

Mojave Desert Tortoise National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Accounts

Two NFWF accounts are available for funding implementation of regional raven management activities in California. These accounts hold funds assessed by permitting agencies through a \$105 per acre fee on development projects that generate ongoing subsidies to common ravens (i.e., food, water, roosting sites, etc.). Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for each account set the sideboards for appropriate projects to fund and identify the process for distribution and tracking of the funding and project outcomes. NFWF serves as the account manager and releases funds to appropriate projects based on the approval process outlined in the MOU for each account. It also tracks the expenditure of these funds and provides reports on these expenditures to the MOU parties. In general, activities funded out of these accounts fit within the framework of the regional raven management program outlined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) 2008 Environmental Assessment for raven management in the California desert.

One of the accounts, known as the **Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) Raven Account**, collects fees from renewable energy projects authorized under Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Energy Commission (CEC), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and FWS authorities. Project proposals for funding under this account are brought to one of these agencies and can be funded if the four agencies reach a consensus decision to approve funding.

The second account, known as the **DMG (Desert Managers Group) Raven Account**, collects fees from all other projects in the California desert that have the potential to create raven subsidies. The fees are assessed by DMG member agencies through their permitting authorities. Consequently, funds into this account can come from counties, BLM, CDFW, and other permitting agencies. Project proposals for funding under the DMG account can be brought to the FWS for discussion and consideration by the DMG. Some DMG member agencies have delegated their authority for project approvals to the FWS.

Another NFWF account, the **Southern Nevada Mitigation and Conservation Account**, is available for funding implementation of regional desert tortoise recovery projects in Nevada. This account holds funds assessed by federal agencies for the loss of desert tortoise habitat in Nevada. An MOU for this account sets the sideboards for appropriate projects to fund and identifies the process for distribution and tracking of the funding and project outcomes. NFWF serves as the account manager and releases funds to appropriate projects based on the approval process outlined in the MOU. It also tracks the expenditure of these funds and provides reports on these expenditures. Project proposals for funding under this account can be brought to the FWS for discussion and consideration.

BLM is currently developing an account with NFWF that when complete will be available for funding implementation of regional desert tortoise recovery projects in Nevada. This account will hold funds assessed by BLM for the loss of desert tortoise habitat in Nevada. The MOU for this account will provide guidelines for appropriate projects to fund and identify the process for distribution and tracking of funding and project outcomes. NFWF will serve as the account manager and release funds to appropriate projects based on the approval process outlined in the MOU. NFWF will also track the expenditure of these funds and provide regular reports on expenditures to BLM. Project proposals for funding under this account can be brought to the BLM or FWS for discussion and consideration.