

**DESERT TORTOISE (MOJAVE POPULATION)
FIELD MANUAL
(*Gopherus agassizii*)**

[December 2009]

prepared by:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Warning: This Manual does not authorize individuals to handle desert tortoises. Such authorization comes from both Federal and State wildlife resource agencies, including, at least, those listed above. This document supersedes what was previously titled Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoises during Construction Projects (Desert Tortoise Council 1994, revised 1999).

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The Desert Tortoise Council provided desert tortoise handling guidelines in 1994. Edward L. LaRue, Jr. assembled the information and drafted these guidelines on behalf of the Council with input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) field offices in California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. Mr. LaRue initiated review of these guidelines in April 1996 and revised them in July 1999. Information was provided by the Desert Tortoise Council, the USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), private consultants, universities, Tortoise Group, and other individuals and organizations. The latest document, the Desert Tortoise Field Manual, is a revision of the handling guidelines and assembly/revision of other documents that provide regulatory guidance and requirements for the desert tortoise. The Desert Tortoise Field Manual is a compilation of efforts by many offices of the USFWS with input and review by the CDFG, NDOW, AGFD, UDWR, and consultants. We appreciate the efforts of all involved in this evolving document from the first version in 1994 to the current version.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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Desert Tortoise Recovery Office
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Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office-Las Vegas
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
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In California, for Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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In California, for Imperial and Riverside Counties, and Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest in San Bernardino Co:

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Nevada Department of Wildlife

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California Department of Fish and Game

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Table of Contents

Title Page

Acknowledgements

Agency/Organization Contact Information

Chapter 1 Purpose

Chapter 2 Procedures for Federal Endangered Species Act Compliance for the Desert Tortoise

Chapter 3 Federal and State Authorizations for Implementing Desert Tortoise Measures Required Under Sections 7 or 10 of the ESA

Chapter 4 Preparing For Any Action That May Occur Within the Range of the Mojave Desert Tortoise

USFWS Desert Tortoise Pre-Project Survey Guidance (Excel Table)

Chapter 5 Preliminary Consideration Before Going to the Field

Chapter 6 Desert Tortoise Clearance Survey Protocol

Chapter 7 Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoises and Their Eggs

Chapter 8 Desert Tortoise Exclusion Fence