



desert conservation
PROGRAM
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

What is the MSHCP?

August 10, 2010

Marci Henson, Program Administrator





desert conservation
PROGRAM
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Desert Conservation Program

The Desert Conservation Program provides:

- Compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act through a Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit
- Implementation of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)
- Provides regional ESA compliance without requiring project-by-project consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



desert conservation
PROGRAM
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Desert Conservation Program

The Desert Conservation Program serves as the Administrator of the MSHCP and incidental take permit on behalf of the “Permittees”:

- City of Las Vegas
- City of North Las Vegas
- City of Henderson
- City of Mesquite
- City of Boulder City
- Clark County
- Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)



Some important terms:

- Take: means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in such conduct
 - Includes significant habitat modification
- Incidental Take Permit (ITP): a permit that exempts a permittee from the prohibited take of a listed species



desert conservation
PROGRAM
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Habitat Conservation Plan

What is a Habitat Conservation Plan?

- A planning document that is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit
- A plan that ensures impacts to species and habitats are adequately minimized and mitigated

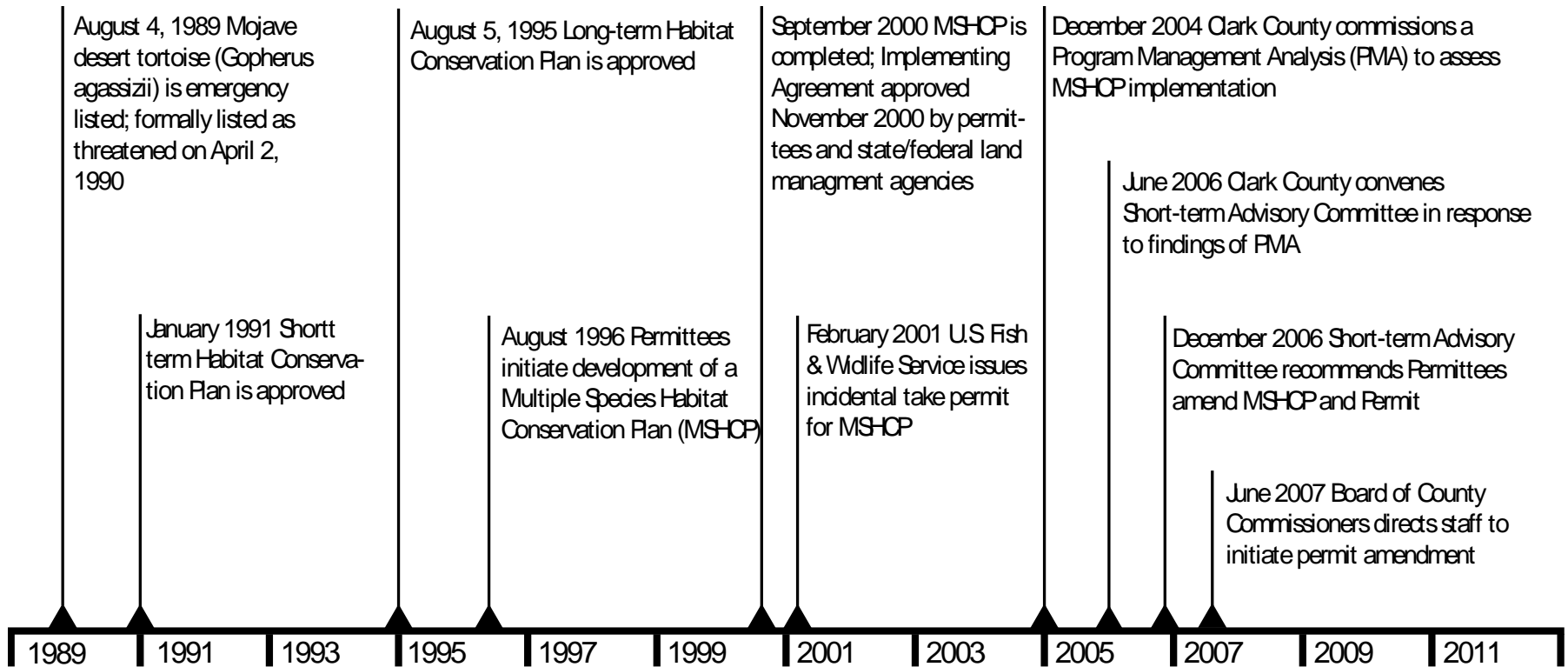




desert conservation PROGRAM

respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

History





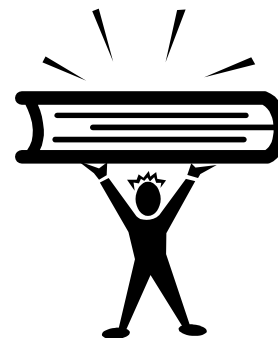
desert conservation
PROGRAM
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The MSHCP is the habitat conservation plan associated with the current incidental take permit

The MSHCP Contains:

- Species and impacts analysis
- Minimization and mitigation requirements
- Funding mechanisms
- Implementation guidelines





The current MSHCP:

- Covers all non-Federal land (private, municipal, state) lands within Clark County and NDOT activities within Clark, Nye, Lincoln, Mineral and Esmeralda counties south the 38th parallel and below 5,000 feet
- Guidelines
- Has a 30 year permit, starting February 2001
- States take shall not exceed 145,000 acres



The following species classifications are used:

- Covered Species
 - 78 species
 - Two listed
 - Desert Tortoise
 - SW Willow Flycatcher
- Evaluation Species
- Watch List





Minimization

- Wild Tortoise Assistance Line and Pick Up Service to collect wild tortoises found on construction sites

Mitigation

- The MSHCP is unique in that it relies on a reserve system consisting of primarily federal lands that are categorized by levels of management to conduct mitigation and conservation actions



MSHCP identifies 604 possible conservation actions that mitigate and monitor the impacts on take on covered species and their habitats

Actions include:

- Public information and education
- Research
- Inventory
- Monitoring
- Protective measures
- Restoration and enhancement of habitat
- Land use policies and actions



desert conservation
PROGRAM
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Advisors

- Permittees
- Independent Science Advisor
- Independent Peer Review Program





- Required to spend a minimum of approximately \$4 million per biennium to implement conservation actions
- Two funding sources:
 - Section 10 mitigation fee of \$550/acre
 - SNPLMA – MSHCP category



desert conservation
PROGRAM
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Required vs. Actual Expenditures



* Pursuant to Section 11.02.C of the MSHCP Implementing Agreement (2001)

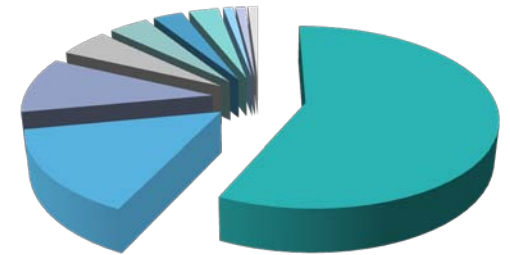


- The DCP has authorized 327 conservation projects totaling more than \$76 million
- Roughly \$1,180 per acre disturbed have been made available for conservation projects to offset impacts to covered species
- Permittees and implementing agencies have implemented 459 of the 604 conservation actions identified in the MSHCP
- All 22 permit conditions have been initiated or completed



Total Program Expenditures By Category

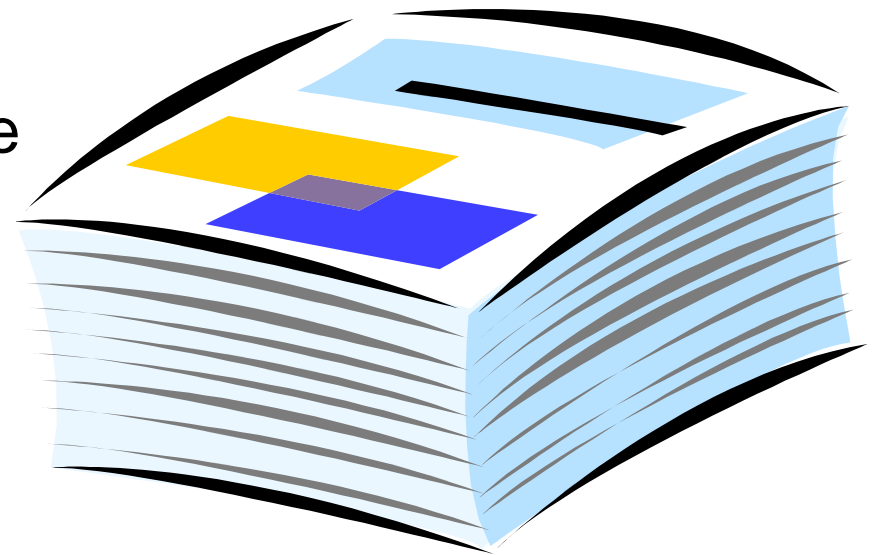
- Restoration & Rehabilitation Projects – 57%
- Adaptive Management Program – 15%
- Administration – 10%
- Desert Tortoise Translocation – 5%
- Facilitation & Legal Representation – 4%
- Desert Tortoise Fencing – 3%
- Public Information & Education – 3%
- Permit Amendment – 1%
- Acquisition Grazing Allotments, Property & Water – 1%
- Maintenance of Grazing Allotments, Property & Water – 1%





The MSHCP provides:

- Quarterly Administrator Update
- Quarterly Financial Report
- Quarterly Land Disturbance Report
- Biennial Progress Report
- Biennial Adaptive Management Report
- Annual Progress Report Symposium





desert conservation

PROGRAM

respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Questions?