



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 DESERT TORTOISE RECOVERY OFFICE
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PROGRESS REPORT
April through June 2007

ACTIVITY	GOALS	PROGRESS/STATUS	NEXT STEPS
DTRO Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill 1 local desert tortoise recovery coordinator position in CA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews for the final position are scheduled for July. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the hiring process for the second CA position
Recovery Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Recovery Plan (details can be found on the DTRO website) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAY 9-10: AZ-NV-UT Recovery Planning Work Group reviewed operational criteria for selecting management options relative to each participating agency (for use in a recovery decision support system), discussed regional recovery/management priorities, and discussed needs for effectiveness monitoring. MAY 22-23: CA Recovery Planning Work Group conducted the same activities as above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUG: Complete rough draft recovery plan and prototype decision support system SEP 14: Review draft plan with managers and stakeholders prior to submitting to California-Nevada Operations office
Science Advisory Committee (SAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with recovery plan revision process Revise/develop recovery criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JUN 11-12: The SAC continued reviewing the status of knowledge on mycoplasmal URTD and developing management and research recommendations; identified additional research recommendations; reviewed the status and direction of and provided input to the range-wide monitoring program, including aspects related to revised recovery criteria. A second open forum was also held with stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop provisional recovery units Develop conceptual framework to describe assumptions on which recovery criteria are based Refine disease research and management recommendations SEP 14: Forum with MOG to discuss draft recovery plan
Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group (MOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective coordination of agency planning and management activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEP 14: Review draft recovery plan and charter
Range-wide Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for and implement 2007 surveys Develop study plan to guide monitoring program Secure long-term funding agreements for the monitoring program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 2007 monitoring surveys. Conducted post-season debriefings on field season preparation/training and data management. JUN 12: Reviewed program with SAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QA/QC and analysis of 2007 data Develop draft study plan outline and other SOPs, including training curricula Establish contract with USGS-Patuxent for retrospective analysis of occupancy

<p>Recovery Data Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish master database for all desert tortoise data • Develop protocols for structure, access, and maintenance of database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTRO continued to coordinate with RI staff and others to develop a recovery decision support system as part of the recovery planning process and which will be integrated with or be a part of the recovery database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with relevant parties to identify roles in database development • Integrate database with website
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Other Activities

- The DTRO continued to coordinate with the Ft. Irwin Conservation/Mitigation Working Group (CMWG) and research cooperators on desert tortoise translocation prior to expansion of the National Training Center. Proposals for translocation research and monitoring were reviewed in April and a contract awarded. Coordination among research teams is building now that the final contract has been awarded and in anticipation of increased activities associated with multiple research projects.
- DTRO participated in planning efforts for several upcoming small translocations in southern Nevada and Arizona.
- The DTRO continued working with partners, including Clark County and BLM, on issues related to the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center (DTCC). Recent discussions focused on operation and management of the DTCC and working toward the longer-term vision of upgrading the facility to serve needs ranging from recovery to training.
- The DTRO continued as lead in recovery permit review, in coordination with the California-Nevada Operations office and field offices.