

## **Quarterly Report**

These reports shall be Microsoft Word documents submitted electronically on or before January 5, April 5, July 5, and October 5 of each calendar year for the term of the project.

Quarterly reports should be submitted directly to [dcp@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:dcp@clarkcountynv.gov) County reserves the right to edit these reports for grammar and accuracy for posting to a public website.

**Agency/Organization:** U.S. Geological Survey

**Project Name:** Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics II

**Project Number:** 2021-USGS-2045A

**Deliverable/Milestone #:** D16

**Reporting Period:** April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

### **Project Contact Name and Information:**

Todd Esque  
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Boulder City, NV 89005

### **QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?**

- Recovered and redeployed wildlife cameras for spatial capture-recapture. Five arrays of 9 jackrabbit cameras were rotated to their next 8-week deployment locations in May. Also performed status checks and routine maintenance on coyote cameras as needed, for a total of 112 camera visits. Processed and sorted photos from 136 memory cards recovered from jackrabbit and coyote cameras.
- Continued trapping and tracking (via radiotelemetry) of black-tailed jackrabbits. Between the beginning of April and the end of June, there were 24 jackrabbit captures, with 15 unique animals fitted with GPS/VHF collars. There are currently 15 collared jackrabbits.
- Completed our winter 2023-2024 coyote trapping season. Captured and collared 2 adult individuals (both previously untagged). Additionally, we captured and tagged one coyote pup while confirming den locations. Continued monitoring GPS data for coyotes in the BCCE and surrounding area. There are currently 16 coyotes that have transmitting collars (8 males, 8 females).
- Placed/monitored trail cameras at rabbit and coyote bait locations to assist in capture efforts (monitoring entails camera maintenance and regular downloads, as well as sorting and analyzing photos and data).
- Placed cameras at coyote dens to aid in confirmation of reproduction. Identified 10 active dens used by 7 litters, with a total of 21 pups observed.

**QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and the manner in which they were dealt.**

None.

**QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.**

No proposed activities were not completed during the reporting period.

**QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?**

For 2024, 50% of deliverables/milestones (8 of 16) have been completed. Field work continues successfully, with 20 months of data collection completed.

**QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?**

No

**QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?**

On 3/28/2024, we encountered two deceased jackrabbits that had been captured and collared a couple days prior. One carcass was fully intact, and we shipped it to Nevada Department of Wildlife to perform a necropsy. Further testing by the California Animal Health and Food Safety lab confirmed the rabbit had RHDV2. We have not encountered any further animals deceased in this manner during our fieldwork in April-June.

**QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?**

(M08) Quarterly Status Meeting  
(D15) Biennium Progress Summary Report  
(D16) Quarterly Progress Report (Apr - Jun)  
(D17) Quarterly Data Deliverable

**Please report on the status of each Milestone and Deliverable, indicate whether they are not started, in progress, or completed and provide comments on the status as necessary.**

Date Due	Delivery/ Milestone #	Deliverable/Milestone	Status
6/15/2022	M01	Contract Award and Mobilization	Completed
12/8/2022	M02	Project Kick-off Meeting	Completed
2/14/2023	D01	Work Plan	Completed
3/1/2023	D02	Data Management Plan	Completed
3/15/2023	D03	Permits	Completed
4/5/2023	D04	Quarterly Progress Report (Project start - Mar)	Completed
4/15/2023	D05	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
4/30/2023	M03	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
7/5/2023	D07	Quarterly Progress Report (Apr - Jun)	Completed
7/5/2023	D08	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed

7/31/2023	M04	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
8/23/2023	M05	2023 Annual Project Review Presentation	Completed
10/5/2023	D09	Quarterly Progress Report (Jul - Sep)	Completed
10/5/2023	D10	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
10/31/2023	M06	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
11/15/2023	D11	Annual Data Deliverable	Completed
1/5/2024	D12	Quarterly Progress Report (Oct - Dec)	Completed
1/31/2024	M07	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
4/5/2024	D13	Quarterly Progress Report (Jan - Mar)	Completed
4/5/2024	D14	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
4/30/2024	M08	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
6/30/2024	D15	Biennium Progress Summary Report	Completed
7/5/2024	D16	Quarterly Progress Report (Apr - Jun)	Completed
7/5/2024	D17	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
7/31/2024	M09	Quarterly Status Meeting	Not Yet Completed
August TBD	M10	2024 Annual Project Review Presentation	If Requested
10/5/2024	D18	Quarterly Progress Report (Jul - Sep)	Not Yet Completed
10/5/2024	D19	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Not Yet Completed
10/31/2024	M11	Quarterly Status Meeting	Not Yet Completed
11/15/2024	D20	Annual Data Deliverable	Not Yet Completed
11/15/2024	D21	Year 1 & 2 Report	Not Yet Completed
12/15/2024	D22	Final Project Review Summary Form and Project Claim Release	Not Yet Completed
12/31/2024	N/A	End Year 2	N/A

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