



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
DESERT TORTOISE RECOVERY OFFICE
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PROGRESS REPORT
July through December 2007

ACTIVITY	GOALS	PROGRESS/STATUS	NEXT STEPS
DTRO Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill 1 local desert tortoise recovery coordinator position in CA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed. Cat Darst will begin work in the Ventura FWO on January 7, 2008. 	
Recovery Planning G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise Recovery Plan (details can be found on the DTRO website) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUG 30: Administrative draft released to MOG OCT 1: Revised draft released to stakeholders OCT 31: Revised draft released to stakeholders NOV 6, 8: Open houses in Redlands, CA, and Las Vegas, NV, to review draft with stakeholders and accept input DEC 19: Revised draft forwarded to California and Nevada Regional Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional review/revision Publish notice of availability in Federal Register 60-day public comment Publish final revised plan
Science Advisory Committee (SAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with recovery plan revision process Revise recovery units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAC refined white paper on the status of knowledge on mycoplasmal URTD for inclusion in the revised recovery plan (Appendix B). The SAC provided review of ecological and genetic data relative to delineation of revised recovery units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up subsequent to regional review
Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group (MOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective coordination of agency planning and management activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEP 14: MOG meeting to review plan with managers and stakeholders. Discussed revised MOG charter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting TBD Circulate charter for agency signatures
Range-wide Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting on 2007 surveys Develop study plan to guide monitoring program Secure long-term funding agreements for the monitoring program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft 2007 monitoring results have been presented and report is being updated for circulation by end of February 2008. Continued development of study plan and other SOPs, including training curricula and data management Agreement signed to put in place two years of funding for Northeastern Mojave and other Nevada recovery units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish contract with USGS-Patuxent for retrospective analysis of occupancy

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Recovery Data Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish master database for all desert tortoise data • Develop protocols for structure, access, and maintenance of database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTRO continued to coordinate with Redlands Institute staff and others to develop a recovery decision support system as part of the recovery planning process and which will be integrated with or be a part of the recovery database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with relevant parties to identify roles in database development • Work with regional agency teams to update database of threats/recovery actions • Integrate database with website
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Other Activities

- The DTRO continued to coordinate with the Ft. Irwin Conservation/Mitigation Working Group (CMWG) and research cooperators on desert tortoise translocation prior to expansion of the National Training Center. Coordination among research teams continues in anticipation of translocation in Spring 2008.
- The DTRO continued participating in the California Desert Managers Group quarterly meetings. The DTRO also participates in and provides technical input to the Information and Education Workgroup.
- DTRO continued participating in planning efforts for several upcoming small translocations in southern Nevada and Arizona.
- The DTRO continued working with partners, including Clark County and BLM, on issues related to the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center (DTCC). Finalized agreement with Clark County on operations and management of the DTCC and will continue working toward the longer-term vision of upgrading the facility to serve needs ranging from recovery to training.
- The DTRO continued as lead in recovery permit review, in coordination with the California and Nevada Regional Office and field offices.