

SCREENING FORM FOR LOW-EFFECT HCP DETERMINATIONS

I. Project Information

A. Project Name: Perez Home Development, Scenic, Arizona

Affected Species: Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)

B. Project Size: 10 acres

C. Brief project description including minimization and mitigation plans:

Home development on eight parcels located on 10 acres in Scenic, Mohave County, Arizona. Possible minimization and mitigation plans include relocating tortoises from the project area to nearby lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, temporary barrier fencing during construction, avoidance of burrows, and leaving portions of parcels undeveloped.

II. Does the HCP fit the low-effect criteria in the HCP Handbook? *The answer must be “yes” to all three questions below for a positive determination. Each response should include an explanation.*

A. Are the effects of the HCP minor or negligible on federally listed, proposed, or candidate species and their habitats covered under the HCP before implementation of the mitigation plan?

Yes. The project area is small and has a low density of tortoises. There are currently eight burrows, of which only six appear to have recent activity. Tortoises typically use multiple burrows; therefore, there are likely fewer than six tortoises using the site. Additional burrows located adjacent to the project indicate that tortoises are moving between burrows.

B. Are the effects of the HCP minor or negligible on other environmental values or resources (e.g. air quality, geology and soils, water quality and quantity, socio-economic, cultural resources, recreation, visual resources, etc.) before implementation of the mitigation plan?

Yes. There are no anticipated effects from the HCP on other environmental values or resources.

C. Would the impacts of this HCP, considered together with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable similarly situated projects not result, over time, in cumulative effects to environmental values or resources which would be considered significant?

Yes. We do not anticipate that there will be cumulative effects to the environmental values or resources from this HCP, past, present, or foreseeable similar projects.

III. Do any of the exceptions to categorical exclusions apply to this HCP? (form 516 DM 2.3, Appendix 2) *If the answer is “yes” to any of the questions below, the project cannot be categorically excluded from NEPA. Each “no” response should include an explanation.*

Would implementation of the HCP:

A. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?

No. This HCP will have no adverse effects on public health or safety.

B. Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department’s National Register of Natural Landmarks?

No. This HCP will have no adverse effects on any unique geographic characteristics.

C. Have highly controversial environmental effects?

No. This HCP will have no controversial environmental effects.

D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

No. This HCP will have no highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?

No. This HCP will not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects

F. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

No. This HCP is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

G. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

No. This HCP does not involve any properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

H. Have adverse effects on listed or proposed species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?

No. This HCP is intended to remove adverse effects to Mojave desert tortoise through the mitigation plan. This HCP does not include critical habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise.

I. Have adverse effects on wetlands, floodplains, or be considered a water development project thus requiring compliance with either Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?

No. This HCP does not include any wetlands, floodplains, nor is this project considered a water development project.

J. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?

No. This HCP does not threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

References