

# Population Augmentation Strategy for the Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Program





# The 2011 Recovery Plan identified population augmentation as a key strategic element

- Existing guidance on translocation protocols
  - Preference for regional augmentation sites
- The strategy formalizes a framework to use translocation and head-starting for recovery
- Applies IUCN's *Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations*



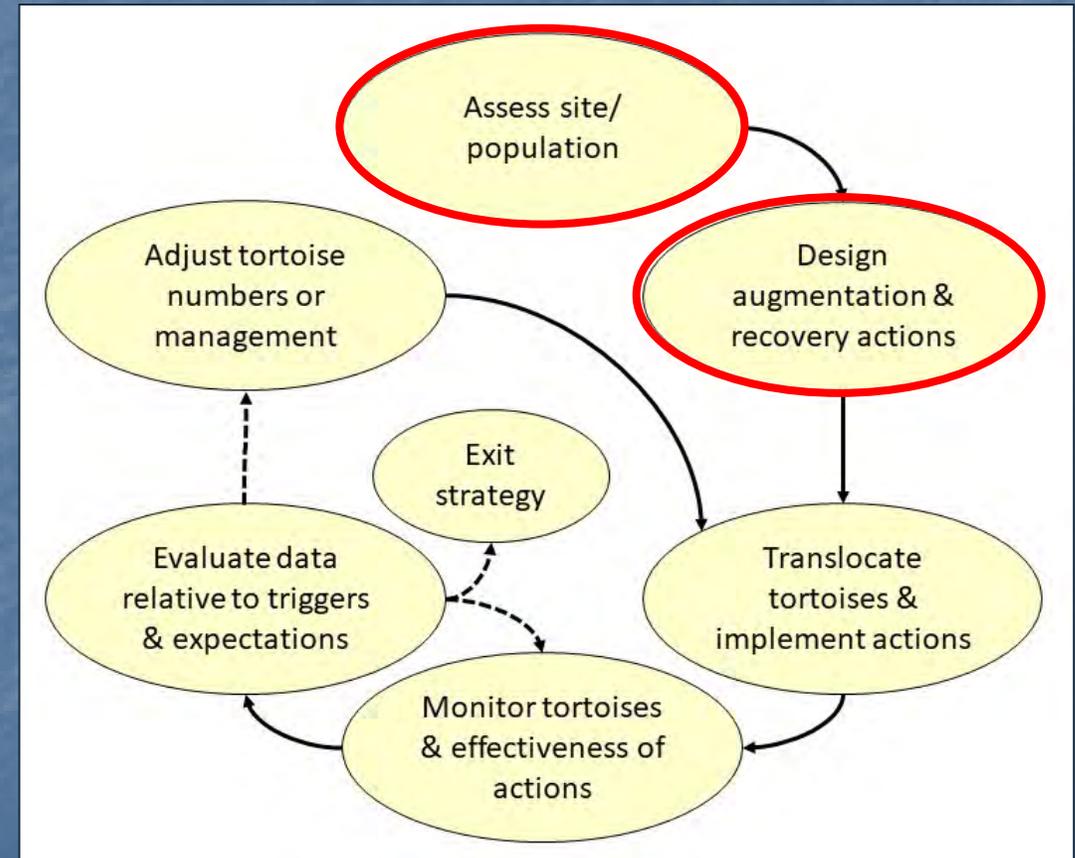
The goal of the strategy is to use population augmentation to help achieve recovery criteria

- Recovery Criterion 1: Tortoise numbers are increasing over at least 25 years within TCAs in each recovery unit
- Recovery Criterion 2: Distribution of tortoises throughout each TCA is increasing over at least 25 years
- Augmenting populations in linkages could also enhance TCA resilience

# Augmentation plans should describe specific actions and indicate how goals and objectives will be measured



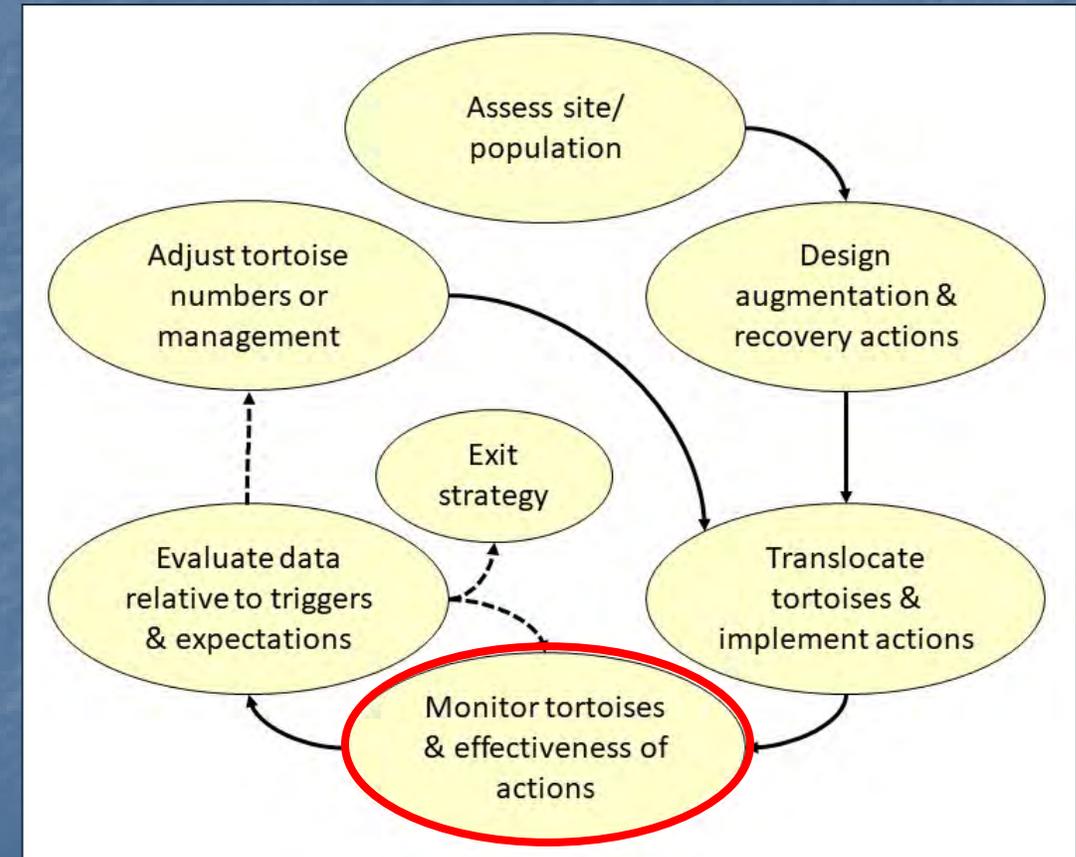
- Feasibility, design, and risk assessment
  - Site selection and habitat
  - Sources of translocatees
  - Animal welfare and disease considerations



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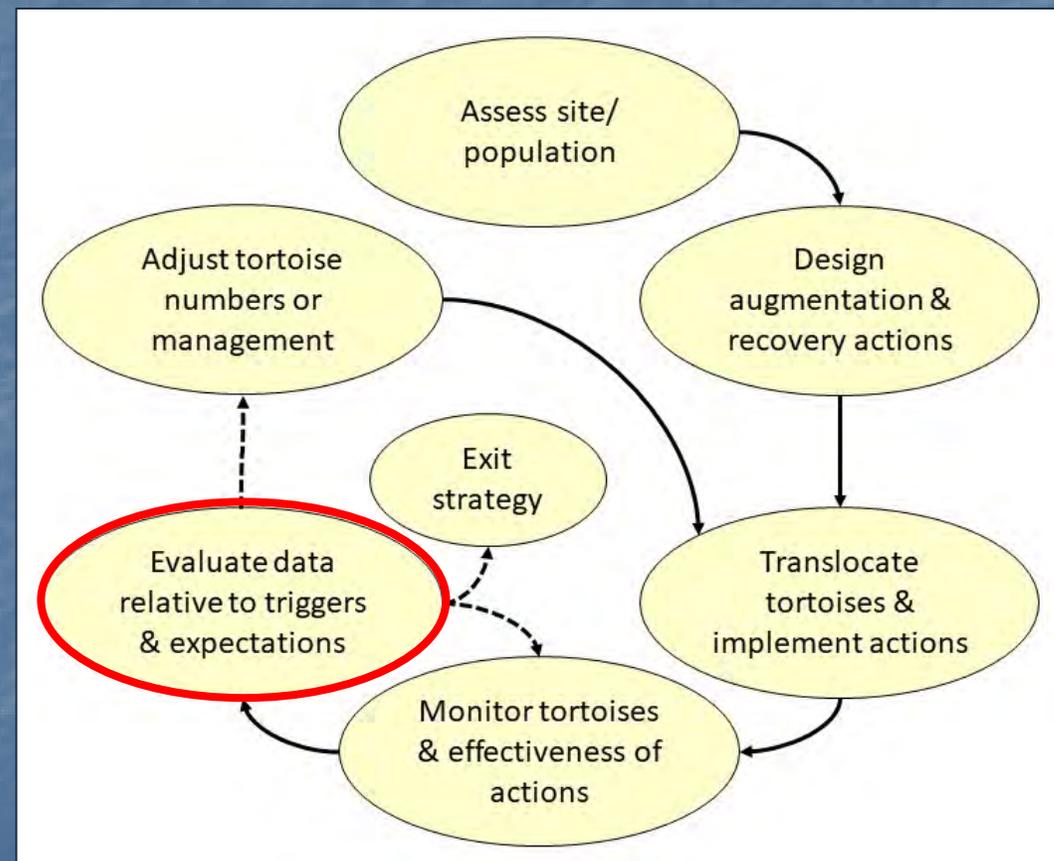
- Monitoring goal- and objective-specific metrics
  - Survival/growth of released and resident tortoises
  - Reproduction by released and resident tortoises
  - Population growth to achieve viability
  - Site-specific threat management





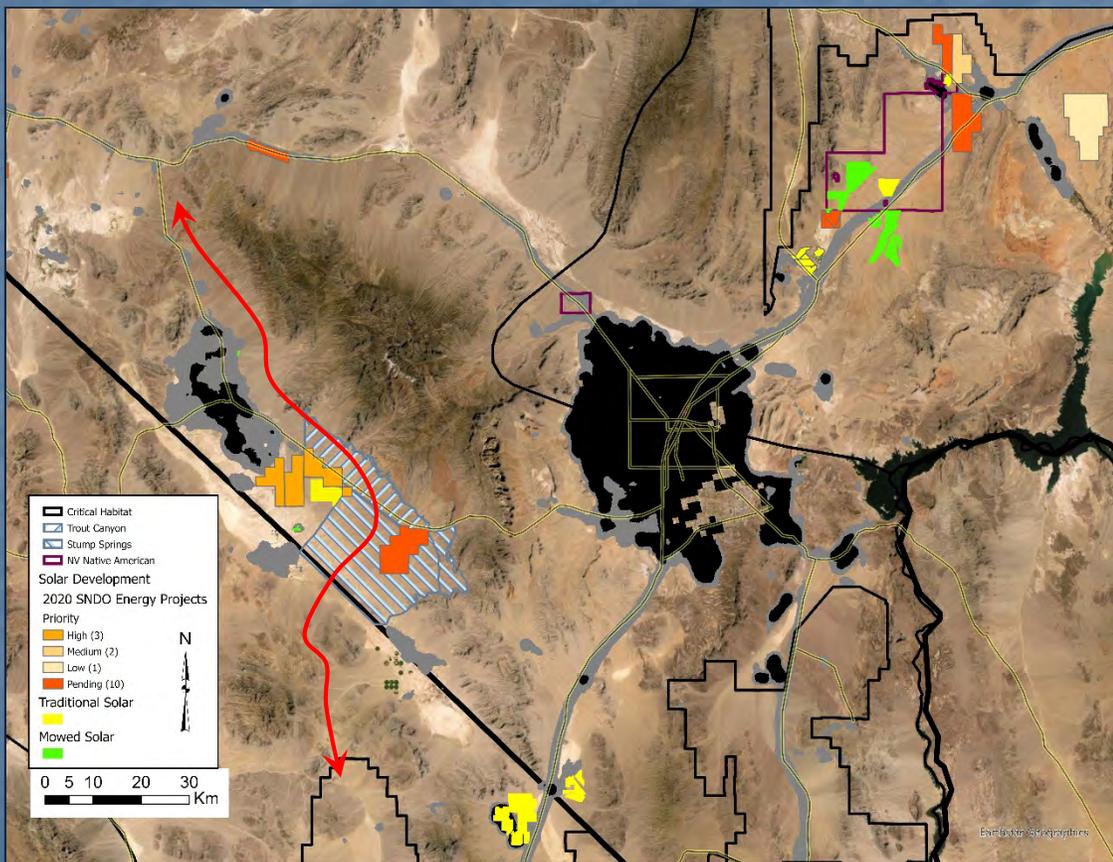
# Continual evaluation is critical to success

- Triggers & exit strategy
- Regular reporting





# Stump Springs



- Linkage from Ivanpah CHU to northern populations
  - Adjacent to Trout Canyon translocation site
- Tortoises from Yellow Pine & future solar projects, Clark County
- Culvert, habitat enhancements



# Next Steps

- Acknowledgements

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- Finalize and post by the end of February

