

Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group Meeting

October 12, 2023 | 9:00am-4:00pm

Springs Preserve - 333 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas

Meeting Goals

- Share updates on MOG members' recovery actions and needs for achieving their recovery goals
- Learn about models, funding, project results, and other informational tools for desert tortoise management
- Hear about the Bureau of Land Management's Strategic Plan and Action Plan, and how MOG partners can support and learn from upcoming actions
- Develop strategies for making tangible progress on desert tortoise recovery through the MOG

Summary Agenda

Time	Topic, Activities, and Goals
8:30AM	Sign-in, coffee, and networking
9:00	<p>Introductory remarks - <i>Mike Senn, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services</i></p> <p>Welcome and Meeting Purpose - <i>Glen Knowles, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Southern Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office</i></p>
9:15	Agenda Review, Logistics, and Working Agreements - <i>Southwest Decision Resources facilitation team</i>
9:30	<p>MOG Executives Report Out & Member Updates - <i>All MOG Executives</i></p> <p><u>Goals of the Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share information about high-priority actions MOG members have been implementing related to restoration, predator management, highway fencing, and other recovery actions, as well as needs for accomplishing goals.• Collectively process the updates and connections that could be made. <p><i>Each MOG member will discuss:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current and planned actions related to MDT recovery• Needs from partners to help accomplish your goals for desert tortoise
10:45	Break

11:00	<p>Presentation Series: New Tools and Findings on Desert Tortoise Management</p> <p><u>Goal of the Session:</u> Learn about new models and projections for MDT populations and threats, as well as the upcoming General Conservation Plan for California</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving desert tortoise habitat modeling, a new model, and projections of the future - <i>Ken Nussear, University of Nevada Reno</i> 2. A new framework for modeling range-wide threats to Desert Tortoise populations: preliminary results and next steps - <i>Kevin Shoemaker, University of Nevada, Reno</i> 3. Update on the Development of a General Conservation Plan for the Desert Tortoise in California - <i>Peter Sanzenbacher, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office</i>
12:00	Lunch
1:15	<p>BLM Strategic Plan and Action Plan Introduction</p> <p><i>Laura Romin, Bureau of Land Management, National Threatened and Endangered Species Program</i></p> <p><i>Amy Collins, Conservation Science Partners</i></p> <p><u>Goals of the session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the BLM’s Final Strategic Plan, draft Action Plan, and implementation activities • Provide feedback on how the Action Plan can help meet the objectives of the Strategic Plan • Discuss the most effective ways for involving the MOG in implementation
1:45	<p>Integrating Desert Tortoise Recovery Actions For Current And Future Landscapes -</p> <p><i>Kristina Drake, USFWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Office</i></p> <p><u>Goals of the Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss range-wide recovery actions and context for the BLM’s Strategic and Action Plans • Introduce ideas for how the MOG could improve coordination and effectiveness of recovery actions
2:00	<p>Work session: Opportunities for greater coordination and effectiveness</p>

	<p><u>Goal of the session:</u> Develop strategies for increasing effectiveness of the MOG and recovery actions across the MDT range.</p> <p>Participants will discuss the following topics in small groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management actions and treatment methods • Adaptive management and monitoring • Project prioritization • Improving funding efficiencies • Coordination and information sharing
2:50	Break
3:00	<p>Presentation Series: Results of Recent Recovery Actions</p> <p>Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP) - <i>Brian Croft, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office</i></p> <p>Desert Tortoise Translocation of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 2022 - <i>Brian Henen, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms</i></p> <p>Discussion: How can these findings inform the activities suggested in the previous session for collectively increasing management effectiveness?</p>
3:35	Meeting evaluation and action item review - <i>Glen Knowles, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Southern Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office</i>
3:45	Closing comments
4:00PM	Adjourn