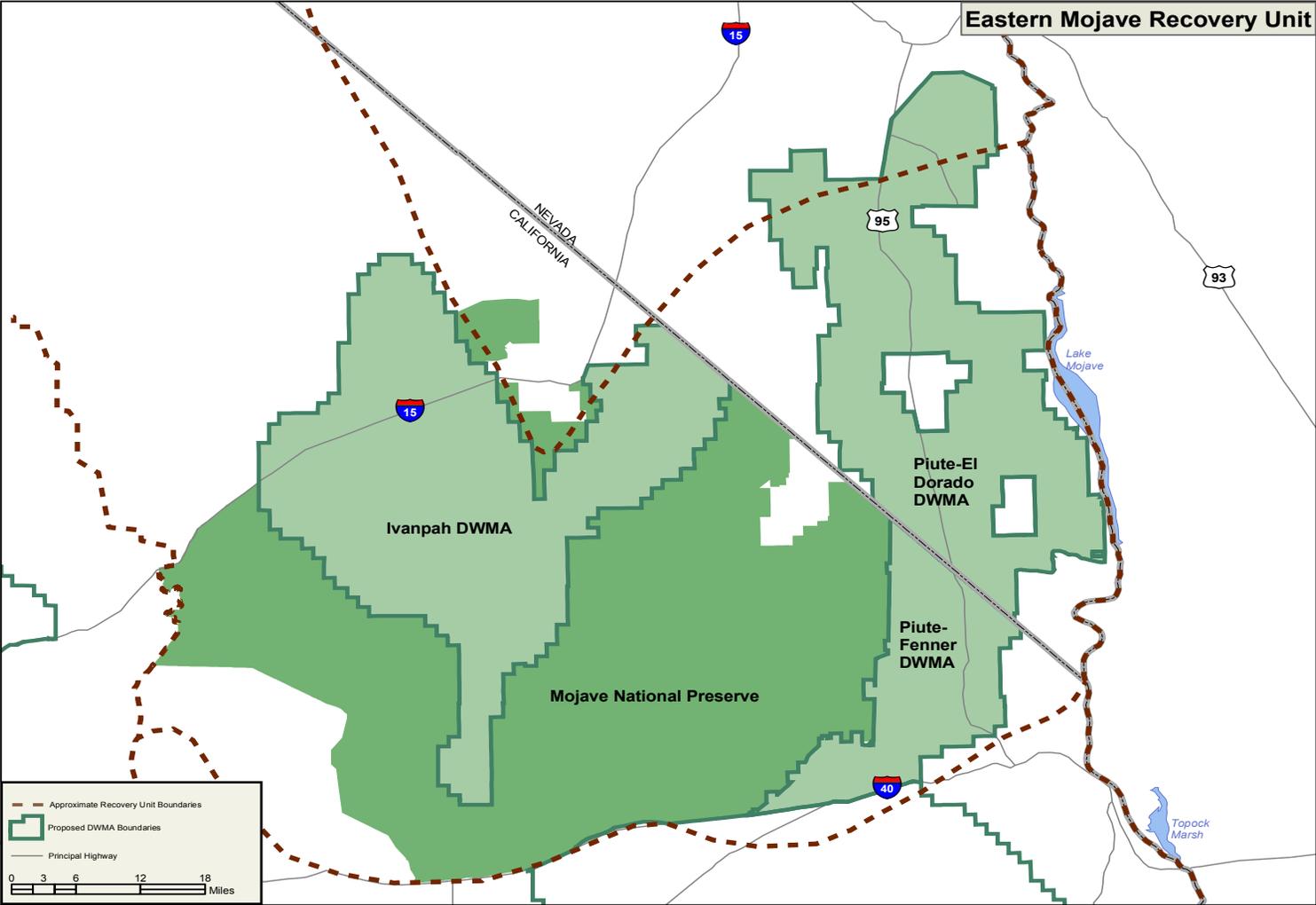


Figure 2. Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

Introduction

The following report provides a summary of completed and ongoing recovery, monitoring, and research actions for the desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassizii* in the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit. Information is summarized by each of the recovery actions identified in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan (USFWS, 1994). Information was obtained from surveys conducted in July 2002 of the land and resource agencies and entities responsible for desert tortoise recovery and management. The information provided within this document was taken directly from the survey responses. Where no answer was provided the corresponding cell was left blank. No attempt has been made to independently verify the accuracy and completeness of the information provided on the surveys. Contact information has been provided for the individuals who completed the questionnaire to aid in the evaluation of the information contained herein.

The information in this report will be used by the Desert Manager Group (DMG) and the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group (MOG) to plan and manage an effective and coordinated recovery program for the desert tortoise. The report will be updated annually. Copies of these reports can be obtained from the DMG website at www.dmg.gov/documents.

Comments on the report are welcome and should be sent to:

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Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Fenner
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
<p>Establish at least one desert wildlife management area of at least 1,000 square miles in each recovery unit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA Plan) of 1980 (see Map 5), desert tortoise crucial habitat was designated for a 692,000-acre area (about 240,000 in the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit) including all of Clipper and Fenner Valleys and most of Piute Valley. · In October 1992, the State Director signed the California Statewide Desert Tortoise Management Policy (Statewide Policy) designating a management area of desert tortoise Category I (173,500 ac.) [all ownerships outside of Mojave National Preserve]. The area includes all of the Clipper, Fenner, and Piute Valleys in California north of Interstate Highway 40. · In April 1993, the CDCA Plan was amended to include the designations specified in the Statewide Policy. · In January 2001, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Draft California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendments for the Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Area was published. It proposed an area of critical environmental concern named the Piute-Fenner Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA). The proposed DWMA includes 173,900 ac. (148,300 ac. public lands). All BLM lands in the DWMA are to be BLM Category I desert tortoise habitat. The Final Plan and EIS are to be released in July 2002.
<p>Secure habitat within desert wildlife management areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · About 18,300 acres of habitat in the proposed Chuckwalla DWMA ACEC have been acquired through purchase using Land and Water Conservation Funds and compensation funds. · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 26), “No Category I habitat will be transferred out of public ownership.”
<p>Connect functional habitat within recovery units wherever enough extant desert tortoise habitat exists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC is contiguous with the Mojave National Preserve DWMA. · The proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC is contiguous with the Piute-EI Dorado DWMA in Nevada. · The proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC is contiguous (across Interstate Highway 40) with the BLM’s Chemehuevi DWMA ACEC in the Northern Colorado Recovery Unit.
<p>Number (or miles) of roads closed or rehabilitated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 1994, Congress designated wilderness areas in the CDCA, of which 13,900 acres are in the proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC. All routes are closed in wilderness. · The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan proposes to close 6 miles of routes. All other routes are designated open or limited use. Washes not designated as open routes are no longer available for travel.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Fenner
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
All competitive and organized events on designated roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Historically, the BLM has not authorized competitive events in the proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC. · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 11), “Competitive vehicle events in tortoise habitat will be allowed only within existing off-highway vehicle open (play) areas or on specific courses identified in the CDCA Plan.” · Organized dual-sport motorcycle trail rides are sometimes authorized under a programmatic biological opinion in tortoise habitat throughout the CDCA. All trail rides are on established routes.
Prohibit habitat destructive military maneuvers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Habitat destructive military maneuvers have not been authorized since 1980 in the proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC. However, maneuvers could be considered subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA. With this limitation, it is unlikely that maneuvers would be allowed.
Prohibit clearing for agriculture, landfills, and any other surface disturbance that diminishes the capacity of the land to support desert tortoises, other wildlife, and native vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · As proposed in the Northern and Eastern Mojave Management Plan, habitat disturbing activities would be considered subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA. · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 20), “Surface disturbing activities in Category I habitats will be restricted to those which cannot be relocated elsewhere.” · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 21), “Surface disturbance to soil and vegetation will be minimized through mitigation measures in Category I and II habitats.” · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 24), “Facilities and activities that concentrate visitors will be discouraged in and adjacent to Category I and II habitats.” · BLM policy prohibits landfills on public lands.
Acres of grazing allotments (sheep and cattle) closed or bought out for conservation (see attached document ALLGRAZE_CA_BLM.doc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Piute Valley Cattle Allotment lies within the proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC. Under the grazing biological opinion (1994), no grazing can occur (or has occurred) on BLM lands in this allotment. The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan proposes to eliminate the allotment. · The Lanfair Valley Allotment was eliminated in 19*. It overlapped the proposed DWMA ACEC and critical habitat. · The Granite Mountains Cattle Allotment was eliminated in 19*. The allotment included tortoise habitat in the Recovery Unit, but the BLM portion of the allotment was outside of the proposed DWMA.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Fenner
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action Number of wild horses and burros removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Under the Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan, there will be no wild horse or burro herd management areas overlapping the proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC. · In 1981-2, 20 burros were removed from the Dead Mountain Herd Area, which is adjacent to the proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC and in the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit. The target population of 0 for the Herd Area has not yet been achieved; the estimated population is 19.
Prohibit vegetation harvest, except by permit; collection of biological specimens, except by permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Under the CDCA Plan, harvesting of vegetation and biological specimens is allowed only by permit.
Number of illegal dumps cleaned up (and tons of trash removed, if this information is available)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 1996, an illegal dump was cleaned up at Goffs (San Bernardino County) within the proposed Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC.
Prohibit deposition of captive or displaced desert tortoises or other animals, except under authorized translocation research projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 31), "All tortoise relocations will be conducted under experimental controls until adequate information is available to ensure that tortoises can be effectively and humanely relocated. Only wild tortoises will be considered for relocation." [Local relocations to move tortoises out of harm's way from a project is not considered a relocation for these purposes.]
Prohibit uncontrolled dogs out of vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No restrictions are in place.
Restrict establishment of new roads in desert wildlife management areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There are no specific restrictions on new roads. However, a new road would be subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Fenner
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
Location and miles of desert tortoise fencing installed (include number of culverts designed or suitable for desert tortoises)	· None
Number of acres or list of revegetation projects	· None, except for route rehab projects noted above.
Sign and fence desert wildlife management areas as needed	· None.
Establish environmental education programs and facilities.	· The Statewide Tortoise Policy (1992) includes a detailed Public Education Program. It includes strategies with a total of 25 actions. Most of these have been implemented and many are on-going.
Monitor desert tortoise populations within recovery units	· The Goffs Permanent Study Plot was in the proposed Fenner DWMA ACEC. The plot was surveyed in 1980, 1983-86, 1990, 1994, and 2000. The land the plot is on was transferred to the Mojave National Preserve in 1994. · In the 1970's the BLM conducted surveys on 47 study plots. Fifteen were selected as permanent study plots, each to be surveyed every four years. In 1995, responsibility for these surveys was transferred to the NBS and subsequently USGS.
Initiate research necessary to monitor and guide recovery efforts	· In 1990, three new research (new total of four) positions were added to address tortoise conservation and management issues in the California Desert. In 1994 all four positions and funding support were transferred to NBS/USGS. · Research in the proposed Fenner DWMA ACEC has centered on demographics (permanent study plot data); disease, especially URTD; predation; reproduction; survivorship, mortality (these four studied at the Goffs Site); and other life history elements (associated with radioactive Waste site studies). Major researchers have included Berry, Turner, and Karl.
Activities associated with predator control	· No predator control activities have occurred in the Piute-Fenner DWMA ACEC.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Eldorado
Agency	Nevada BLM
Recovery Action	
Establish at least one desert wildlife management area of at least 1,000 square miles in each recovery unit	Although the Recovery Plan recommends the establishment of at least one DWMA of 1,000 square miles in each recovery unit, it is not possible to achieve this on public lands in Nevada. The minimally acceptable situation is to establish several smaller DWMA's that are connected by corridors of functional tortoise habitat. In 1998, the LVFO BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) established four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for protection of critical desert tortoise habitat encompassing a total of 743,209 acres (1,161.27 mi ²). The Piute-Eldorado ACEC comprises of 329,440 acres (514.75 mi ²).
Secure habitat within desert wildlife management areas	<p>The objectives of the Recovery Plan were incorporated into our Resource Management Plan (RMP) as management direction and all actions proposed for lands managed under the Las Vegas Field Office are required to comply with our RMP. Table 2-2 in our Resource Management Plan identifies the management direction for ACECs designated for desert tortoise values and is included as an attachment to this document.</p> <p>The Bureau has continued to provide support to The Nature Conservancy for the development of site conservation plans for each of the DWMA's.</p> <p>The BLM LVFO provided funding to hire a land law examiner that completed a review of the legal descriptions of all ACECs in an effort to consolidate information necessary to initiate the withdrawal of lands within ACECs from mineral entry, subject to valid and existing rights.</p>
Connect functional habitat within recovery units wherever enough extant desert tortoise habitat exists	NA
Number (or miles) of roads closed or rehabilitated	117 sites equaling approximately 54 miles have been restored

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Eldorado
Agency	Nevada BLM
Recovery Action	
All competitive and organized events on designated roads	<p>In accordance with the Resource Management Plan, all competitive events involving mechanized and motorized vehicles are limited to designated roads and trails within ACECs. Due to the high level of OHV events, the Piute-Eldorado ACEC was prioritized for road designations. All roads within this area have been designated, signed, and are in the process of being restored. We are working with the USFWS to secure funding to support a roads designation position that will assist our field office with the designation of roads in the remaining ACECs.</p>
Prohibit habitat destructive military maneuvers	<p>The Resource Management Plan Management Direction SS-3-f. prohibits the authorization of military maneuvers within ACECs. All activities proposed for lands managed by the LVFO are reviewed through the NEPA process and are required to be in conformance with the RMP</p>
Prohibit clearing for agriculture, landfills, and any other surface disturbance that diminishes the capacity of the land to support desert tortoises, other wildlife, and native vegetation	<p>The RMP management direction RW-1-e, RW-1-f state that ACECs are right-of-way avoidance areas and site-type right-of-way exclusion areas. Management direction SS-3-d limits utility corridors to 3,000 feet or less in width, SS-3-e prohibits the authorization of new landfills. All activities proposed for lands managed by the LVFO are reviewed through the NEPA process and are required to be in conformance with the RMP.</p> <p>As a result of the increased demand for energy, the LVFO has received and processed several rights-of-way actions in support of energy-related facilities. In order to reduce the cumulative impact of these actions on desert tortoises and other special status species, we have developed restoration requirements based on the environmental sensitivity of the project areas. The greater the sensitivity of the resources within the project area, the more stringent the requirements are for restoration. ACECs and tortoise critical habitat are the second highest ranking for restoration standards and require seed collection and propagation, perennial shrub transplanting, and long term monitoring with success criteria set at 60% of the dominance diversity after 6 years.</p> <p>The BLM LVFO has implemented the use of independent third-party contractors funded by proponents, to ensure compliance with stipulations of biological opinions on large rights-of-way projects. This effort was initiated to combat current personnel shortages that hinder our abilities to provide onsite project oversight. Stipulations enforced include limiting disturbance to the minimal necessary for project implementation.</p>
Acres of grazing allotments (sheep and cattle) closed or bought out for conservation (see attached document ALLGRAZE_CA_BLM.doc)	NO

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Eldorado
Agency	Nevada BLM
Recovery Action	
Prohibit vegetation harvest, except by permit; collection of biological specimens, except by permit	<p>The RMP management direction SS-3-n prohibits the commercial collection of flora. Commercial collection of fauna is only allowed upon completion of a scientifically credible study that demonstrates commercial collection of fauna does not adversely impact affected species or their habitat. This management direction does not however, limit hunting or trapping and casual collection as these activities are permitted by the State of Nevada.</p> <p>Management direction FW-3-b allows harvesting of green or dead and down Mesquite by permit only and only when this activity is consistent with sustaining plant communities and their dependent wildlife in a healthy and vigorous state.</p>
Number of illegal dumps cleaned up (and tons of trash removed, if this information is available)	<p>Through off-site mitigation fees collected from sand and gravel community pit sales, the BLM has provided \$12,000 and 40 people hours to clean up a large dump site at Nelson Hills.</p>
Prohibit deposition of captive or displaced desert tortoises or other animals, except under authorized translocation research projects	<p>NO</p>
Prohibit uncontrolled dogs out of vehicles	<p>NO</p>
Restrict establishment of new roads in desert wildlife management areas	<p>Through the Clark County Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) law enforcement rangers have been hired to patrol our ACECs. Among other things, their efforts onsite can ensure travel within these areas remains restricted to designated roads.</p> <p>The Bureau, in cooperation with the Public Information and Education subgroup of the MSHCP, has developed a brochure depicting the locations of approved routes of travel within the Piute-Eldorado ACEC and provides information on the use-limitations enforced in these areas.</p> <p>The Bureau has issued a number of trespass violations and required reimbursement for damaged vegetation for off road activities. Money collected from these violations is used toward restoring these areas.</p>

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Eldorado
Agency	Nevada BLM
Recovery Action	
Location and miles of desert tortoise fencing installed (include number of culverts designed or suitable for desert tortoises)	NO
Sign and fence desert wildlife management areas as needed	The Bureau has signed all designated routes in the Piute Valley ACEC
Establish environmental education programs and facilities.	The Bureau developed the Eastern Mojave Desert Initiative Plan to expand the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Management Area to accommodate future research and educational needs.
Monitor desert tortoise populations within recovery units	The FWS and BLM have entered into a MOU to support the service training provided by the FWS on public lands to ensure valid and consistent results among contractors hired to implement the distance sampling.
Initiate research necessary to monitor and guide recovery efforts	<p>The BLM continues to maintain and manage the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center as a research facility to support research dedicated to improve our understanding of the nutritional requirements, the effects of disease, and the impact of high densities on the health, survival and reproduction of desert tortoises.</p> <p>Through off-site mitigation fees collected from sand and gravel community pit sales, the BLM has provided \$1,126,750.00 in funding for nutritional research on desert tortoises since 1995.</p> <p>The Bureau developed the Eastern Mojave Desert Initiative Plan to expand the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center Management Area to accommodate future research and educational needs.</p>

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Piute-Eldorado
Agency	Nevada BLM
Recovery Action	
Activities associated with predator control	<p>Through the project planning and design stages of the NEPA process, the BLM LVFO encourages the consolidation of transmission lines into designated utility corridors to reduce the dispersion of perching/nesting sites for ravens throughout public lands.</p> <p>The BLM LVFO has implemented the use of independent third-party contractors funded by proponents, to ensure compliance with stipulations of biological opinions on large rights-of-way projects to combat current personnel shortages that hinder our abilities to provide onsite project oversight. Stipulations enforced include litter control to reduce the attractiveness of sites to ravens.</p>

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Ivanpah
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
<p>Establish at least one desert wildlife management area of at least 1,000 square miles in each recovery unit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In the California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980 (see Map 5), desert tortoise crucial habitat was designated for three areas of 80,000 acres (Ivanpah Valley), 50,000 acres (Kelso Valley), and 50,000 acres (Shadow Valley). Much of the Ivanpah Valley and all of the Kelso Valley crucial habitat units are now in the Mojave National Preserve. · In October 1992, the State Director signed the California Statewide Desert Tortoise Management Policy (Statewide Policy) designating a management area of desert tortoise Category I (180,500 ac.) [all ownerships outside of Mojave National Preserve]. The area includes all of northern Ivanpah Valley and most of Shadow Valley. · In April 1993, the CDCA Plan was amended to include the designations specified in the Statewide Policy. · In January 2001, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Draft California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendments for the Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Area was published. The proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC includes 37,300 ac. (34,700 ac. public lands). All BLM lands in the DWMA are to be BLM Category I desert tortoise habitat. The Final Plan and EIS are to be released in August 2002. The proposed DWMA is contiguous with lands managed as DWMA within the Mojave National Preserve.
<p>Secure habitat within desert wildlife management areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No acquisitions have been made in the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC. · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 26), “No Category I habitat will be transferred out of public ownership.”
<p>Connect functional habitat within recovery units wherever enough extant desert tortoise habitat exists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC is contiguous with the Mojave National Preserve DWMA. · The proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC is in close proximity (over a low but narrow pass) to the Piute-EI Dorado DWMA.
<p>Number (or miles) of roads closed or rehabilitated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan proposes to close <1 mile of one route in the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC. All other routes are designated open or limited use. Washes not designated as open routes are no longer available for travel.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Ivanpah
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
<p>All competitive and organized events on designated roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 11), “Competitive vehicle events in tortoise habitat will be allowed only within existing off-highway vehicle open (play) areas or on specific courses identified in the CDCA Plan.” · Historically, the BLM has not authorized competitive events in the proposed Ivanpah DWMA ACEC. · Organized dual-sport motorcycle trail rides are sometimes authorized under a programmatic biological opinion in tortoise habitat throughout the CDCA. All trail rides are on established routes.
<p>Prohibit habitat destructive military maneuvers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Habitat destructive military maneuvers have not been authorized in the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC. However, maneuvers could be considered subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA. With this limitation, it is unlikely that maneuvers would be allowed.
<p>Prohibit clearing for agriculture, landfills, and any other surface disturbance that diminishes the capacity of the land to support desert tortoises, other wildlife, and native vegetation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · As proposed in the Northern and Eastern Mojave Management Plan, habitat disturbing activities would be considered subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA. · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 20), “Surface disturbing activities in Category I habitats will be restricted to those which cannot be relocated elsewhere.” · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 21), “Surface disturbance to soil and vegetation will be minimized through mitigation measures in Category I and II habitats.” · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 24), “Facilities and activities that concentrate visitors will be discouraged in and adjacent to Category I and II habitats.” · BLM policy prohibits landfills on public lands.
<p>Acres of grazing allotments (sheep and cattle) closed or bought out for conservation (see attached document ALLGRAZE_CA_BLM.doc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC is entirely covered by three small cattle allotments - Valley View, Kessler Springs, and Jean Lake. The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan proposes restrictions including 1) no grazing in the DWMA in the spring of years of low ephemeral forage, 2) no allocation of ephemeral forage, 3) no temporary allocation of additional perennial forage, 4) forage use limits, 5) termination of allotment at the request of the allottee [to accommodate a conservation buyout], and 6) terms and conditions of existing biological opinions. · Under interim restrictions, the Valley View, Kessler Springs, and Jean Lake Cattle Allotments cannot be grazed. · The adjacent Clark Mountain Cattle Allotment occurs in tortoise habitat outside of the proposed DWMA ACEC.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Ivanpah
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
Number of wild horses and burros removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Clark Mountain Herd Area, which is near the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC, has a target population of 44 burros for the Herd Area; however the current population estimate is 150 burros. Some burros from this Herd Area enter the proposed DWMA ACEC. · Under the proposed Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan, there will be no wild horse or burro herd management areas overlapping the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC.
Number of illegal dumps cleaned up (and tons of trash removed, if this information is available)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 2002, an illegal dump was cleaned up at Nipton (San Bernardino County) within the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC.
Prohibit deposition of captive or displaced desert tortoises or other animals, except under authorized translocation research projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 31), “All tortoise relocations will be conducted under experimental controls until adequate information is available to ensure that tortoises can be effectively and humanely relocated. Only wild tortoises will be considered for relocation.” [A local relocation to move a tortoise out of harm’s way from a project is not considered a relocation for these purposes.]
Prohibit uncontrolled dogs out of vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No restrictions are in place.
Restrict establishment of new roads in desert wildlife management areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There are no specific restrictions on new roads. However, a new road would be subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA.
Location and miles of desert tortoise fencing installed (include number of culverts designed or suitable for desert tortoises)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · None.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Ivanpah
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
Number of acres or list of revegetation projects	· None, except for route rehab projects noted above.
Sign and fence desert wildlife management areas as needed	· None.
Establish environmental education programs and facilities.	· The Statewide Tortoise Policy (1992) includes a detailed Public Education Program. It includes strategies with a total of 25 actions. Most of these have been implemented and many are on-going.
Monitor desert tortoise populations within recovery units	· The Ivanpah Valley Permanent Study Plot was in the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC. The plot was surveyed in 1979, 1986, 1990, 1994, and 2002. The land the plot is on was transferred to the Mojave National Preserve in 1994. · In the 1970's the BLM conducted surveys on 47 study plots. Fifteen were selected as permanent study plots, each to be surveyed every four years. In 1995, responsibility for these surveys was transferred to the NBS and subsequently USGS.
Initiate research necessary to monitor and guide recovery efforts	In 1990, three new research (new total of four) positions were added to address tortoise conservation and management issues in the California Desert. In 1994 all four positions and funding support were transferred to NBS/USGS. · Research in the proposed Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC has centered on demographics (permanent study plot data); physiology, reproduction; and grazing impacts. Major researchers have included Berry, Turner and Medica, Nagy, Peterson, and Avery.
Activities associated with predator control	· No predator control activities have occurred in the Ivanpah Valley DWMA ACEC. **

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Shadow Valley
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
Establish at least one desert wildlife management area of at least 1,000 square miles in each recovery unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In the California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980 (see Map 5), desert tortoise crucial habitat was designated for three areas of 80,000 acres (Ivanpah Valley), 50,000 acres (Kelso Valley), and 50,000 acres (Shadow Valley). Much of the Ivanpah Valley and all of the Kelso Valley crucial habitat units are now in the Mojave National Preserve. · In October 1992, the State Director signed the California Statewide Desert Tortoise Management Policy (Statewide Policy) designating a management area of desert tortoise Category I (180,500 ac.) [all ownerships outside of Mojave National Preserve]. The area includes all of northern Ivanpah Valley and most of Shadow Valley. · In April 1993, the CDCA Plan was amended to include the designations specified in the Statewide Policy. · In January 2001, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Draft California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendments for the Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning Area was published. The proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC includes 101,400 ac. (95,500 ac. public lands). All BLM lands in the DWMA are to be BLM Category I desert tortoise habitat. The Final Plan and EIS are to be released in August 2002. The proposed DWMA is contiguous (across Interstate 15) with lands managed as DWMA within the Mojave National Preserve.
Secure habitat within desert wildlife management areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No acquisitions have been made in the proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC. · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 26), “No Category I habitat will be transferred out of public ownership.”
Number (or miles) of roads closed or rehabilitated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 1994, Congress designated wilderness areas in the CDCA, of which 28,900 acres are in the proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC. All routes are closed in wilderness. · The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan proposes to close 11 miles of routes. All other routes are designated open or limited use. Washes not designated as open routes are no longer available for travel.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Shadow Valley
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
<p>All competitive and organized events on designated roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 11), “Competitive vehicle events in tortoise habitat will be allowed only within existing off-highway vehicle open (play) areas or on specific courses identified in the CDCA Plan.” · The 250-mile Barstow-Vegas Racing Corridor passes through the proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC. No race has been held since 1989. Parts of the course are now in the Mojave National Preserve or wilderness, and no races can be authorized. The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan proposed to delete the Corridor. · Organized dual-sport motorcycle trail rides are sometimes authorized under a programmatic biological opinion in tortoise habitat throughout the CDCA. All trail rides are on established routes.
<p>Prohibit habitat destructive military maneuvers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Habitat destructive military maneuvers have not been authorized in the proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC. However, maneuvers could be considered subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA. With this limitation, it is unlikely that maneuvers would be allowed.
<p>Prohibit clearing for agriculture, landfills, and any other surface disturbance that diminishes the capacity of the land to support desert tortoises, other wildlife, and native vegetation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · As proposed in the Northern and Eastern Mojave Management Plan, habitat disturbing activities would be considered subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA. · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 20), “Surface disturbing activities in Category I habitats will be restricted to those which cannot be relocated elsewhere.” · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 21), “Surface disturbance to soil and vegetation will be minimized through mitigation measures in Category I and II habitats.” · Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 24), “Facilities and activities that concentrate visitors will be discouraged in and adjacent to Category I and II habitats.” · BLM policy prohibits landfills on public lands.
<p>Acres of grazing allotments (sheep and cattle) closed or bought out for conservation (see attached document ALLGRAZE_CA_BLM.doc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Valley Wells Cattle Allotment overlaps the entire proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC as well as other tortoise habitat. The Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan proposes restrictions 1-6 as above. · Three cattle allotments - Clark Mountain, Kingston Range, and Pahrump Valley - occur in tortoise habitat outside of the proposed DWMA ACEC. · Under interim restrictions, cattle grazing cannot occur in portions of the Shadow Valley (all of critical habitat), Kingston Range, and Pahrump Valley Cattle Allotments from March 1 to June 15 and September 7 to November 7.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Shadow Valley
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
Number of illegal dumps cleaned up (and tons of trash removed, if this information is available)	· In 2001, an illegal dump was cleaned up at Charleston View (Inyo County) within the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit.
Prohibit deposition of captive or displaced desert tortoises or other animals, except under authorized translocation research projects	· Under the Statewide Tortoise Policy (Guideline 31), “All tortoise relocations will be conducted under experimental controls until adequate information is available to ensure that tortoises can be effectively and humanely relocated. Only wild tortoises will be considered for relocation.” [Local relocations to move tortoises out of harm’s way from a project is not considered a relocation for these purposes.]
Prohibit uncontrolled dogs out of vehicles	· No restrictions are in place.
Restrict establishment of new roads in desert wildlife management areas	· There are no specific restrictions on new roads. However, a new road would be subject to the 1 percent limit on new surface disturbance in the DWMA.
Location and miles of desert tortoise fencing installed (include number of culverts designed or suitable for desert tortoises)	· None.
Number of acres or list of revegetation projects	· None, except for route rehab projects noted above.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Shadow Valley
Agency	California BLM
Recovery Action	
Sign and fence desert wildlife management areas as needed	· None.
Establish environmental education programs and facilities.	· The Statewide Tortoise Policy (1992) includes a detailed Public Education Program. It includes strategies with a total of 25 actions. Most of these have been implemented and many are on-going.
Monitor desert tortoise populations within recovery units	· The Shadow Valley Permanent Study Plot was in the proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC. The plot was surveyed in 1979, 1988, 1992, and 2002. · In the 1970's the BLM conducted surveys on 47 study plots. Fifteen were selected as permanent study plots, each to be surveyed every four years. In 1995, responsibility for these surveys was transferred to the NBS and subsequently USGS
Initiate research necessary to monitor and guide recovery efforts	· In 1990, three new research (new total of four) positions were added to address tortoise conservation and management issues in the California Desert. In 1994 all four positions and funding support were transferred to NBS/USGS. · Other than data from the Shadow Valley Permanent Study Plot, no research on tortoises has been conducted in the proposed Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC.
Activities associated with predator control	· No predator control activities have occurred in the Shadow Valley DWMA ACEC.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Eastern Mojave
Agency	Mojave National Preserve
Recovery Action	
Establish at least one desert wildlife management area of at least 1,000 square miles in each recovery unit	Mojave National Preserve (MOJA) has not established a desert wildlife management area within our lands. However, we actively manage all lands (1.6 million acres) within MOJA for desert tortoise. Approximately 695,200 acres are designated wilderness and approximately 772,463 acres in MOJA are federally designated critical habitat for desert tortoise.
Secure habitat within desert wildlife management areas	Habitat is protected through the implementation of the designated wilderness and the federally designated critical habitat. Tortoise habitat is protected through implementation of the Endangered Species Act as well as the Organic Act and any other Federal and State regulations.
Connect functional habitat within recovery units wherever enough extant desert tortoise habitat exists	The majority of the habitat in the Preserve has not been fragmented. We will maintain the connectivity of the habitat by minimizing roads to those already in place and by not implementing tortoise fencing.
Number (or miles) of roads closed or rehabilitated	After the passing of the California Desert Protection Act and the designation of wilderness, vehicles are permitted only on existing roads, camping and parking areas. No off-road or wash driving is allowed anywhere in MOJA.
All competitive and organized events on designated roads	No more competitive motorized events are permitted. Organized events that don't involve timed races might be acceptable on existing roads, outside of the desert tortoise active periods, with appropriate restrictions and subject to other National Park Service (NPS) statutes and regulations.
Prohibit habitat destructive military maneuvers	N/A

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Eastern Mojave
Agency	Mojave National Preserve
Recovery Action	
<p>Prohibit clearing for agriculture, landfills, and any other surface disturbance that diminishes the capacity of the land to support desert tortoises, other wildlife, and native vegetation</p>	<p>No agricultural clearing or commercial vegetation harvest is permitted on MOJA lands. Under NPS regulations, no existing or new landfills are allowed anywhere in MOJA. We are currently closing and cleaning up old, informal trash dumps. No surface disturbance is permitted on Preserve lands, unless it is balanced with appropriate restoration or acquisition of replacement lands for mitigation.</p>
<p>Acres of grazing allotments (sheep and cattle) closed or bought out for conservation (see attached document ALLGRAZE_CA_BLM.doc)</p>	<p>More than 768,000 acres designated for grazing have been retired. Approximately 311,000 acres are pending retirement.</p> <p><i>The next three comments refer to Piute-Fenner (see pg. 7 row 4 of this document):</i></p> <p>14,700 acres of the 33,468 acre Piute Valley grazing allotment occurs on National Park Service (NPS) lands. There are no cattle grazed currently on NPS lands in this allotment.</p> <p>272,400 acres of the 339,553 acre Lanfair Valley grazing allotment is located in National Park Service (NPS) lands. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, this allotment on NPS lands was retired. The retirement was negotiated by the National Parks Conservation Association, a non-profit entity. Additionally the NPS had 90 percent of the Animal Unit Months (AUM) within this allotment, which are now eliminated from the range.</p> <p>262,000 acres of the 276,125 acre Granite Mountains grazing allotment is located on NPS lands. In FY-1999, this allotment on NPS lands was retire. The retirement was negotiated by the National Parks Conservation Association. Additionally the NPS had 95 percent of the AUM in the allotment, which are now eliminated from the range.</p> <p><i>The next three comments refer to Ivanpah (see pg. 16 row 4 of this document):</i></p> <p>268,000 acres of the 281,802 acre Valley View grazing allotment are on NPS lands. That's 95 percent of the allotment and the AUMs. In FY-2002, all cattle were removed from the NPS portion of the grazing allotment. Valley View is not a small allotment as mentioned in the report, but the second largest grazing allotment in the eastern Mojave desert.</p>

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Eastern Mojave
Agency	Mojave National Preserve
Recovery Action	
	<p>219,000 acres of the 252,172 acre Kessler Springs grazing allotment are on NPS lands. In FY-2001, this allotment on NPS lands was retired. The retirement was negotiated by the National Parks Conservation Association. Additionally the NPS had 87 percent of the AUMs which are now eliminated from the range.</p> <p>17,500 acres of the 88,312 acre Clark Mountain grazing allotment occur on NPS lands.</p> <p><i>The next comment refers to Shadow Valley (see pg 20 row 4 of this document):</i> 43,600 acres of the 237,258 acre Valley Wells grazing allotment are on NPS lands. There is currently a sub-leasing contract in effect for Valley Wells. However, the NPS does not allow sub-leasing of the grazing allotments, therefore this individual has been counseled to keep the cattle on this allotment outside of NPS lands.</p>
Number of wild horses and burros removed	More than 3,000 burros have been non-lethally removed since 1997.
Prohibit vegetation harvest, except by permit; collection of biological specimens, except by permit	Only scientific collecting permits are authorized for such activities. The permittee must demonstrate the need to collect and the need to perform the research activity in a National Park. The NPS closely monitors permit actions and requires special stipulations to ensure desert tortoises are protected.
Number of illegal dumps cleaned up (and tons of trash removed, if this information is available)	Approximately 50 acres of illegal dumps have been cleaned up in the Preserve.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Eastern Mojave
Agency	Mojave National Preserve
Recovery Action	
Prohibit deposition of captive or displaced desert tortoises or other animals, except under authorized translocation research projects	In order to prevent the spread of disease from captive tortoises, MOJA does not authorize the deposit or reintroduction of tortoises in the Preserve
Prohibit deposition of captive or displaced desert tortoises or other animals, except under authorized translocation research projects	In order to prevent the spread of disease from captive tortoises, MOJA does not authorize the deposit or reintroduction of tortoises in the Preserve
Prohibit uncontrolled dogs out of vehicles	NPS regulations require dogs to be on a leash (or under physical or voice control of owner for ensuring that their pets do not harass wildlife if used for hunting).
Restrict establishment of new roads in desert wildlife management areas	At this time there will be no new roads. MOJA will be preparing a road management plan to evaluate the need for duplicate road sections, road surface conditions, and the appropriate level of maintenance.
Location and miles of desert tortoise fencing installed (include number of culverts designed or suitable for desert tortoises)	MOJA does not support the concept of installing new desert tortoise barrier fencing on paved roads in the Preserve. MOJA has already undertaken measures (entrance signs and information kiosks) to increase awareness of travelers of potential tortoise and other wildlife encounters. Fencing will lead to further habitat fragmentation and will conflict with our goal of eliminating fencing in the Preserve as grazing permits are retired. Other measures have been identified above that will be implemented seasonally to heighten awareness and slow traffic.
Number of acres or list of revegetation projects	Approximately 200 acres of Preserve land are currently being restored through revegetation.

Recovery Action Summary – Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit

DWMA	Eastern Mojave
Agency	Mojave National Preserve
Recovery Action	
Sign and fence desert wildlife management areas as needed	We have signs designating wilderness boundaries in the Preserve as well as entrance signs and information kiosks to inform the public of potential tortoise and other wildlife encounters.
Establish environmental education programs and facilities.	Our interpretive staff has developed school programs for Baker and Barstow. Created a tortoise poster (discussing life history and the do's and don'ts) now on display at the Kelso Depot and at the visitor centers. The staff has placed warning stickers in the Preserve vehicles. These stickers ask drivers to check under their cars before driving. Created a brochure describing and promoting interest in the desert tortoise and responsible recreational behavior in tortoise habitat. Created informal exhibits currently on display at the visitor centers in Baker, Needles, and Hole-in-the-Wall.
Monitor desert tortoise populations within recovery units	In 2001, MOJA began monitoring the population density in the Preserve The Goffs and Ivanpah permanent study plots are now within MOJA. The NPS supports the continued monitoring of these plots for their original intended purpose.
Initiate research necessary to monitor and guide recovery efforts	We are in the process of identifying research needs to assist in recovering the tortoise. Research priorities regarding desert tortoise were identified to Redlands Institute on May 7, 2002, in an interview with Rich Inman and Jill Heaton. Noted in this interview were MOJA's research priorities which include road mortality, pollution, issues, diseased animals, and predation. Now, as we gather additional information, etc., our research priorities may change, but to date, these still stand.
Activities associated with predator control	We aggressively manage trash and litter to avoid subsidizing ravens. Raven proof trash containers are being installed throughout the Preserve.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Contact Information

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APPENDIX B

Glossary

Glossary

Common Abbreviations

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CALTRANS	California Department of Transportation
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEVA	Death Valley National Park
DFG	Department of Fish and Game
DTNA	Desert Tortoise Natural Area
DTPC	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
DWMA	Desert Wildlife Management Area
Edwards AFB	Edwards Air Force Base
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
FONSI	Finding Of No Significant Impact
GFD	Game and Fish Department
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
JOTR	Joshua Tree National Park
LAME	Lake Mead National Recreation Area
LDS	Line Distance Sampling
LVFO	Las Vegas Field Office
NA	Not Applicable
NBS	National Biological Survey....
NECO	Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Planning Unit
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
NTC Ft Irwin	National Training Center Fort Irwin
NPS	National Park Service
MCAGCC	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
MCLB	Marine Corps Logistics Base
MOJA	Mojave National Preserve
MSHCP	Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan
UDWR	Utah Department of Wildlife Resources
UNLV	University of Nevada Las Vegas
URTD	Upper Respiratory Tract Disease
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USMC	U.S. Marine Corps

OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SCA	Student Conservation Association