

Program Summary

The 24-month, \$249,847 Program will implement Adaptive Management Plan strategies developed for the Old Woman Mountain Preserve (OWMP) as part of a FY04-05 Tribal Wildlife Grant. The goal of the proposed Program is to build upon the results of the previous grant to provide long-term adaptive management to protect critical habitat and at-risk species, including species of tribal cultural concern. Key activities of the proposed Program include:

Habitat Protection: During Years 1 and 2 we will initiate an OWMP site-monitor program, post restricted use and road or area closure signs to protect critical habitat, and remove and monitor invasive plant species. During Years 1 and 2 site signs will also be placed to both orient and educate the user-public, and protect critical habitat.

Desert Tortoise Restoration Groundwork Project: This activity will be completed during Year 1 and will include evaluating historical and current factors that might contribute to absence of tortoise on the Preserve, resurvey suitable tortoise habitat on and adjacent to the Preserve, and develop a tortoise recovery plan for the Preserve.

Data Collection: Data collection will be completed during Year 1. Data will include multiple seasons to measure reproduction and define variation in faunal abundance and distribution. Combined with the previous inventory data, this activity will produce the robust multiyear baseline data critical to maintaining the faunal integrity of the OWMP and for determining reduced-effort monitoring schedules.

Public Education: Promote an informed and supportive user-public to ensure the responsible use of the Preserve's cultural and biological resources through the development and distribution of educational material (Year 1) and bringing diverse conservation organizations, public agencies, and user-groups together at a Year 2 Desert Stewardship Forum.