



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
DESERT TORTOISE RECOVERY OFFICE  
1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234  
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## **Arizona-Nevada-Utah Recovery Planning Work Group**

### **Threat Session**

**March 22-23, 2007**

**USGS, 160 N Stephanie Street, Henderson, NV**

<http://www2.institute.redlands.edu/DTRO>

#### Desired Outcomes

1. Establish up-to-date geospatial inventory of threats within the jurisdictional boundaries of land management agencies and across the AZ-NV-UT portion of the desert tortoise's range.
2. Establish up-to-date geospatial inventory of current recovery actions within the jurisdictional boundaries of land management agencies and across the AZ-NV-UT portion of the desert tortoise's range.
3. Identify best agency contacts to provide additional data on threats and current recovery actions to Redlands Institute.
4. Determine and start collecting baseline information for prototype Desert Tortoise Recovery Decision Support System.
5. Initiate preparation for developing Recovery Action Plans during next round of Work Group meetings.

#### **Friday, March 23**

#### **Public Workshop Agenda**

<b>9:00 – 9:45</b>	<b>Recovery Plan Revision Process Overview Orientation to Threat Session</b>	<b>DTRO</b>
<b>9:45 – 10:30</b>	<b>Presentation of existing threat and recovery action data</b>	<b>Redlands</b>
<b>10:30-11:45</b>	<b>Breakout sessions to review maps, provide input on threats</b>	<b>Redlands</b>
<b>11:45-12:00</b>	<b>Report outs from breakout sessions Review Threat Survey</b>	<b>USIECR/DTRO</b>



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### **Recovery Plan Revision Ground Rules**

- The goal of the Recovery Plan revision process is to identify actions to improve the status of the desert tortoise and its habitat to the point that the species is no longer threatened and can be removed from the list of threatened and endangered species.
- Substantial uncertainty surrounds the scientific basis for the relative importance of various threats affecting the desert tortoise and the effectiveness of specific recovery actions in mitigating threats. The “foundation for recovery plan revision” summarizes the general scientific basis, assumptions, and conclusions relevant to the current status of desert tortoise recovery.
- *Where specific scientific data do not exist*, workshop participants will not debate the factual basis for the importance of particular threats or recovery actions (e.g., from the listing decision, 1994 recovery plan). Instead, participants will focus on suggesting ways to resolve relevant scientific uncertainty.
- Provisional areas of emphasis for recovery will be based on a new habitat model and a spatial analysis of the 2001-2005 range-wide monitoring data, as forwarded by the SAC (projected from its March 31-April 1 meeting).
- Any disagreements over the nature of identified threats or recovery actions will be documented, but the FWS retains the ultimate decision-making authority to move the work group’s process forward.
- Workshop results (i.e., recommended recovery action plans) will be used by FWS to revise the desert tortoise Recovery Plan, including any revisions to recovery unit boundaries recommended by the SAC. Public and scientific review, including but not limited to the Science Advisory Committee, will be provided for as part of the Recovery Plan revision process.
- Given the scientific uncertainty noted above, the Recovery Plan revision process is not expected to produce definitive recovery action plans that prescribe the ultimate recovery strategy for the next 25 years. Rather, this revision of the recovery plan should lay the groundwork to specifically address this uncertainty through adaptive management.
- All recovery actions will be subject to appropriate NEPA/CEQA compliance and associated public review requirements prior to implementation.

**Directions to USGS, 160 N Stephanie Street, Henderson  
From Las Vegas Airport to USGS Bldg in Henderson, NV:**

Take the airport exit to the **South** which goes through the **Airport Tunnel** and get on **Interstate 215 East**. Stay Left going through the tunnel this will loop around and get you on the **I-215 East** toward **Henderson, NV**. Stay on the I-215 for about 5-6 miles, the exit after Valli Verde is **Stephanie St. Exit Stephanie Street, turn Left** at the light, and cross I-215 to the North.

At the bottom of the hill at the traffic light, go through **Wigwam**. Go straight you will see 4 new buildings on your right just past the light, USGS is **#160 N. Stephanie St.** with the **flagpole** on the south end of the building. If you crossed the railroad tracks, you went too far.

Please park in the large (most likely empty) lot on the south side of the building (south of the street by the flagpole).



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