

A desert tortoise with a dark brown, patterned shell and a light brown head and legs is walking across a large, reddish-brown rock. The rock has some green moss and small yellow flowers growing on it. The background is a dark, shadowed area of the same rock formation.

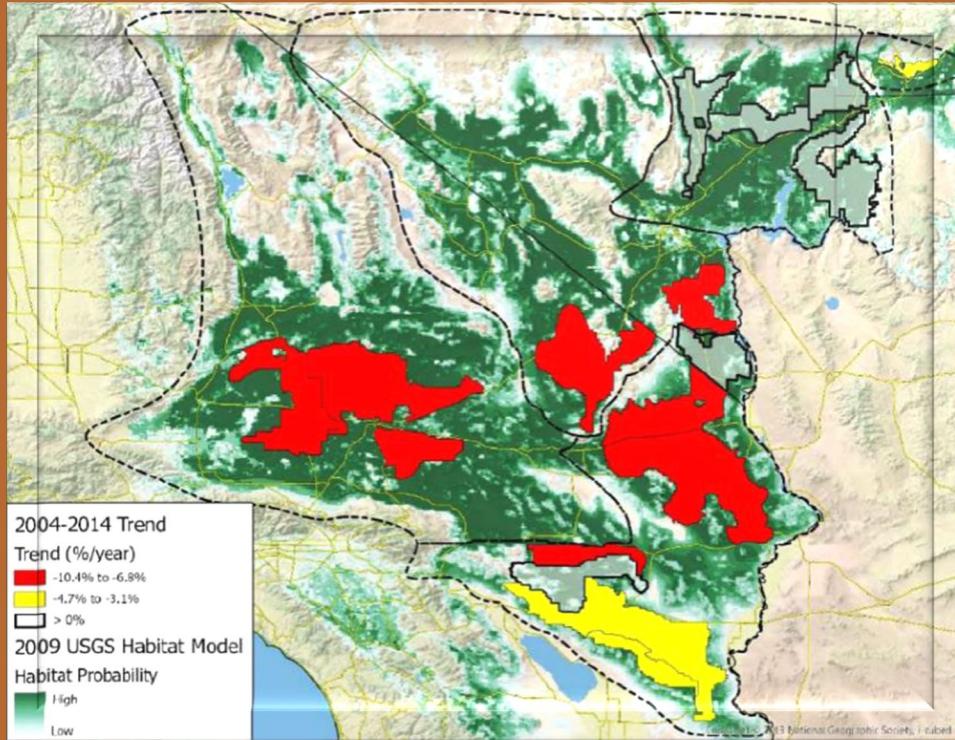
# BLM Mojave Desert Tortoise Strategic Plan

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**Update**

# Despite Ongoing Recovery Efforts

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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

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- 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

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- 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

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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



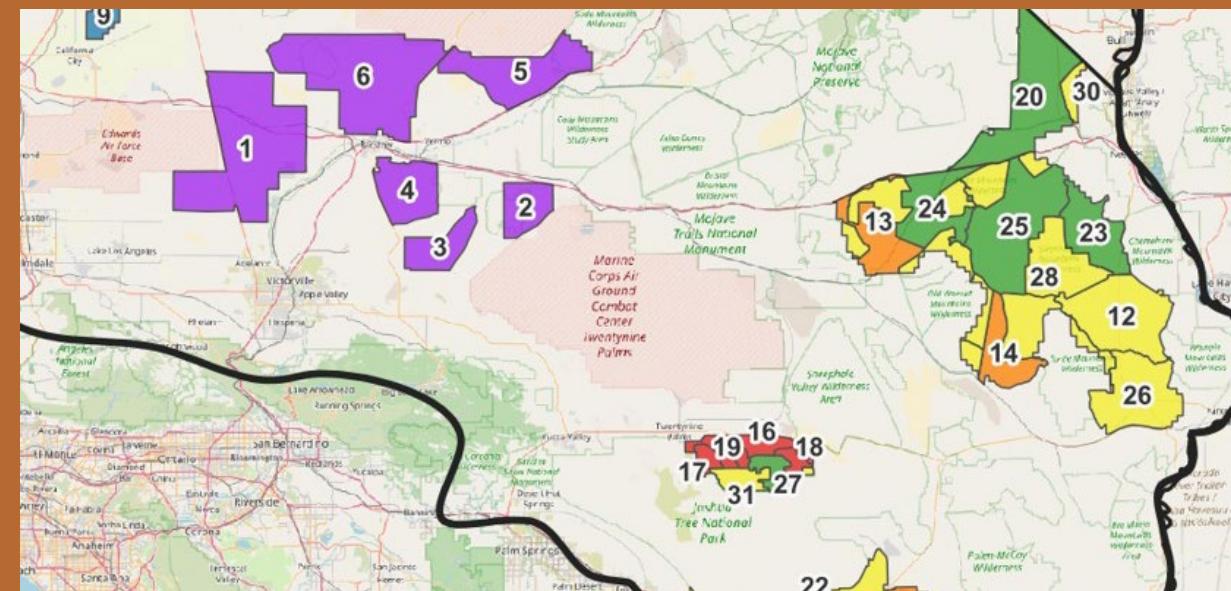
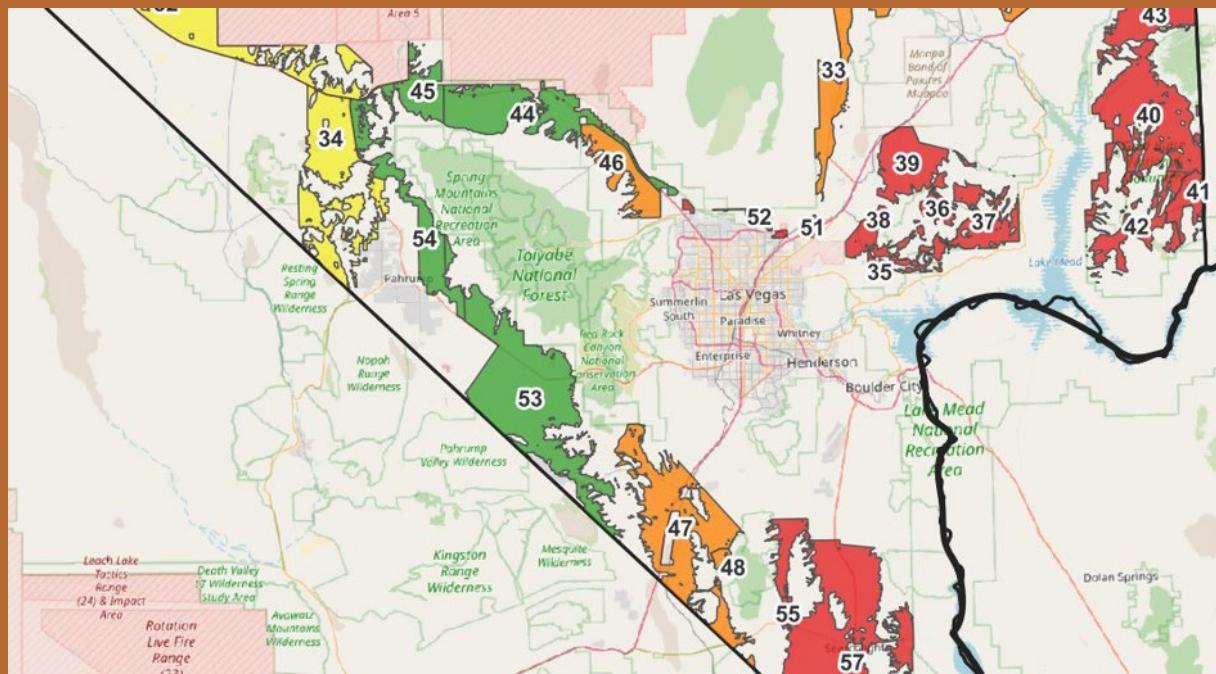
## Habitat Condition

- 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

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- 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?