



Programmatic NEPA for Roadway Fencing to Reduce Mojave Desert Tortoise Mortality – **UPDATE**



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Presentation Overview

- ✓ Recap of decisions from last October MOG Meeting
- ✓ Tasks and timeline from now until May 2020
- ✓ Proposed NEPA project governance structure
- ✓ Questions for MOG

Recap - October 2019 MOG Meeting

- ✓ Presented four options to the MOG regarding the team's assistance with conducting this analysis:
 - **Option 1**: Programmatic NEPA for all roadway fencing in NV, CA, UT, and AZ.
 - **Option 2**: Conduct site-specific NEPA analysis for priority fence installation projects and a programmatic NEPA analysis for the remaining 2,883 miles.
 - **Option 3**: Conduct site-specific NEPA analysis for priority fence installation projects on private, CSLC, and Federally managed lands in NV and CA, programmatic NEPA analysis for 1,848 miles of road within these same states, and a screening process for potential projects in UT and AZ.
 - **Option 4**: Team does not conduct any analysis.

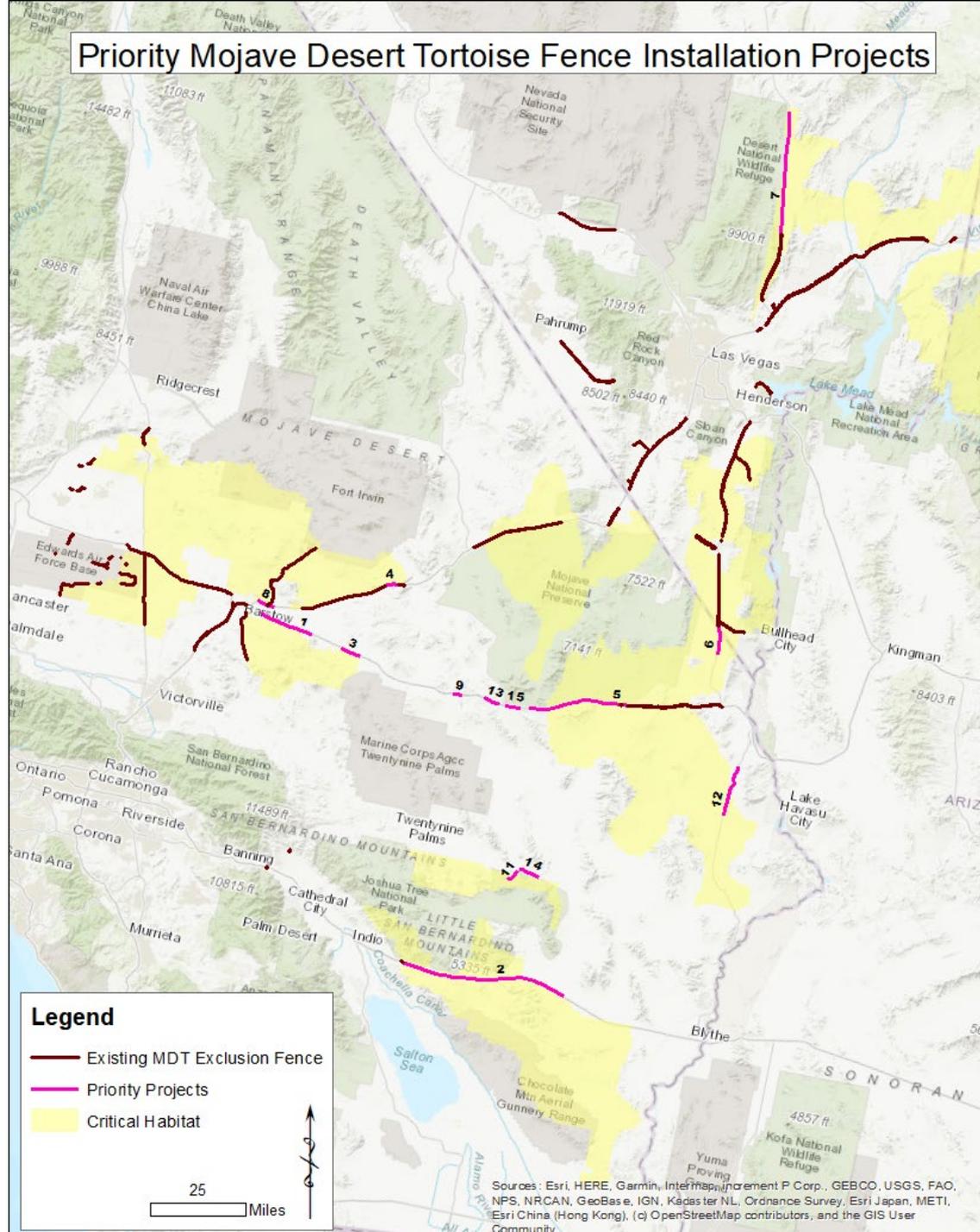
- ✓ During the MOG Meeting:
 - ✓ MOG members supportive of team working on analysis starting in January.
 - ✓ UT and AZ want to be included in Option 3.
 - ✓ NDOT/ADOT discussion regarding construction of fences within their ROWs.

- ✓ **December 20, 2020** – Raul notified the MOG that the BLM will pursue the amended option 3.

Draft Purpose and Need

- ✓ Need: Major roadways that cross Mohave desert tortoise designated critical habitat increase the likelihood of Mohave desert tortoise mortality due to automobile collisions.
- ✓ Purpose: Construct Mohave Desert tortoise fencing around major roadways that cross Mohave Desert tortoise critical and suitable habitat to reduce Mohave desert tortoise mortality due to automobile collisions.

Priority Mojave Desert Tortoise Fence Installation Projects



New – site specific analysis for UT and AZ segments

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Next Steps

February 2020

- Identify project budget, statement of work tasks, and tasks third party contractor can support.
- Draft project governance structure (charter)
 - Develop project charter (contractor?) which will identify project timeline, governance, and roles and responsibilities.
- Establish external project website
- Initiate third party contract for data gathering – CRM Class I and III inventories, botany surveys, wildlife surveys, soil and vegetation data, LR2000 search.
- Initial outreach to potential cooperators (invitations)
- Plan NHPA Section 106 consultation process (identify lead agency archeologist)

March 2020/April 2020

- Finalize Section 106 agreement (agreement among federal agencies on who should take the lead on consultation and review of potential historic properties)
- Finalize cooperator agreements
- Identify all players on project governance charter
- Award 3rd party contract for data gathering and NEPA support

May 2020

- Contractors begin data gathering
- Initial cooperators meetings to refine purpose and need
- Draft Notice of Intent to initiate NEPA clock and public scoping

Proposed Governance

Decision Makers Group: decision makers from impacted states & federal agencies

- Makes decisions on approving project charter, proposed action, scoping timeframe, and changes to project descriptions once the proposed action and alternatives have been approved.

Working Group: NEPA Support Team, contractor(s), designated specialists from other impacted state & federal agencies.

- Will write the NEPA doc, write consultation docs, conduct surveys, write reports, provide data to contractor(s).

Public Outreach Team: Will include public affairs specialists from interested/affected agencies.

- Public outreach team will put together scoping and public comment materials to include, “dear interested party letters”, meeting flyers, poster boards, new releases, ads in newspapers, etc.

NEPA Team: to assure doc and processes meet agency NEPA Requirements and CEQA Requirements (BLM state NEPA leads and other NEPA planners from other affected federal agencies).

Questions for MOG Members

- ✓ Is the MOG comfortable with the project's proposed governance structure?
- ✓ Can our team reach out to you to obtain names of individuals from your agency to be part of the charter's governance groups?
- ✓ Questions for us?