

**DESERT TORTOISE MONITOR AND BIOLOGIST
RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

DESERT TORTOISE MONITOR -- Approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor project activities within desert tortoise habitat, ensure proper implementation of protective measures, and record and report desert tortoise and sign observations in accordance with approved protocol, report incidents of noncompliance in accordance with a biological opinion or permit, move desert tortoises from harm's way when desert tortoises enter project sites and place these animals in "safe areas" pre-selected by Authorized Biologists or maintain the desert tortoises in their immediate possession until an Authorized Biologist assumes care of the animal. Monitors assist Authorized Biologists during surveys and often serve as "apprentices" to acquire experience. Monitors are not authorized to conduct presence/absence or clearance surveys unless directly supervised by an Authorized Biologist; "directly supervised" means the Authorized Biologist is direct voice and sight contact with the Monitor.

AUTHORIZED BIOLOGIST – Approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct all activities described in the previous section for Desert Tortoise Monitors, and to locate desert tortoises and their sign (i.e., conduct presence/absence and clearance surveys) and ensure that the effects of the project on the desert tortoise and its habitat are minimized in accordance with a biological opinion incidental take permit. Authorized Biologists must keep current with the latest information on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocols and guidelines. An Authorized Biologist must have thorough and current knowledge of desert tortoise behavior, natural history, and ecology, physiology, and demonstrated substantial field experience and training to safely and successfully:

- handle and temporarily hold desert tortoises
- excavate burrows to locate desert tortoise or eggs
- relocate/translocate desert tortoises
- reconstruct desert tortoise burrows
- unearth and relocate desert tortoise eggs
- locate, identify, and record all forms of desert tortoise sign

GENERAL DESERT TORTOISE BIOLOGIST/MONITOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT

This form should be used to provide your qualifications to agency officials if you intend to handle or survey desert tortoises during construction or other projects authorized under Sections 7 or 10 (HCPs) of the Endangered Species Act. If you seek approval to attach/remove/insert any devices or equipment to/into desert tortoises, withdraw blood, or conduct other procedures on desert tortoises, a recovery permit or similar authorization may be required.

Application for a recovery permit requires completion of Form 3-200-55, which can be downloaded at <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-55.pdf>. Supplemental information for the recovery permit application should be provided with the form, *Statement of Skills and Experience with Specialized Desert Tortoise Procedures*, which is available from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office.

1. Contact Information:

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Phone Number(s)	
Email Address	

2. Date of Statement:

3. States in which authorization is requested (check all that apply):

California Nevada Utah Arizona

4. Please provide information on the project:

USFWS BO or HCP Number		Date:
Project Name		
Federal Agency		
Proponent or Contractor		

5. Specify project and/or activities anticipated that require authorization (e.g. capture/release, weigh, measure, attach and remove telemetry devices and other hardware, etc.). Specifically reference the relevant document and page numbers with authorizing statements (e.g., BO, page 19, terms and conditions 6, 7, and 8):

6. If you hold, or have held, any relevant state or federal wildlife permits, provide the following:

Species	Dates	State (specify) or Federal Permit Number	Authorized Activities

7. Education (provide up to three, listing most recent first):

Institution	Dates attended	Major/Minor	Degree received
1.			
2.			
3.			

8. Desert Tortoise Training. Include numbers of animals handled under the Experience section (No. 9 below).

Name/Type of Training	Dates (From/To)	Location	Instructor/Sponsor
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

9. Experience – Complete for each position held, attach additional sheets as necessary. Include only those positions relevant to the requested work with desert tortoises. Distinguish between Mojave desert tortoise and other experience. Include only your experience, not information for the project you worked on (e.g. if 100 tortoises were handled on a project and you handled 5 of those tortoises, include only those 5). List most recent experience first.

General Field Experience:

Project Name & Job Title	Dates (From/To)	Job Duties & Responsibilities/ Skills Used or Acquired
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Specific Desert Tortoise Field Experience Continued:						
i. Number of blood samples that you personally collected from <u>other relevant species</u> or <u>captive</u> desert tortoises (circle one for each size category). <u>Specify species or if captive desert tortoises:</u> <u>Specify type of procedure:</u>						
<100 mm: Zero	<10	10-50	50-100	100-200	>200	
≥100 mm: Zero	<10	10-50	50-100	100-200	>200	
j. Experience conducting other procedures on <u>wild, free-ranging</u> desert tortoises (circle one for each size category). <u>Specify type of procedure:</u>						
<100 mm: Zero	<10	10-50	50-100	100-200	>200	
≥100 mm: Zero	<10	10-50	50-100	100-200	>200	
k. Experience conducting other procedures on <u>other relevant species</u> or <u>captive</u> desert tortoises (circle one for each size category). <u>Specify species or if captive desert tortoises:</u> <u>Specify type of procedure:</u>						
<100 mm: Zero	<10	10-50	50-100	100-200	>200	
≥100 mm: Zero	<10	10-50	50-100	100-200	>200	
l. Prior authorizations for desert tortoise under Biological Opinions or Habitat Conservation Plans (specify number, date, project name and location). <u>Do not reiterate "general field experience" information:</u>						

10. Provide at least 3 references that can verify your field qualifications and skills:

Name	Employer/Position	Address/Location	Phone Number	Email
1.				
2.				
3.				

I certify that the information submitted in this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. Ch.47, Sec. 1001.

Signed: _____

Date: _____