



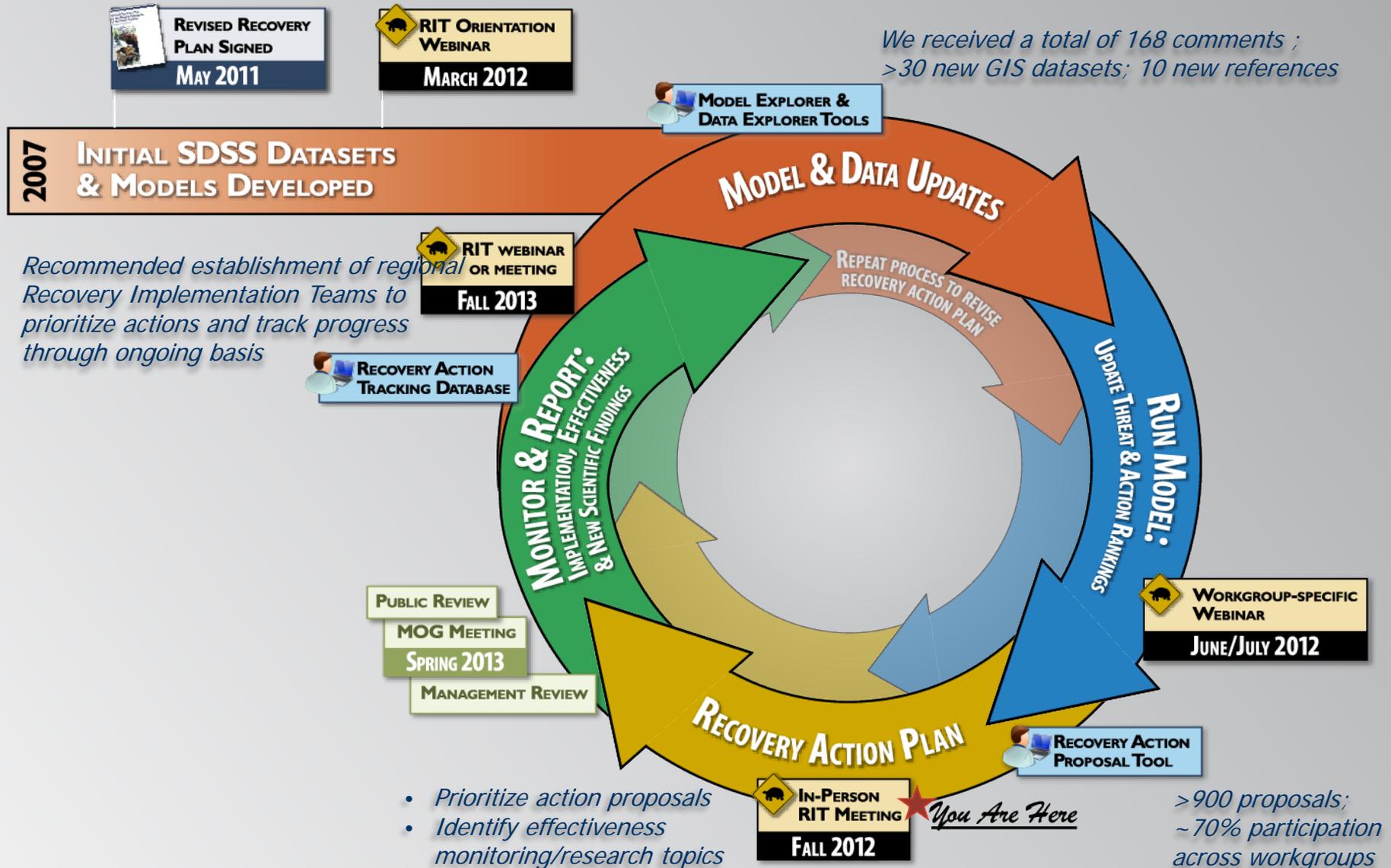
Upper Virgin River Recovery Implementation Team

December 12/13 2012

St. George, UT



OVERALL RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (RIT) PROCESS



Goal for In-Person Meeting



- To develop prioritized actions, as well as recommendations for effectiveness monitoring/research topics, for the UVR RIT's Recovery Action Plan (v.1)



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 any alternative funding opportunities arise

RIT Recovery Action Plan (v.1)



BACKGROUND

- I. Ranked threats for tortoise conservation areas & region
- II. Ranked recovery action types for tortoise conservation areas & RIT 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 a team
- 2) Individually prioritize actions and identify topics for effectiveness monitoring or research
- 3) Consolidate individual recommendations as preliminary prioritization
- 4) Consideration by team of preliminary prioritization and development of draft prioritization

Two Team Sessions

Plan for This Meeting



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One Individual Session

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Break

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RIT Recovery Action Plan (v.1)



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PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

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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**

Next Steps



- Draft prioritization sent out to RIT members for review within 1 month of meeting
- Draft Recovery Action Plan sent out 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



- 1) Review, consolidate, and add proposed recovery actions to list as a team
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- 4) Consideration by team of preliminary prioritization and development of draft prioritization

Plan for This Meeting



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

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 <u>not</u> 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 opportunities					
Install environmental education 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?*



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

	Priority Category				
	1	2	3	5-Yr Not Applicable	No Opinion
PIUTE-EL DORADO CRITICAL HABITAT UNIT					
1. Restore Habitat					
Restore closed and illegal 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.)					
2. Restore roads (vertical mulching)					
Restore closed and illegal 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.)					
3. Environmental education					
Install additional kiosks and information signs to educate the public about tortoise conservation and stipulations: BLM Las Vegas					
4. Decrease predator access to subsidies					
5. Targeted predator control					
6. Sign and fence protected areas					
Maintain kiosks and other informational signs regarding desert tortoise: BLM Las Vegas					
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.)					
7. Install and maintain human barriers (preserves)					
Install wire and post and cable fences where restoration treatments need additional protection: BLM Las Vegas					
8. Sign designated routes					
Monitor and maintain designated routes and signage (Designated routes have been signed by BLM Las Vegas)					
9. Increase law enforcement					
Use traffic counters to strategically plan for law enforcement patrols during higher use seasons.					
10. Manage disease in wild populations					

Ready

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.

Recovery Action Categories & Specific Actions	Priority Category				
	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.

Recovery Action Categories & Specific Actions	Priority Category				
	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)		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.

EMR#	Effectiveness monitoring or research topics	Priority Effectiveness Monitoring/Research Topic?
1	Effectiveness of habitat restoration in Chuckwalla: Select an appropriate 640 ac parcel for habitat restoration. Acquire tortoise count before taking action. Remove up to 50% of invasive species, remove up to 20% of dirt roads, and all practical dump sites. Monitor tortoise populations for 3 years after and see if any increase in populations. If not, reconsider program.	X
2	Effectiveness of vertical-mulching. Determine the effectiveness of "road restoration" versus blocking off roads	
3	Effectiveness of environmental education: Increase education in different use groups (e.g. OHV, military) for 3 year period. Measure results.	X
4	Effectiveness of tortoise barrier fencing: Within a 640 acre area determine location of most frequently used roads, canals, and other man-made areas that can harm tortoise populations and migrations routes. Install and maintain fencing. check fencing on a quarterly basis and repair as needed. Monitor population for 3 yrs after installation. If no increase is seen, reconsider program.	
5	Effectiveness of targeted predator control (birth control): Within a 640 to 1280 ac parcel, make most predominate mammal predator infertile with some targeted injection. achieve an measured decrease in predator population over 3 years. Monitor tortoise population to see if there is a corresponding increase. if not, review program.	
6	Effectives of targeted predator control (coyote removal): When coyotes are trapped from the area it should be done under a well-designed experimental protocol and relocated coyotes should be fitted with radio collars to document recolonization.	
7	Fire potential: Evaluate the fire potential in the Colorado Desert. Casual observation points to low fire potential in desert tortoise habitats. Prioritize fire management activities to areas of highest fire potential.	
8	Effectiveness of habitat restoration: Design and implement restoration research projects in the Colorado Desert. Compile existing literature, evaluate methods, and collaborate with USGS or others working in the field of desert restoration to prioritize locations and research design.	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?



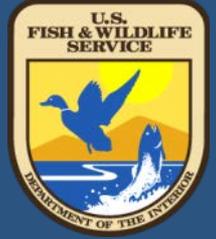


Plan for This Meeting



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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 team as a preliminary prioritization for discussion*
- *The spreadsheet displays the spread of responses to help you examine the variation within your team's thinking*
- *Flags those actions with ≥ 1 Not Applicable response for discussion*

Plan for This Meeting



3) Consolidate individual recommendations as preliminary prioritization

RA#	Recovery Action Categories & Specific Actions	Priority Category					Distribution	Group Priority Category	Decision
		1	2	3	5-Yr Not Applicable	No Opinion			
BEAVER DAM SLOPE CRITICAL HABITAT UNIT									
1.00	1. Restore Habitat								
1.01	Complete an ACEC and Travel Management Plan to identify areas for restoration and set disturbance thresholds (submitted for section 7 funding)	4	4	1	0	1		2	
1.02	Conduct restoration efforts in Lincoln County to assist in improving the condition of desert tortoise habitat (funded under the Lincoln Co. HCP)	7	0	1	0	2		1	
2.00	2. Remove grazing								
2.01	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)	5	3	1	1	0		2	
3.00	3. Targeted predator control								
3.01	Conduct predator control in areas where they have been proven to have a negative impact on tortoise population; conduct effectiveness monitoring.	5	1	1	0	3		1	
3.02	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	4	3	3	0	0		2	
4.00	4. Decrease predator access to human subsidies								
4.01	Conduct activities to decrease predator access to subsidies in Lincoln County: coordination between BLM and Lincoln Co. HCP	2	4	2	0	2		2	
5.00	5. Environmental Education								
5.01	Increase environmental education in BLM's Utah Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area	3	2	4	0	1		2	
5.02	Develop an education program through the Lincoln County HCP for county employees and the general public.	5	2	2	0	1		1	
6.00	6. Manage disease in wild populations								
6.01									
7.00	7. Increase law enforcement								
7.01	Increase funding to hire additional non-commissioned conservation officers (or "rangers"; similar to "natural resource protection officer) that are tasked solely with DT enforcement and enhancement. This could involved logged surveys of DT fencing, signage installation and repair, minor fence repair, identify predation problems (ravens, feral dogs, coyotes, etc, install signs, check for trespassing cattle, etc. as	4		1		2		2	

Plan for This Meeting



3) Consolidate individual recommendations as preliminary prioritization

EMR#	Effectiveness monitoring or research topics	Priority Effectiveness Monitoring/Research Topic?
1	Effectiveness of habitat restoration in Chuckwalla: Select an appropriate 640 ac parcel for habitat restoration. Acquire tortoise count before taking action. Remove up to 50% of invasive species, remove up to 20% of dirt roads, and all practical dump sites. Monitor tortoise populations for 3 years after and see if any increase in populations. If not, reconsider program.	31%
2	Effectiveness of vertical-mulching. Determine the effectiveness of "road restoration" versus blocking off roads	38%
3	Effectiveness of environmental education: Increase education in different use groups (e.g. OHV, military) for 3 year period. Measure results.	8%
4	Effectiveness of tortoise barrier fencing: Within a 640 acre area determine location of most frequently used roads, canals, and other man-made areas that can harm tortoise populations and migrations routes. Install and maintain fencing. check fencing on a quarterly basis and repair as needed. Monitor population for 3 yrs after installation. If no increase is seen, reconsider program.	43%
5	Effectiveness of targeted predator control (birth control): Within a 640 to 1280 ac parcel, make most predominate mammal predator infertile with some targeted injection. achieve an measured decrease in predator population over 3 years. Monitor tortoise population to see if there is a corresponding increase. if not, review program.	2%
6	Effectives of targeted predator control (coyote removal): When coyotes are trapped from the area it should be done under a well-designed experimental protocol and relocated coyotes should be fitted with radio collars to document recolonization.	21%
7	Fire potential: Evaluate the fire potential in the Colorado Desert. Casual observation points to low fire potential in desert tortoise habitats. Prioritize fire management activities to areas of highest fire potential	50%

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

Plan for This Meeting



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

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Plan for This Meeting



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



- *Does the team 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 team, including explanation of any dissenting opinions*

Plan for This Meeting



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

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

December 4-5, 2012
Barstow, CA

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): _____

RA #: _____

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 team of preliminary prioritization and development of draft prioritization

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6	Effectives of targeted predator control (coyote removal): When coyotes are trapped from the area it should be done under a well-designed experimental protocol and relocated coyotes should be fitted with radio collars to document recolonization.	21%
7	Fire potential: Evaluate the fire potential in the Colorado Desert. Casual observation points to low fire potential in desert tortoise habitats. Prioritize fire management activities to areas of highest fire potential	50%

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

You will use this information to help you:

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

Questions?





Next Steps



- Draft prioritization sent out to RIT members for review within 1 month of meeting
- Draft Recovery Action Plan sent out 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



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