



California Mojave Recovery Implementation Team

Colorado Desert Workgroup Webinar

Desert Tortoise Recovery Office
June 27, 2012

Goals for RIT Workgroup Webinar



- Introductions among workgroup members
- Improved familiarity among members with SDSS outputs for your workgroup: prioritized broad recovery action types for your areas
- Your suggestions for site-specific recovery actions via the Recovery Action Proposal Tool for use at the in-person RIT meeting → 5-Year Action Plan

Colorado Desert Workgroup Webinar



Webinar Structure

1. Introductions

2. Updates & Timelines

3. Threats & Recovery Action Rankings

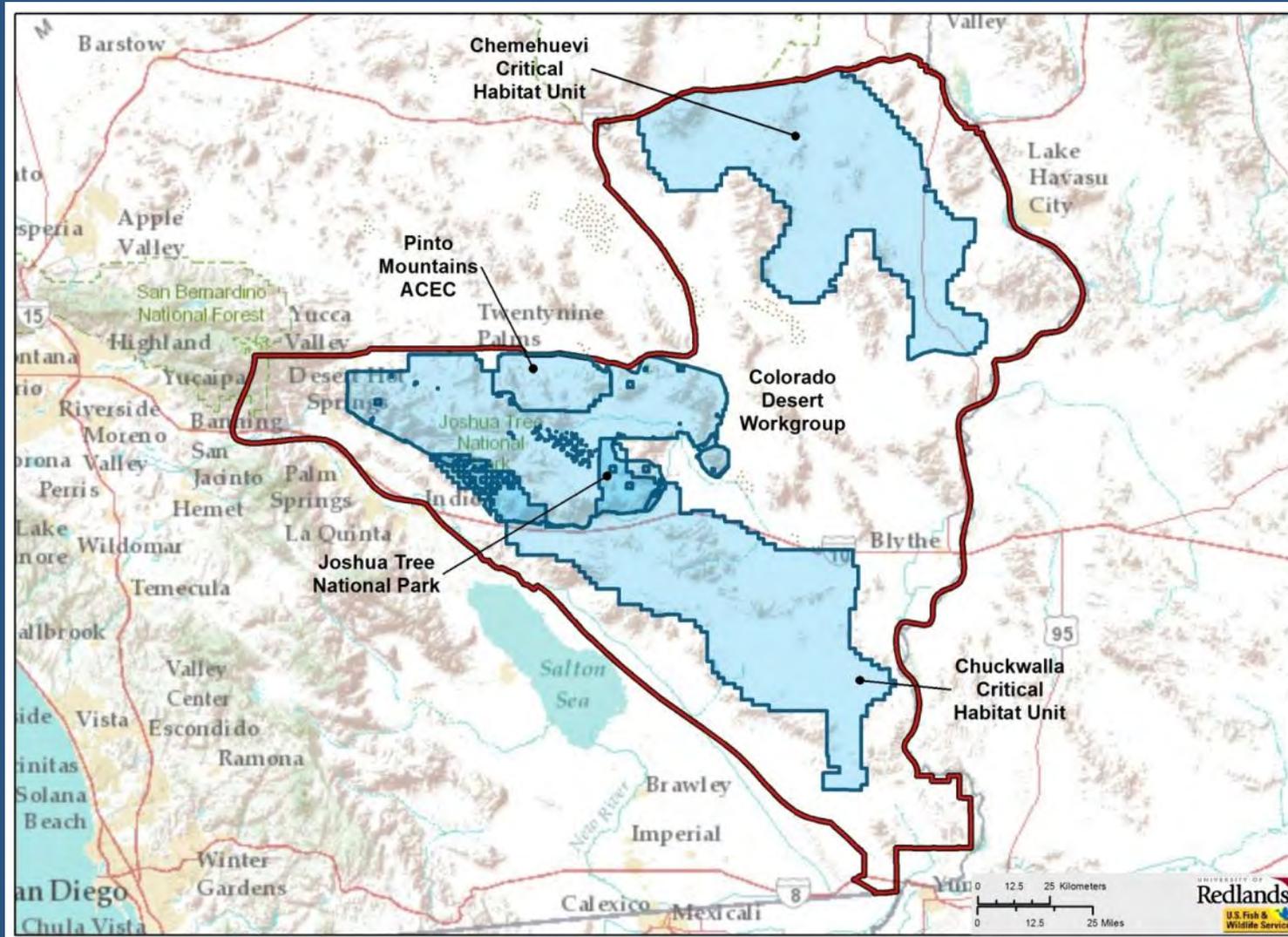
4. Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool

5. Next Steps



	Affiliation	Workgroup Members
Land Management	BLM, Palm Springs Field Office	Mark Massar
Land Management	Joshua Tree National Park	Michael Vamstad
Land Management	U.S. Army, Chocolate Mountains AGR	vacant
Wildlife Management	California State Parks	Eric Hollenbeck
Wildlife Management	California Department of Fish and Game	Stefan Awender
Wildlife Management	USFWS	Pete Sorensen & Jody Fraser
Tribe	Chemehuevi Indian Tribe	vacant
County	Imperial County	Andy Horne
County	Riverside County	vacant
Conservation Biology	USGS SBSC	Jeff Lovich
Conservation Organization	Western Watersheds Project	Michael Connor
Resource Use	California Energy Operating Co.	Alex Schriener
Recreation	San Diego Off-Road Coalition	Chris Sprofera

Colorado Desert Study Area



West Mojave Workgroup Webinar



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Updates



- RITs Orientation Webinars: Late-March
- FAQs from webinars sent out April 17th
- Review by RIT members of SDSS model and data: Model Explorer & Data Explorer (early-May)

*We received a total of 168 comments ;
>30 new GIS datasets; 10 new references*

- Comments & Responses sent out May 31st
- Revisions completed to SDSS & Explorers: June 15th

RIT Terms of Reference



Comments received:

- Representation and voting procedures
- FACA and ESA compliance
- Conflict of interest
- Charter & Terms of Reference consolidation
- Confidentiality and comment attribution
- RIT Scheduling and time commitment
- Recovery Plan implementation & funding
- Role of SDSS

Revised document under development; will be shared prior to in-person meeting

Recovery Implementation Teams



Timeline for 2012

- ✓ Overall Orientation: First Webinar in late-March
- ★ Workgroup-specific: Second Webinar in late-June
 - In-person Meeting late-fall to develop 5-Year Action Plans

CA Mojave RIT: Ontario or Barstow

Recovery Implementation Teams



What happens after the first year?

- ~ 2-3 webinars/meetings each year to:
 - Report on implementation
 - Track change in threats
 - Assess what's been learned
 - Re-evaluate action plan as necessary

West Mojave Workgroup Webinar



Questions?



West Mojave Workgroup Webinar



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Goal of 1st In-Person Meeting

Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup



- Your workgroup's recommendations for what specific actions should be undertaken for tortoise recovery in the next 5 years
- Provides guidance to agencies in their budgeting and planning processes
- Provides a prioritized menu of possible mitigation options which may be implemented as part of mitigation packages

Goal of 1st In-Person Meeting

Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup



BACKGROUND

SDSS

- I. Ranked threats for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region
- II. Ranked recovery action types for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region

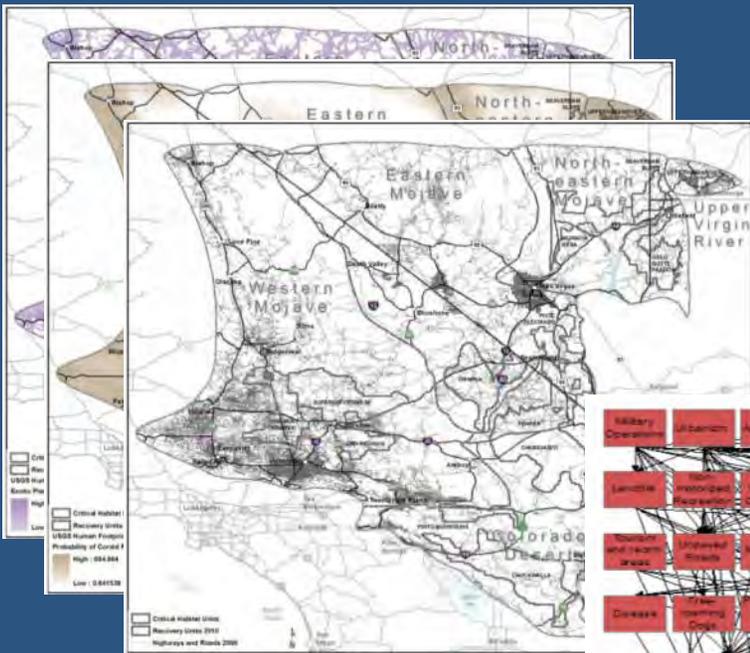
PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

- I. Prioritized site-specific recovery actions within ranked broad recovery action types

RITs

TRACKING & MONITORING PLAN

- I. Reporting requirements for recovery action implementation and maintenance
- II. Plan for supporting monitoring and research to assess action effectiveness



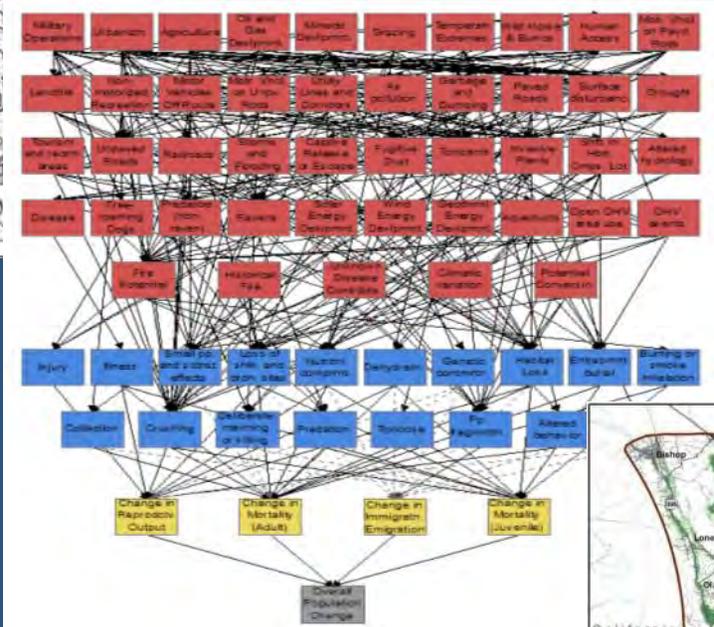
Spatial Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

Impact of Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

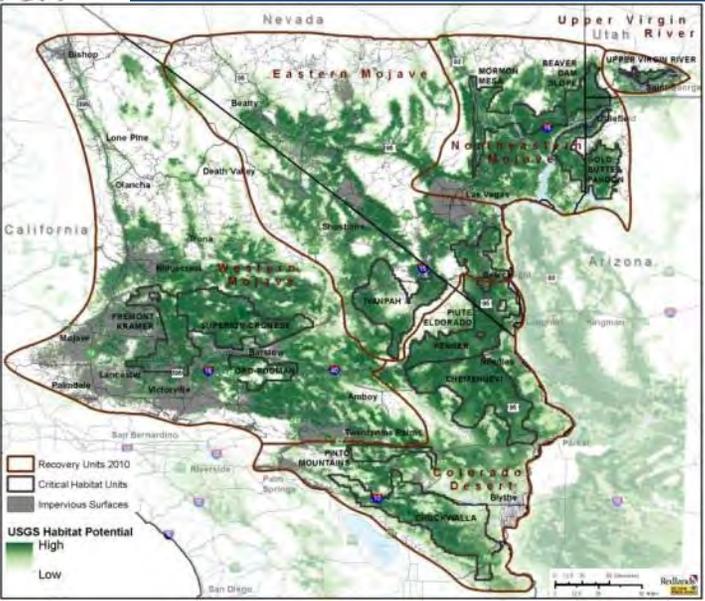
Risk to Population



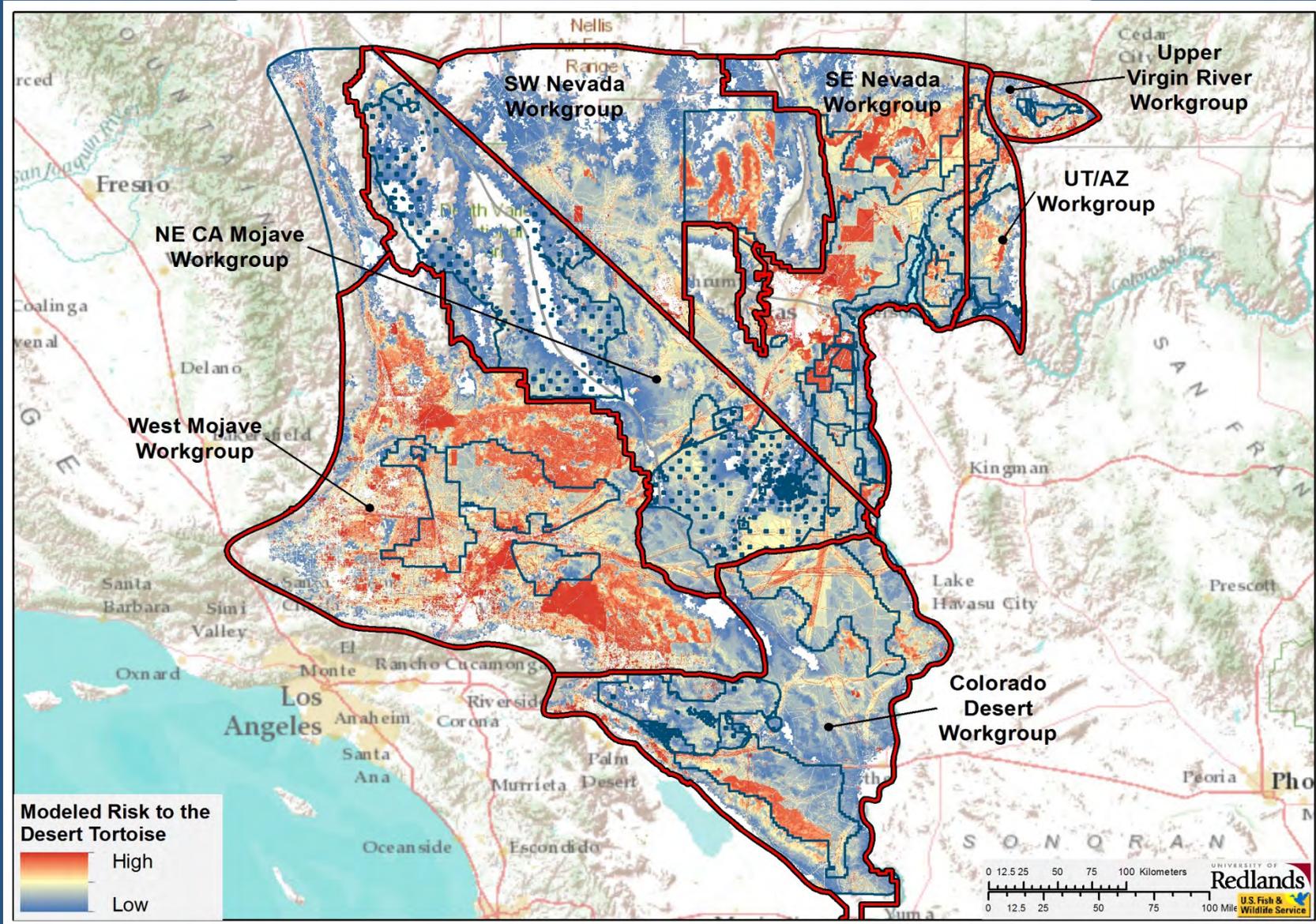
Spatial variation in threats

How threats effect tortoises

Where we expect tortoises to occur

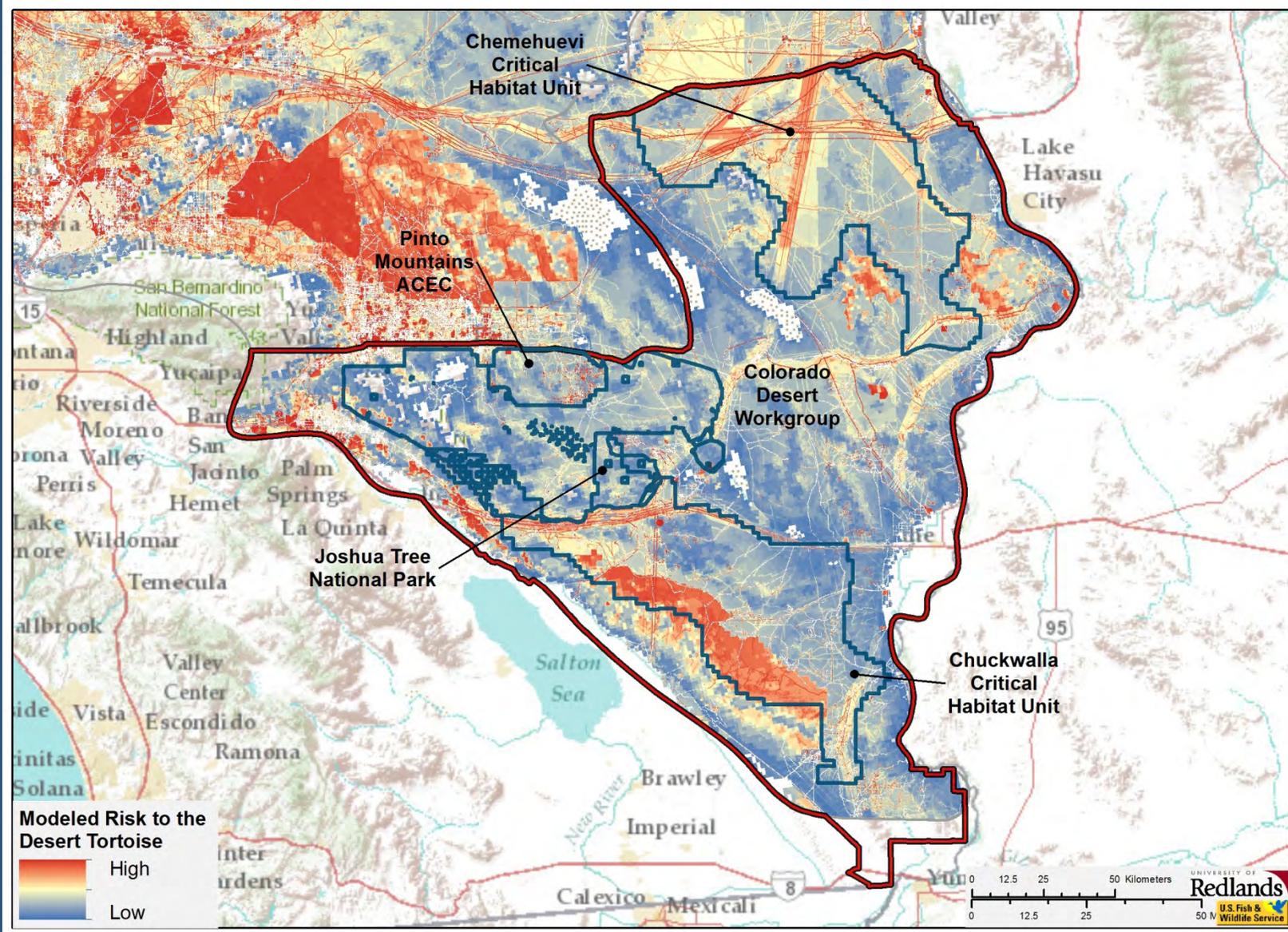


Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises

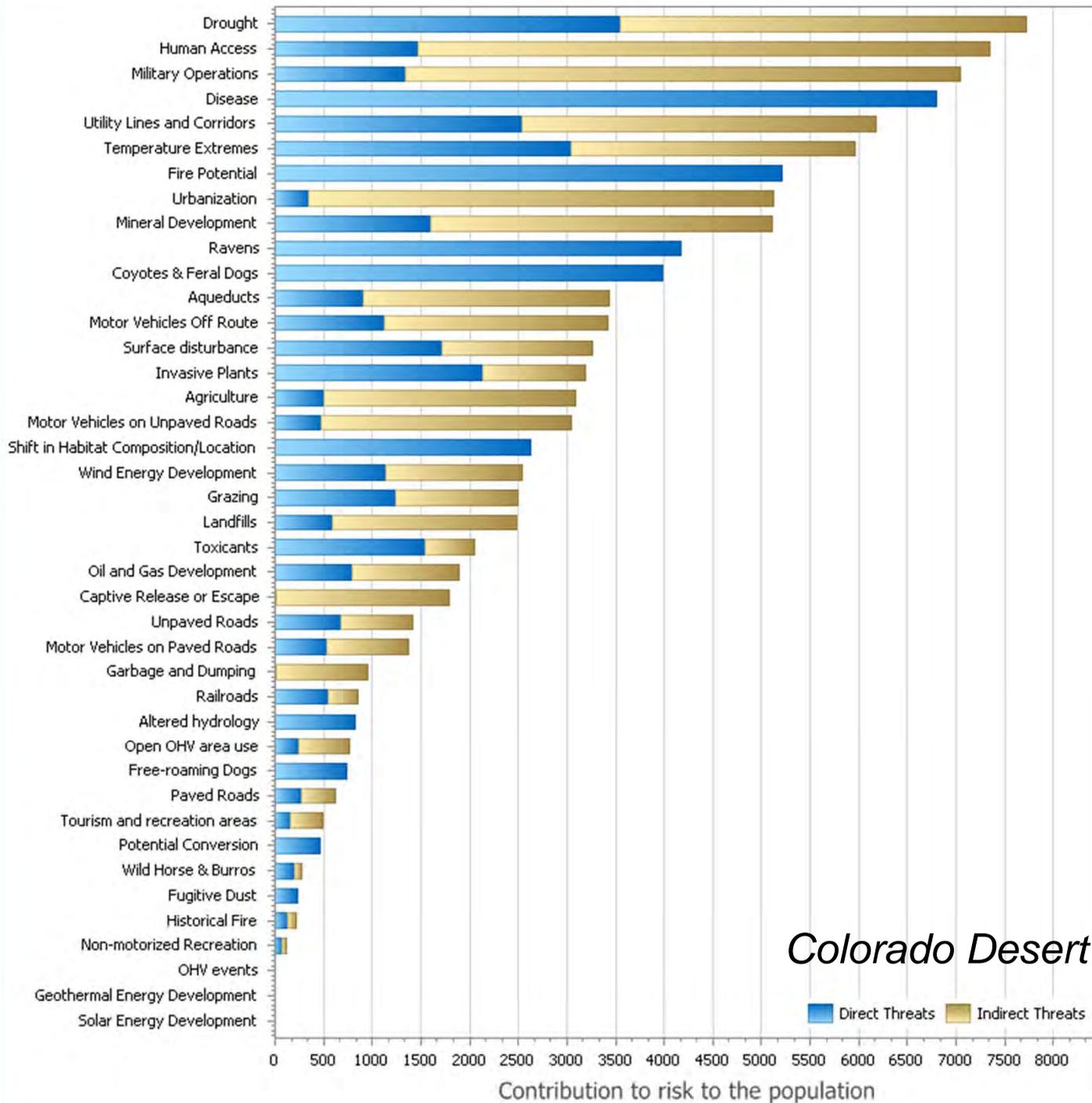


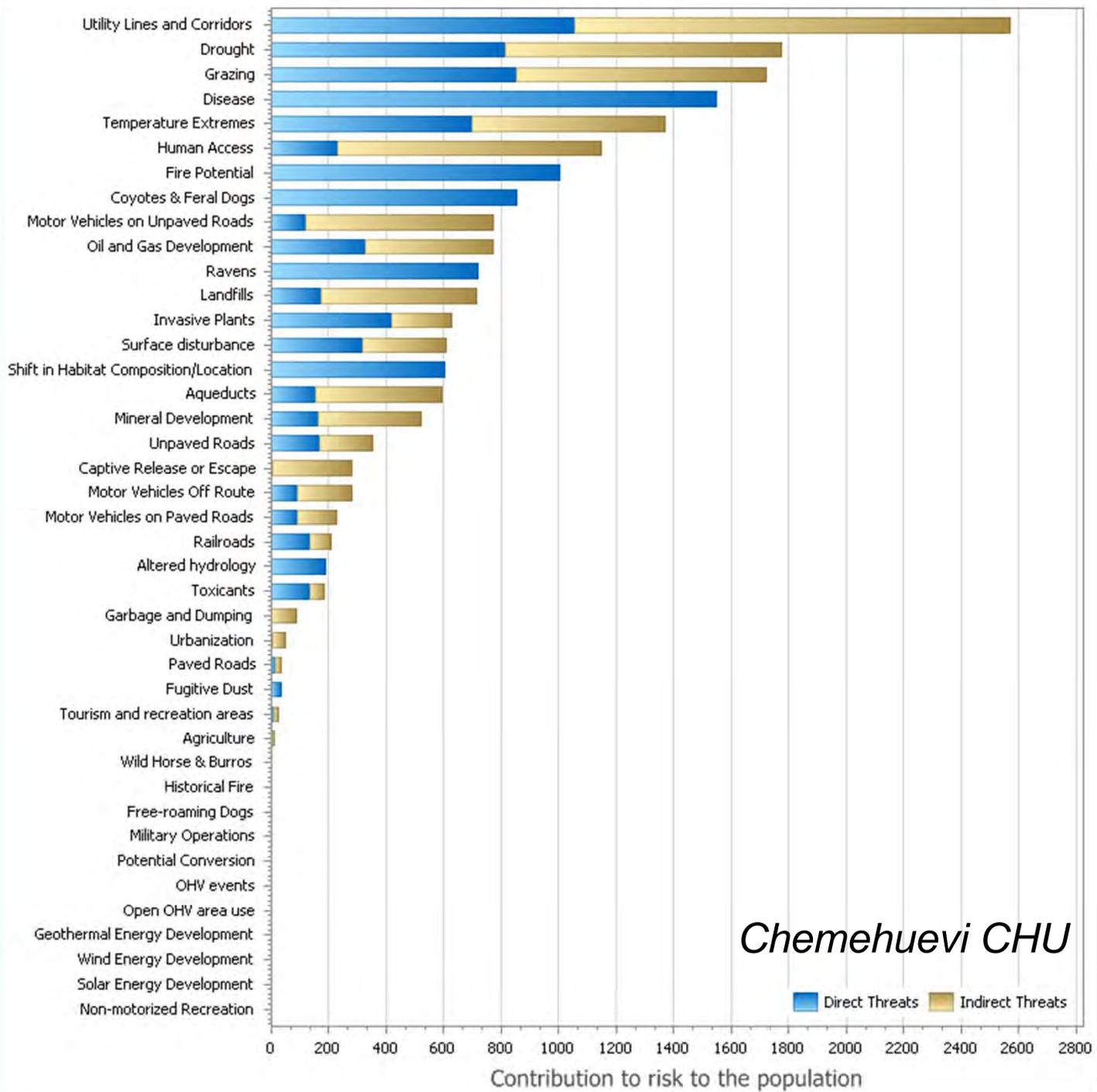
Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises



Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise





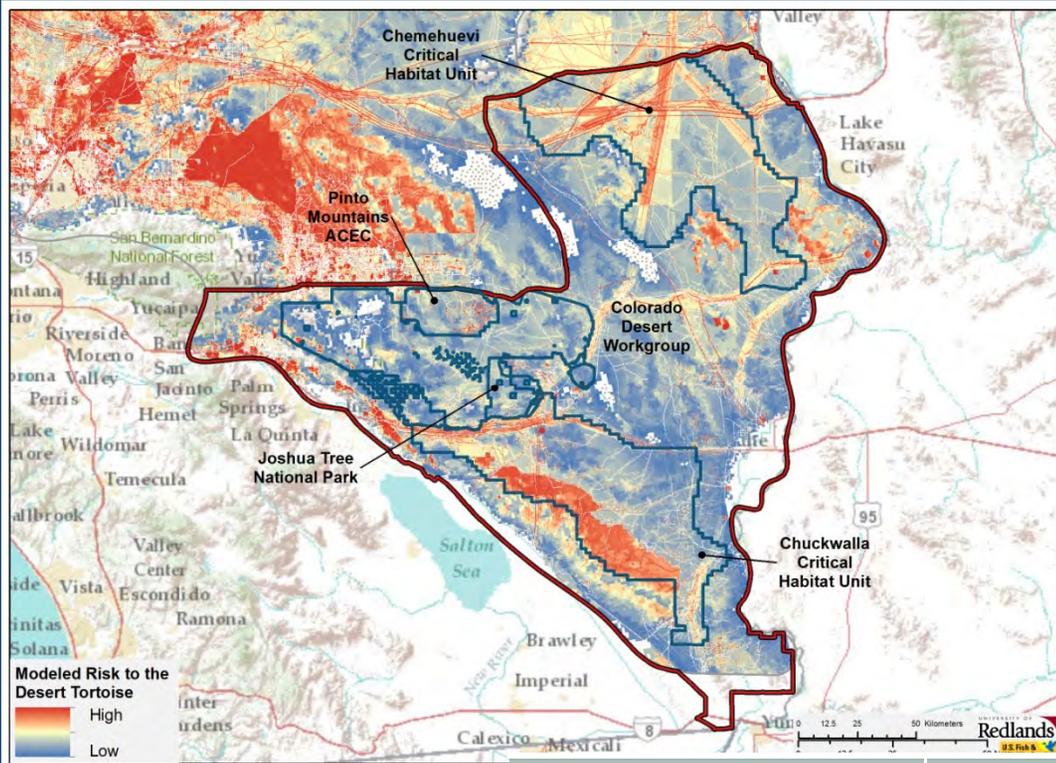
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2	Human Access	Drought	Urbanization	Landfills	Disease
3	Military Operations	Grazing	Human Access	Drought	Fire Potential
4	Disease	Disease	Drought	Disease	Temperature Extremes
5	Utility Lines and Corridors	Temperature Extremes	Disease	Temperature Extremes	Human Access
6	Temperature Extremes	Human Access	Temperature Extremes	Fire Potential	Ravens
7	Fire Potential	Fire Potential	Fire Potential	Motor Vehicles on Unpaved Roads	Coyotes & Feral Dogs
8	Urbanization	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Utility Lines and Corridors	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Aqueducts
9	Mineral Development	Motor Vehicles on Unpaved Roads	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Ravens	Shift in Habitat Composition/Locati on
10	Ravens	Oil and Gas Development	Surface disturbance	Human Access	Mineral Development

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Risk to Population

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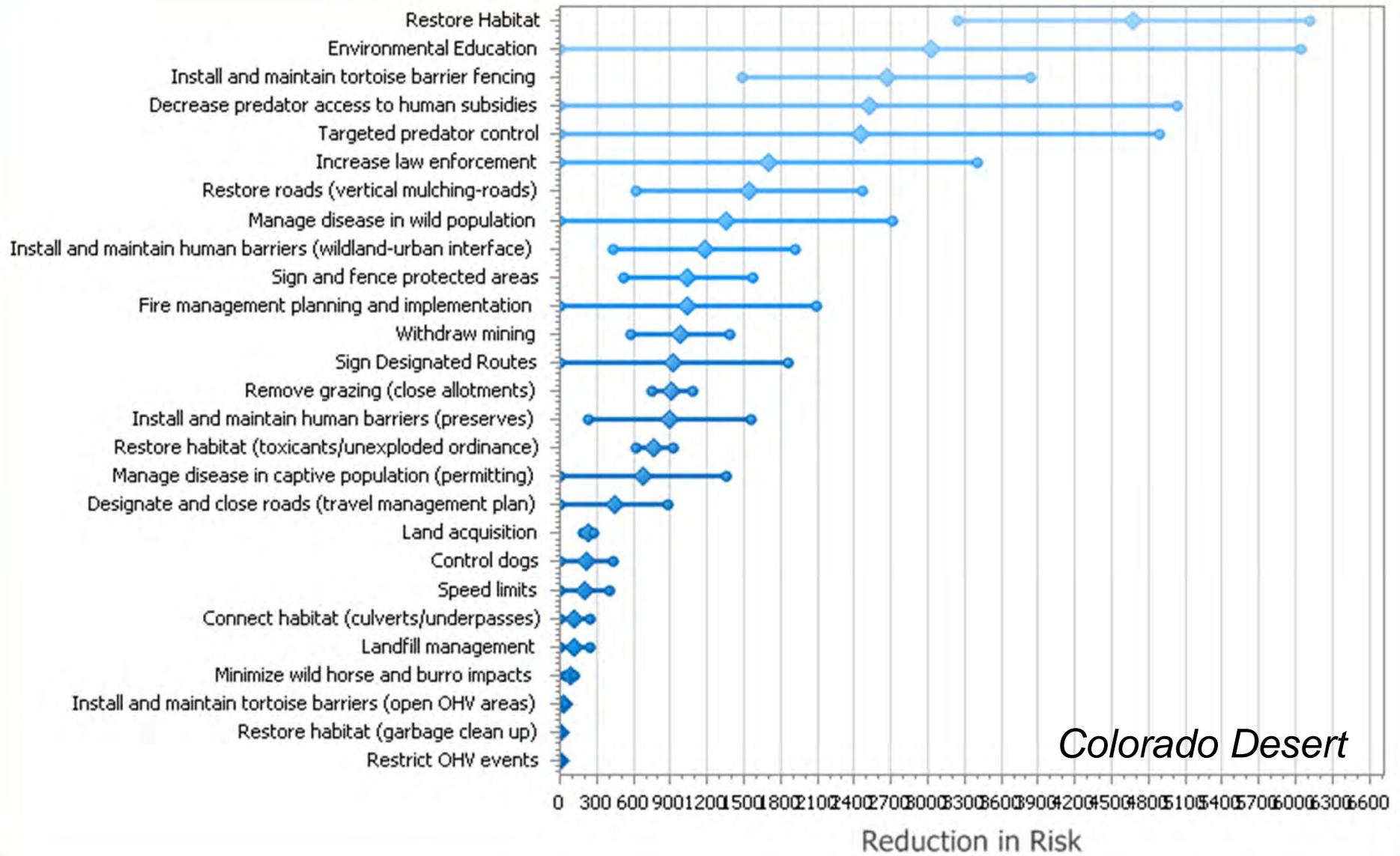


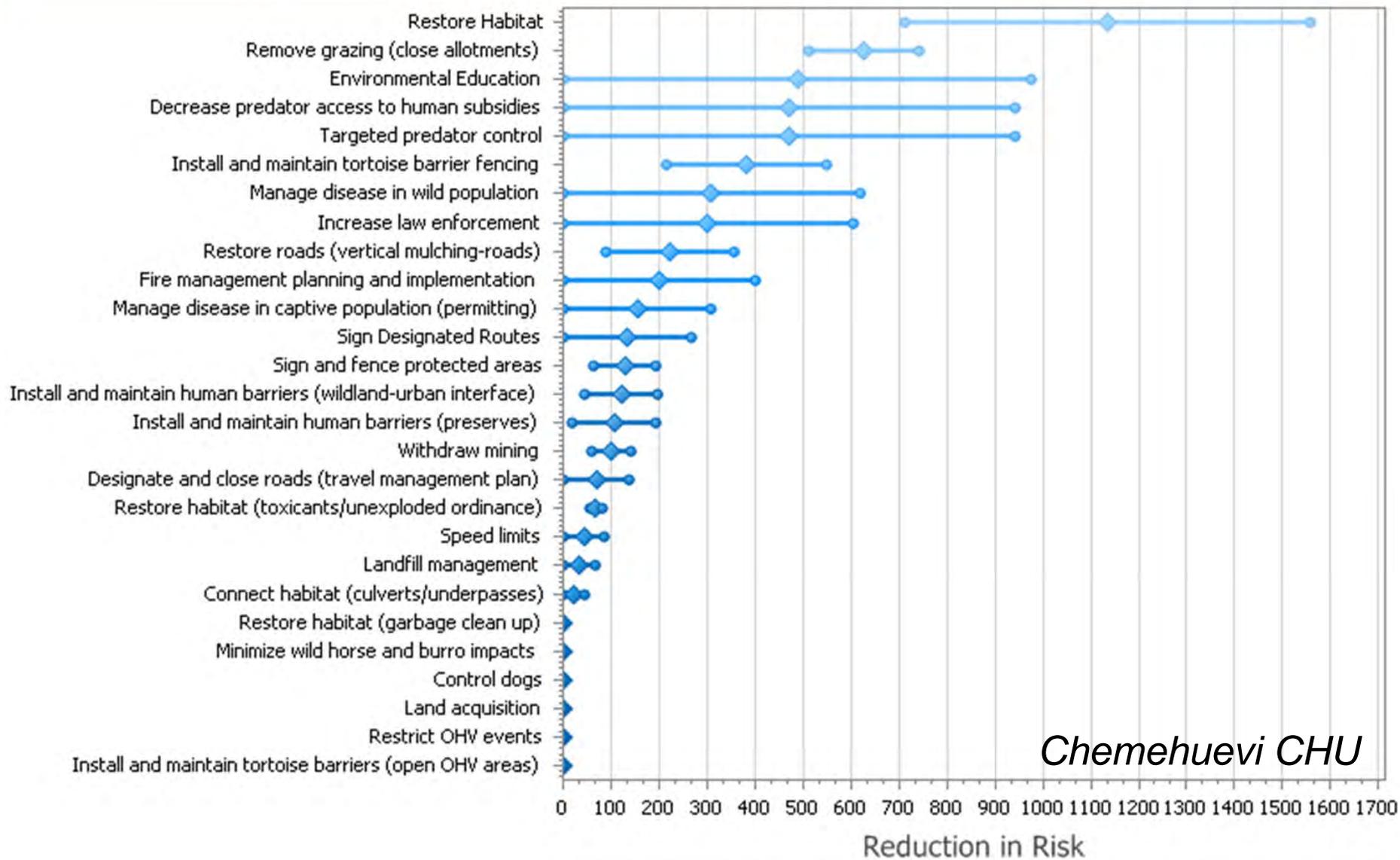
Action Effectiveness

Aggregate Population Risk

Recovery Action Types/ Threat–Stress	Predation– Ravens	Crushing–Cars on Paved Roads	Collection– Human access	Nutritional comp–Invasive Plants
Designate & Close Routes	0	0	3	0
Install & Maintain Tortoise fencing	0	5	0	0
Environmental Education	1	2	3	0
Decrease Predator Access to Subsidies	3	0	0	0
Increase Law enforcement	0	2	2	0
Habitat Restoration	0	0	0	4

Estimates how individual recovery actions effect threat–stress links





Chemehuevi CHU

Rank	Colorado Desert	Chemehuevi (Critical Habitat Unit)	Chuckwalla (Critical Habitat Unit)	Pinto Mountains (ACEC)	Joshua Tree National Park
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2	Environmental Education	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Restore Habitat	Restore Habitat	Decrease predator access to human subsidies
3	Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing	Environmental Education	Decrease predator access to human subsidies	Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing	Targeted predator control
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7	Restore roads (vertical mulching-roads)	Manage disease in wild population	Restore roads (vertical mulching- roads)	Increase law enforcement	Fire management planning and implementation
8	Manage disease in wild population	Increase law enforcement	Restore habitat (toxicants/unexplod ed ordinance)	Manage disease in wild population	Install and maintain human barriers (WUI)
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Goal of 1st In-Person Meeting



Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup

BACKGROUND

SDSS

- I. Ranked threats for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region
- II. Ranked recovery action types for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region

PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

- I. Prioritized site-specific recovery actions within ranked broad recovery action types

RITs

TRACKING & MONITORING PLAN

- I. Reporting requirements for recovery action implementation and maintenance
- II. Plan for supporting monitoring and research to assess action effectiveness

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Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool



Recovery Action Proposal Tool - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Recovery Action Proposal Tool

www.spatial.redlands.edu/dtro/rit/ProposalTool.aspx?wg=6

Google

Desert Tortoise Recovery RA Proposal Tool

data explorer model explorer

Welcome cat_darst@fws.gov | Logout

Welcome to the Recovery Action Proposal Tool. Use this site to propose specific actions that you think should be implemented for desert tortoise recovery in the next five years. Actions are submitted under the associated recovery action type, which are listed in order of expected benefit to tortoise recovery. Please spend more of your effort developing proposals for highly ranked action types, also considering the range of effectiveness indicated in the chart associated with each planning area. Although less effective action types are accessible here, due to the low return estimated for these actions, it is not expected that they will be adopted by the workgroup without particular justification, such as being important preconditions for future implementation of higher priority recovery actions. For each proposed action, please provide the specific location, area, and/or number of activities. Please provide enough detail about what should be implemented and where, so that all proposals can be easily assessed by your workgroup during the prioritization process.

You are a member of multiple workgroups. Please select a workgroup:

West Mojave Upper Virgin River Northeast California Mojave Utah/Arizona Southwest Nevada **Colorado Desert** Southeast Nevada

Workgroup: Colorado Desert

[Click here to see a table comparing top ranked threats and recovery action types](#)

Select an area:

► **Chemehuevi (Critical Habitat Unit)**

- Chuckwalla (Critical Habitat Unit)
- Joshua Tree National Park
- Pinto Mountains (ACEC)
- Colorado Desert



Ranked recovery action types for Chemehuevi (Critical Habitat Unit)

Recovery action types below are ranked based on their expected ability to decrease risk to the tortoise in Chemehuevi (Critical Habitat Unit). Please type your specific proposals for actions within this tortoise conservation area below the action type, one action at a time. For each proposed action, please provide details to describe location, area, and/or number of activities.

[Click here to see the chart of ranked threats and recovery action types for this area](#)

- 1) Restore Habitat (no proposed actions)
- 2) Remove grazing (close allotments) (no proposed actions)

<http://www.spatial.redlands.edu/dtro/rit/proposaltool.aspx>

Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool



Examples of the necessary specificity for proposed recovery actions in the RA Proposal Tool

- 1.) **Restore Habitat:** Removal of invasive weeds or non-native plant species in the central west arm of the Chemehuevi critical habitat unit within five 40-acre plants; create "fertile islands" to act as seed banks from which native plants can disperse.
- 2.) **Install & Maintain Tortoise Barrier Fencing:** Install ~20 miles of desert tortoise barrier fencing along each side of Highway 247 between the Mojave National Preserve's Barstow Office and the Lucerne Valley Cutoff Road
- 3.) **Increase Law Enforcement:** Fund two dedicated law enforcement officers to patrol the Gold Butte Pakoan ACEC
- 4.) **Restore roads:** Identify and close all unauthorized (i.e., not designated as "open" on BLMs travel management plan) routes within the Ivanpah DWMA through use of vertical mulching or vehicle barriers (~50 miles)
- 5.) **Remove grazing:** Purchase the base property for the Lazy Daisy allotment (~310,000 acres) and retire the allotment's grazing permit

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Next Steps



- **Deadline:** August 10th → when workgroup members need to have actions submitted to RA Proposal Tool
- Chris & Cat are available if you have questions as you enter specific actions in the RA Proposal Tool
- In-person Meeting: Late-Fall → options: end of October or beginning of December
- Look for follow-up email from us with doodle poll for in-person meeting dates!