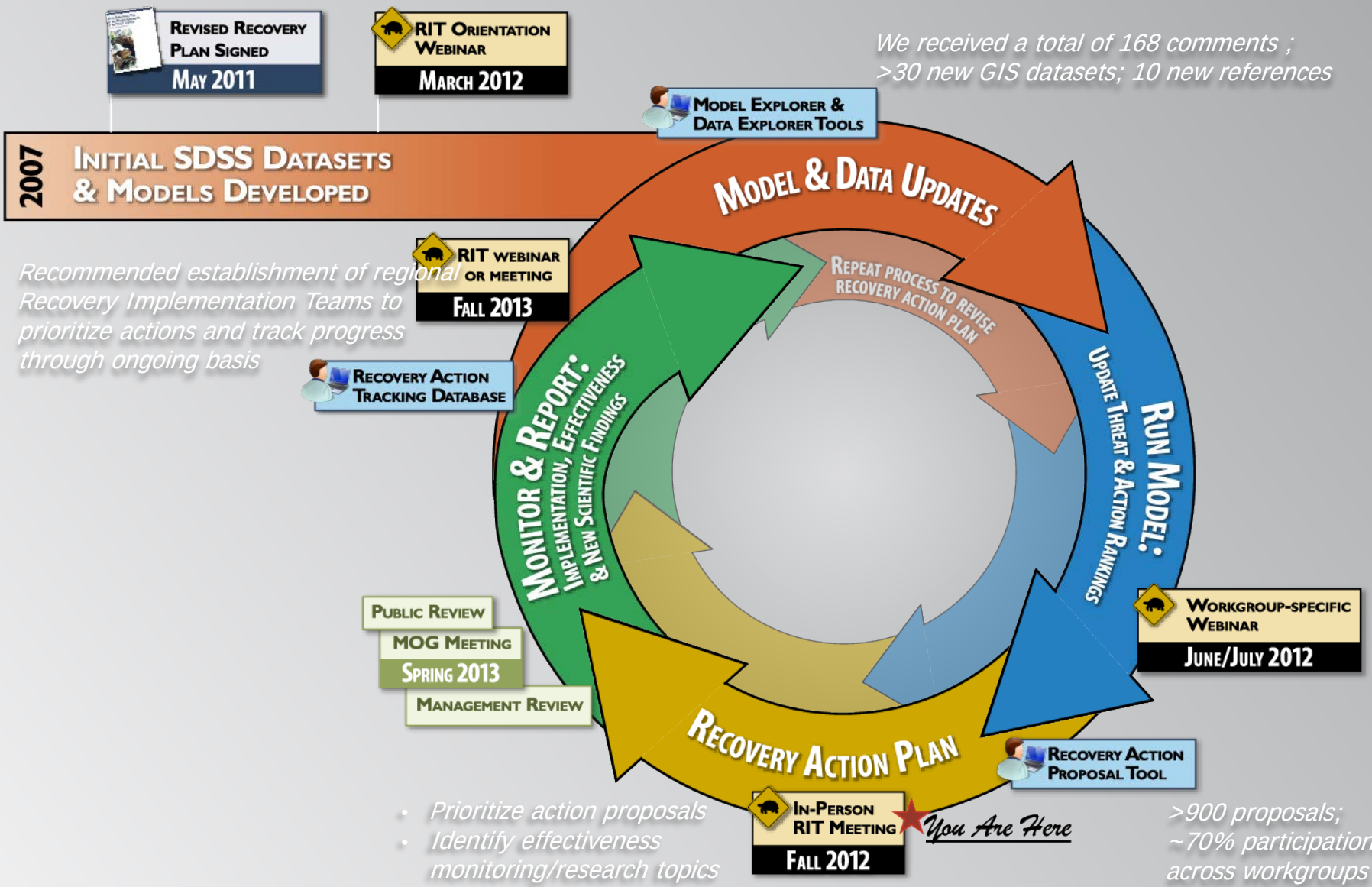
North-East Mojave Recovery Implementation Team

October 16/17 2012

Las Vegas, Nevada

Overall Recovery Implementation Team (RIT) Process



Goals for In-Person Meeting

- For each workgroup to develop prioritized actions, as well as recommendations for effectiveness monitoring/research, for the NE Mojave RIT's Recovery Action Plan (v.1)
- Additionally, to allow in-person interaction between workgroups in order to foster collaboration for tortoise recovery

RIT Recovery Action Plan (v.1)

- Not a new recovery plan
- RIT's recommendations for specific actions to undertaken for tortoise recovery within the next five years, tiered off the ranked recovery action types derived from the recovery plan & SDSS
- Provides guidance to agencies in their budgeting and planning processes; creates a prioritized menu of possible actions which may be implemented as part of mitigation packages

RIT Recovery Action Plan (v.1)

BACKGROUND

I. Ranked threats for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region

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

SDSS

PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

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

II. Comments and dissenting opinions **RIT In-Person Meeting**

TRACKING & MONITORING PLAN

I. Reporting recommendations for recovery action implementation and maintenance

II. Plan for supporting monitoring and research to assess action effectiveness **RIT In-Person Meeting**

Plan for This Meeting

1) Review, consolidate, and add proposed recovery actions to list as workgroup
2) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research
3) Consolidate individual recommendations as preliminary prioritization
4) Consideration by workgroup of preliminary prioritization and development of draft prioritization
5) RIT-wide discussion of workgroup's prioritization & revisit draft

3 Workgroup Break-out Sessions

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One Individual Session

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Time for RIT-wide Discussion

RIT Recovery Action Plan (v.1)

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TRACKING & MONITORING PLAN

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Next Steps

- Draft Recovery Action Plan sent out within one month for review (RIT-members + management)
- Provide draft Recovery Action Plans with reviews to MOG (Spring 2013) and public for comments and finalization
- Public feedback, actions that have been implemented, and new scientific information will be considered in Recovery Action Plan (v.2)
- Update Action Plans ~every other year

Questions?

Plan for This Meeting

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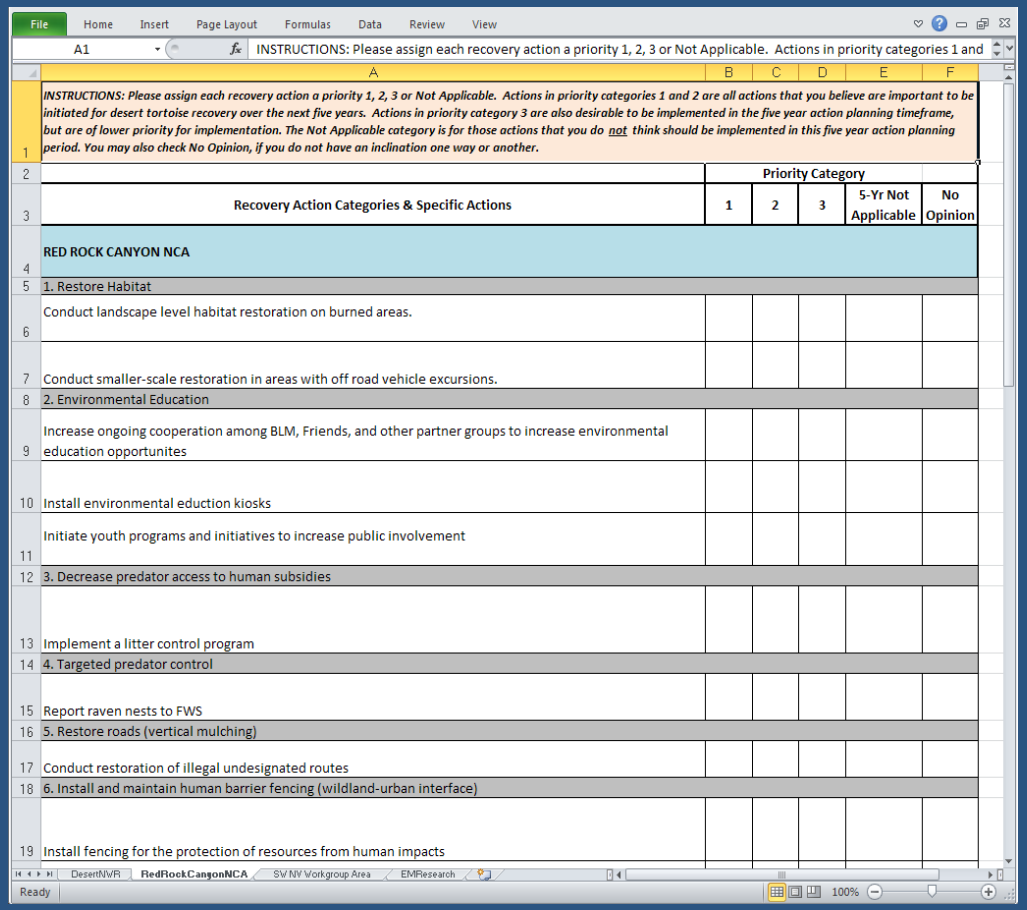
Plan for This Meeting

1) Review, consolidate, and add proposed recovery actions to list as workgroup



INSTRUCTIONS: Please assign each recovery action a priority 1, 2, 3 or Not Applicable. Actions in priority categories 1 and 2 are all actions that you believe are important to be initiated for desert tortoise recovery over the next five years. Actions in priority category 3 are also desirable to be implemented in the five year action planning timeframe, but are of lower priority for implementation. The Not Applicable category is for those actions that you do not think should be implemented in this five year action planning period. You may also check No Opinion, if you do not have an inclination one way or another.

Recovery Action Categories & Specific Actions	Priority Category 1	2	3	5-Yr Not Applicable	No Opinion
RED ROCK CANYON NCA					
1. Restore Habitat					
Conduct landscape level habitat restoration on burned areas.					
Conduct smaller-scale restoration in areas with off road vehicle excursions.					
2. Environmental Education					
Increase ongoing cooperation among BLM, Friends, and other partner groups to increase environmental education opportunites					
Install environmental eduction kiosks					
Initiate youth programs and initiatives to increase public involvement					
3. Decrease predator access to human subsidies					
Implement a litter control program					
4. Targeted predator control					
Report raven nests to FWS					
5. Restore roads (vertical mulching)					
Conduct restoration of illegal undesignated routes					
6. Install and maintain human barrier fencing (wildland-urban interface)					
Install fencing for the protection of resources from human impacts					

"What recovery actions do you wish you had funding to accomplish, and where would you like to implement them?"

- *Questions about location/action specificity?*
- *Suggestions for editing, adding, or consolidating actions?*

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Plan for This Meeting

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Plan for This Meeting

1. 2.

2) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research

Plan for This Meeting

1.

2) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research

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A1 INSTRUCTIONS: Please assign each recovery action a priority 1, 2, 3 or Not Applicable. Actions in priority categories 1

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	*INSTRUCTIONS: Please assign each recovery action a priority 1, 2, 3 or Not Applicable. Actions in priority categories 1 and 2 are all actions that you believe are important to be initiated for desert tortoise recovery over the next five years. Actions in priority category 3 are also desirable to be implemented in the five year action planning timeframe, but are of lower priority for implementation. The Not Applicable category is for those actions that you do not think should be implemented in this five year action planning period. You may also check No Opinion, if you do not have an inclination one way or another.*					
2		Priority Category				
3	**Recovery Action Categories & Specific Actions**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**5-Yr Not Applicable**	**No Opinion**
4	**PIUTE-EL DORADO CRITICAL HABITAT UNIT**					
5	1. Restore Habitat					
6	Restore closed and illegall routes (BLM Las Vegas is using SNPLMA funding to restore closed and illegal routes; funding for this ends in 2014 but restoration needs will continue.)					
7	2. Restore roads (vertical mulching)					
8	Restore closed and illegall routes (BLM Las Vegas is using SNPLMA funding to restore closed and illegal routes; funding for this ends in 2014 but restoration needs will continue.)					
9	3. Environmental education					
10	Install additional kiosks and information signs to educate the public about tortoise conservation and stipulations: BLM Las Vegas					
11	4. Decrease predator access to subsidies					
12						
13	5. Targeted predator control					
14						
15	6. Sign and fence protected areas					
16	Maintain kiosks and other informational signs regarding desert tortoise: BLM Las Vegas					
17	Fencing Nipton Road and the Laughlin Highway (NDOT and Clark County have fenced US Hwy 95 and portions of Nipton Road. Additional fencing is needed on Nipton Road and the Laughlin Highway.)					
18	7. Install and maintain human barriers (preserves)					
19	Install wire and post and cable fences where restoration treatments need additional protection: BLM Las Vegas					
20	8. Sign designated routes					
21	Monitor and maintain designated routes and signage (Designated routes have been signed by BLM Las Vegas)					
22	9. Increase law enforcement					
23	Use traffic counters to strategically plan for law enforcement patrols during higher use seasons.					
24	Maintain BLM law enforcement presence.					
25	10. Manage disease in wild populations					

BeaverDamSlopeCHU BCCE DTCC GoldButteACEC A GoldButte ACEC B LakeMeadNRA MormonMesaCHU PiuteE

Ready 100%

Fill out the worksheet with Priorities 1, 2, 3, or 5-yr Not Applicable, or No Opinion

Plan for This Meeting

1.

2) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research

INSTRUCTIONS: Please assign each recovery action a priority 1, 2, 3 or Not Applicable. Actions in priority categories 1 and 2 are all actions that you believe are important to be initiated for desert tortoise recovery over the next five years. Actions in priority category 3 are also desirable to be implemented in the five year action planning timeframe, but are of lower priority for implementation. The Not Applicable category is for those actions that you do not think should be implemented in this five year action planning period. You may also check No Opinion, if you do not have an inclination one way or another.

	Priority Category				
Recovery Action Categories & Specific Actions	**1**	**2**	**3**	**5-Yr Not Applicable**	**No Opinion**
BEAVER DAM SLOPE CRITICAL HABITAT UNIT					
1. Restore Habitat					
Complete an ACEC and Travel Management Plan to identify areas for restoration and set disturbance thresholds (submitted for section 7 funding)					
Conduct restoration efforts in Lincoln County to assist in improving the condition of desert tortoise habitat (funded under the Lincoln Co. HCP)					
2. Remove grazing					
Install a range fence around Beaver Dam Slope Critical Habitat Unit to allow for a shorter season of use and reduced Animal Unit Months (AUMs) in critical habitat (submitted for section 7 funding)					
3. Targeted predator control					
Inspect tower structures in desert tortoise habitat annually for nesting ravens and observations of raven nests. All nests shall be reported to the Service to discuss the necessity to remove any nests determined to threaten tortoise populations in the area.					

Priority Category Criteria

Attachment 2 of your agenda

- Actions in Priority categories 1 through 3 are **all** actions that you believe are important to be initiated for desert tortoise recovery over the next five years.
- "5-Yr Not Applicable" is for those actions that you do **not** think can or should be implemented in the next five years
- “No Opinion” is for actions that you have no knowledge or opinion as to whether or not they should be included in the Action Plan.

Plan for This Meeting

1.

1) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research

***INSTRUCTIONS:** Please assign each recovery action a priority 1, 2, 3 or Not Applicable. Actions in priority categories 1 and 2 are all actions that you believe are important to be initiated for desert tortoise recovery over the next five years. Actions in priority category 3 are also desirable to be implemented in the five year action planning timeframe, but are of lower priority for implementation. The Not Applicable category is for those actions that you do not think should be implemented in this five year action planning period. You may also check No Opinion, if you do not have an inclination one way or another.*

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BEAVER DAM SLOPE CRITICAL HABITAT UNIT					
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Complete an ACEC and Travel Management Plan to identify areas for restoration and set disturbance thresholds (submitted for section 7 funding)		X			
Conduct restoration efforts in Lincoln County to assist in improving the condition of desert tortoise habitat (funded under the Lincoln Co. HCP)	X				
2. Remove grazing					
Install a range fence around Beaver Dam Slope Critical Habitat Unit to allow for a shorter season of use and reduced Animal Unit Months (AUMs) in critical habitat (submitted for section 7 funding)				X	
3. Targeted predator control					
Inspect tower structures in desert tortoise habitat annually for nesting ravens and observations of raven nests. All nests shall be reported to the Service to discuss the necessity to remove any nests determined to threaten tortoise populations in the area.	X				

Plan for This Meeting

2.

2) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research

Plan for This Meeting

2.

2) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research

INSTRUCTIONS: Please select up to five topics, by marking an X in the box, that you believe are the very most important for effectiveness monitoring/research in order to improve our understanding of the effects of said activity on tortoise recovery. Monitoring results will inform future updates to the Recovery Action Plans.	
	Priority Effectiveness Monitoring/Research Topic?
SOUTHEAST NEVADA WORKGROUP: NE MOJAVE RIT	
Restore Habitat	X
Environmental Education	
Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing	
Decrease predator access to subsidies	X
Install and maintain human barriers (wildland-urban interface)	
Targeted predator control	
Restore Roads (vertical-mulching)	
Restore habitat (toxicants/unexploded ordinance)	
Increase law enforcement	X

Select ~five topics that you believe are the most important for effectiveness monitoring or research in order to improve our understanding of the effects of that particular activity on tortoise recovery

Monitoring and research will inform future updates to the Recovery Action Plans

Plan for This Meeting

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Questions?

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Plan for This Meeting

3) Consolidate individual recommendations as preliminary prioritization

- *We entered all of your responses for each action*
- *Calculated the median value for the entire workgroup as a preliminary prioritization for discussion*
- *The spreadsheet displays the spread of responses to help you examine the variation within your workgroup's thinking*
- *Flags those actions with the greatest variation in responses across the workgroup for discussion*

Plan for This Meeting

3) Consolidate individual recommendations as preliminary prioritization

Recovery Action Categories & Specific Actions	Priority Category 1	2	3	5-Yr Not Applicable	No Opinion	Distribution	Group Priority Categor	DECISION
BEAVER DAM SLOPE CRITICAL HABITAT UNIT								
1. Restore Habitat								
Pursue application of Plateau® to reduce/remove nonnative bromes.	4	0	3	2	2		3	3
Support Seeds of Success program, or other means to create and maintain a seed bank. Enlist members of the local community, in addition to botanical gardens and nurseries, could grow locally adapted plants, harvest and store seeds. This would increase but-in from the community.	3	2	0	3	3		2	2
Acquire water rights and pipelines from any future closed allotments. This could be used to irrigate re-seeded areas.	1	2	2	1	5		3	3
Remove non-native annuals, forbs, and exotic trees particularly saltcedar along major washes including Beaver Dam Wash and its tributaries. Use a combination of cutting and stump painting with herbicide. Spray exotic forbs and annuals with herbicide.	1	2	2	4			3	3
Cease grazing when trying to recover post fire until you have monitoring objective has been met. Set site specific targets/monitoring objectives rather than general objectives.	1	2	1	2	5		3	3
2. Remove grazing (close allotments)								
Switch current grazing program to ephemeral only where allotments are only grazed during wet years with significant vegetative growth.	0	4	2	2	3		3	3
Reduce stocking rates to lower than current AUMs and continue the pasture rest/rotation system.	3	5	0	2	1		2	2
Change the habitat monitoring program so that it goes beyond ecological condition, and includes species specific objectives for tortoises. 1) Measure relative abundance of high PEP and invasive plant; 2) Identify desired plant community objectives which capture the needs of tortoises per the PCEs of critical habitat and that can be measured; 3)Create a new formula that includes ecological condition + utilization + pattern	2	1	1	5	2		N/A	N/A

Plan for This Meeting

3) Consolidate individual recommendations as preliminary prioritization

	Priority Effectiveness Monitoring/Research Topic?
SOUTHEAST NEVADA WORKGROUP: NE MOJAVE RIT	
Restore Habitat	31%
Environmental Education	38%
Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing	8%
Decrease predator access to subsidies	43%
Install and maintain human barriers (wildland-urban interface)	2%
Targeted predator control	21%
Restore Roads (vertical-mulching)	38%
Increase law enforcement	50%

Calculated the percent of workgroup members who marked each topic as a priority

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Plan for This Meeting

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Acquire water rights and pipelines from any future closed allotments. This could be used to irrigate re-seeded areas.	1	2	2	1	5		3	3
Remove non-native annuals, forbs, and exotic trees particularly saltcedar along major washes including Beaver Dam Wash and its tributaries. Use a combination of cutting and stump painting with herbicide. Spray exotic forbs and annuals with herbicide.	1	2	2	4			3	3
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Plan for This Meeting

4) Consideration by workgroup of preliminary prioritization and development of draft prioritization

- *Does workgroup support preliminary prioritization rankings?*
- *What is the rationale behind outlier prioritization rankings?*
- *Consideration of rationale; allow for reporting of dissenting opinions (Attachment 3)*
- *Resolved draft prioritized actions for workgroup, including explanation of any dissenting opinions*

Plan for This Meeting

4) Consideration by workgroup of preliminary prioritization and development of draft prioritization

Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Teams: North-East Mojave
In-Person Meeting Agenda

October 16-17, 2012
Las Vegas, Nevada

Attachment 3: Priority Action Dissenting Opinion Worksheet

If you do not support the prioritization category assigned by the workgroup to a particular recovery action, please answer the following questions. Your responses will be documented in the Recovery Action Plan to reflect your opinions.

Workgroup: _____

TCA: _____

Name & Organization (optional): _____

Recovery Action Category: _____

Specific Recovery Action: _____

Your Assigned Priority Level for Action: ____ Workgroup's Average Priority Level for Action: ____

Why do you disagree with Workgroup's assigned prioritization for this action (be as detailed as you can):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Use worksheet for documenting dissent to be captured in Recovery Action Plan v.1. (Attachment 3)

Dissenting opinions will be included in the RIT Recovery Action Plan

Plan for This Meeting

4) Consideration by workgroup of preliminary prioritization and development of draft prioritization

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Calculated the percent of workgroup members who marked each topic as a priority

Your workgroup will use this information to help you:

- Review and discuss effectiveness monitoring and research topics
- Decide on the top priority topics for your workgroup

Questions?

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Plan for This Meeting

5) RIT-wide discussion of workgroup's prioritization & revisit draft

- *Identification of similarities & differences between workgroups*
- *What were the easy & difficult actions to prioritize*
- *Which actions rose and which dipped in prioritization as you discussed them?*
- *Which actions, if any, received dissenting opinions?*
- *Which effectiveness monitoring topics were of most/least interest?*

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Next Steps

- Draft Recovery Action Plan sent out within one month for review (RIT-members + management)
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Meeting Feedback

- What has worked well for you during this process and what would you like to see revised?
- Completion of confidential RIT process evaluation worksheet