

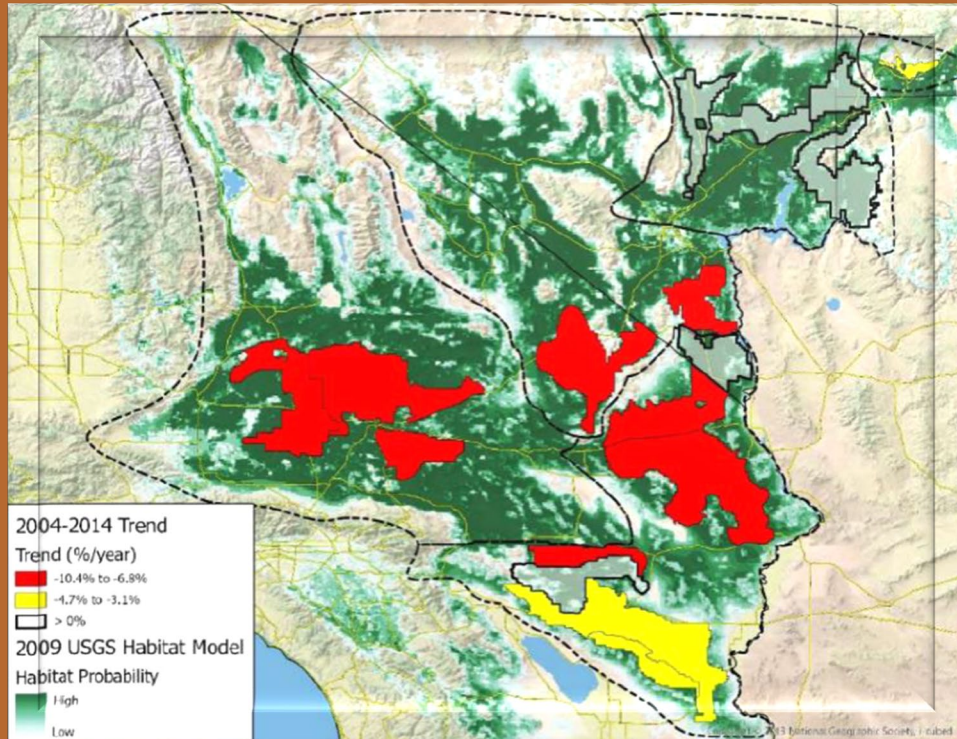


BLM Mojave Desert Tortoise Strategic Plan

Update



Despite Ongoing Recovery Efforts



What Can We
Do Better...

Are we:

- Focused
- Intentional

How are
individual
efforts
rolling up?

Are we
doing the
most
important
things?

Can we
gain better
traction for
funding
(BIL, IRA)?

Can we
improve
recovery
results?



Step 1: Strategic Planning

- Inspire with common vision and mission
 - Provide focus
 - Tangible goals
 - Understand priorities
 - Step down from recovery planning documents
-



Tasks



- November 2021 - Virtual strategic planning meeting
- Nov 2021-Aug 2022 – Developed draft strategic plan



Vision



Mission



Goals



Objectives

Priority Actions

Habitat
Restoration

Brome and Exotic
Plant Control

Prevention of Fire
Impacts

Preventing
Highway Mortality

Restoration of OHV
incursions and
linear disturbances

Raven Control

Draft Strategic Plan – end FY22



Step 2: Focal (Project) Areas

- Focus resources
 - We can't do everything at once
 - Show success
 - High threats, low threats
-



Tasks



- Nov 2021 – USFWS defined focal areas
- March-April 2022 – FO discussions -preliminary focal/project areas.
- January – February 2023 – FO discussions – refine focal/project areas



Focal Areas

Areas believed to be important to the long-term persistence of the tortoise across the species' range where a) recovery resources can be concentrated such that threats can be meaningfully reduced or eliminated within five to ten years; and so that b) local tortoise populations can be stabilized or increased, thereby creating strongholds from which longer-term, rangewide recovery criteria can be approached, and hopefully generalized to a landscape scale.



Tortoise Status

- Demographic plot data
- Density estimates



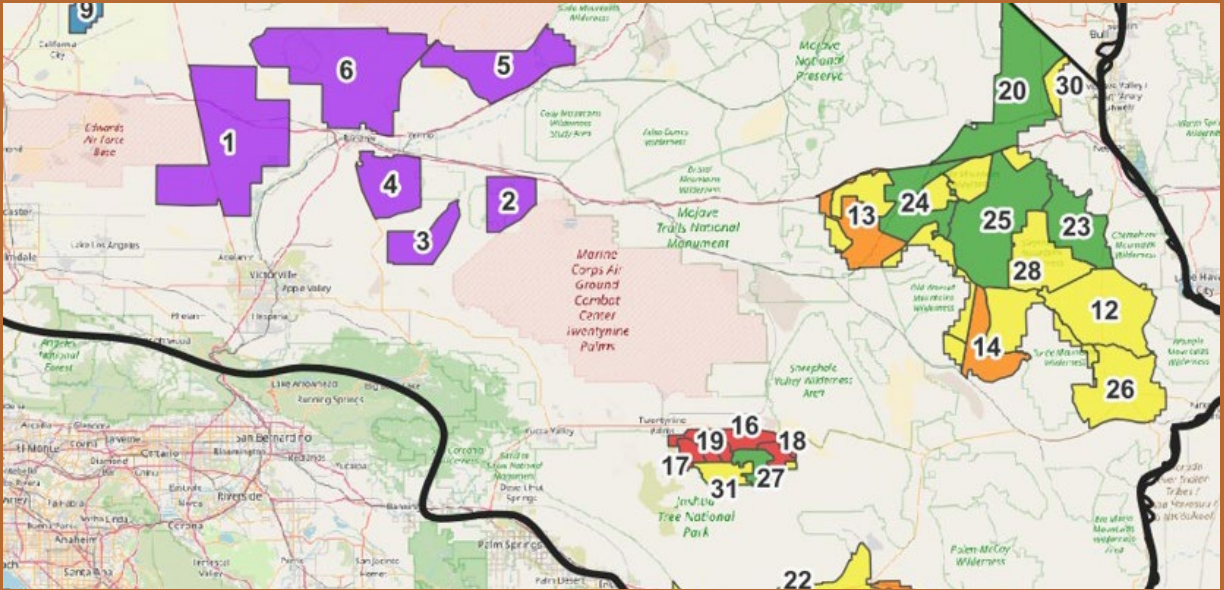
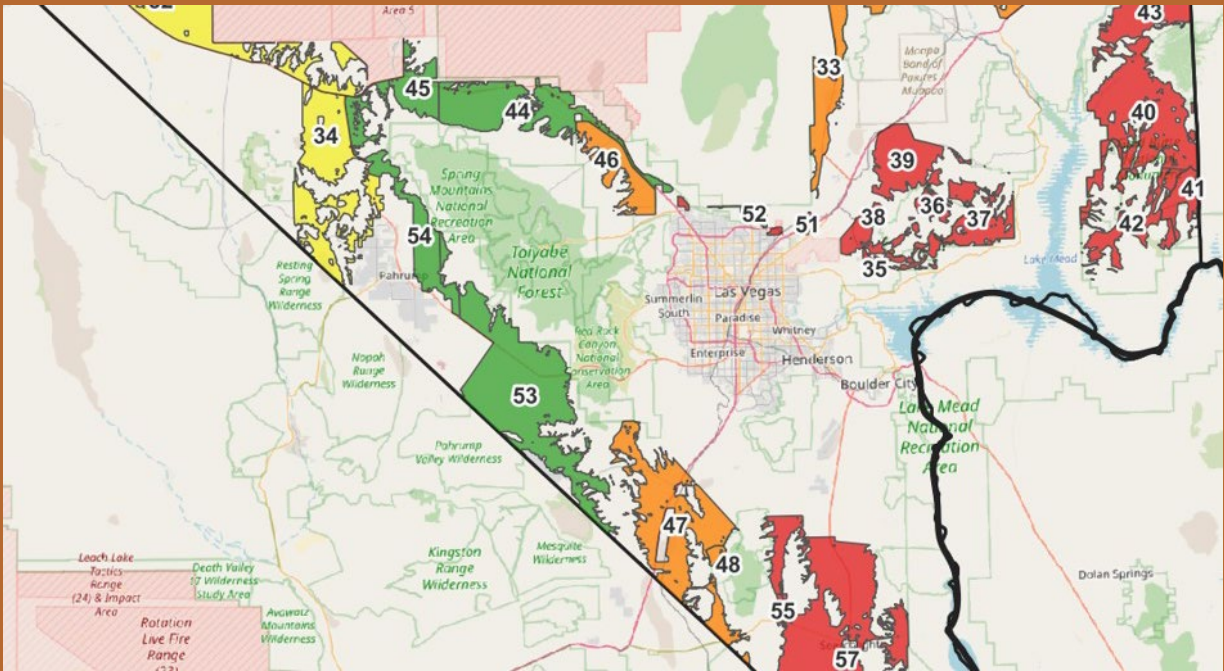
Habitat Condition

- Focus area size, habitat connectivity
- Road density
- Raven density
- Invasive plant cover



Management Feasibility

- Available resources
- Partnerships
- Regulatory framework
- Conflicting uses



Step 3: 10 Year Project Plan

- Identify specific targets
 - Identify needs (staffing, funding, partners)
 - Track progress
 - Adaptively manage
 - Tell our story
-



Tasks



- January – February 2023 – FO discussions – project development.
- February 2023 – 3 day workshop
 - 23 people from 9 offices, USFWS, USGS
 - Refined recovery focal/project areas – cross boundary
 - Worked on project development
 - Monitoring framework
- March 2023 – Updated T&E SOPLs

Develop Actions

- Addressing primary threats
- Landscape level, “big ticket”
- Moving the needle toward recovery
- Habitat connectivity
- Monitoring/adaptive management

Priority	Tasks	States
Administrative	Cooperative Management Agreements, expand personnel & resources	CA, UT
Direct Mortality	Highway fencing, predator (raven) control, reduce subsidies	CA, NV, UT
Habitat Restoration	Invasive species control, increase connectivity, wild horse/burro removal	AZ, CA, NV, UT
Land Use Planning	mitigate effects of solar projects, urban sprawl and development	AZ, CA, NV
OHV Management	route restoration, unauthorized incursions mapping, closure compliance	AZ, CA, NV
Research and Monitoring	definition of AIM program benchmarks, monitoring protocols, maintain long-term monitoring efforts	AZ, UT
Wildfire Mitigation	implement fuel breaks, model fuel treatments, habitat rehabilitation	AZ, NV, UT



TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION

Milestone/Task/Activity	Start Date	Completion Date
Complete discussions with FOs re focal areas and projects	March 2023	May 2023
Incorporated FO projects into action plan document	April 2023	May 2023
Finalize Draft Action Plan and submit to BLM for review	April 2023	June 2023
Share Draft Strategic Plan and Action Plan with BLM Tortoise Workgroup for review/comment and revisions	July 2023	July 2023
Present Final to BLM workgroup, submit final reports/documents	August 2023	August 2023





Discussion?

