



June 24, 2024

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY  
**Road Warriors DT Mortality & Fence Survey**  
**2021-TORTGRP-2042A**

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Below is a summary of project related information.

**The purpose of the above referenced project was:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requires that desert tortoise fencing is inspected and maintained on a regular basis. The Road Warriors project meets this requirement by using citizen scientist volunteers, working with approved biologists, to inspect and maintain Desert Tortoise (DT) exclusionary fencing around DT habitat. Surveys were also conducted to determine DT road mortality, live tortoise observations, and signs of tortoise presence; this data aids in identifying areas with higher tortoise abundance and to identify priority locations for installation of additional tortoise exclusionary fencing.

**The major accomplishments or findings of this project include:**

Fence inspection surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023 found areas of highest priority for repair and reported them to Nevada department of Transportation (NDOT); minor damage repaired at the same time as inspections. Most fence breaches were due to wash outs caused by heavy rains or fencing was cut with human tools. Increased law enforcement in these areas may help to decrease human interference. Overall, tortoise fencing was found to be sturdy and up to standards provided by NDOT.

For the road mortality surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023 the focus was on documenting live tortoise sightings, tortoise carcasses, and other tortoise sign. Three live tortoises, one carcass, and twenty-three potential tortoise burrows were found over the course of the surveys. Observations of live lizards and other species were also documented as these may indicate conditions suitable for tortoise activity. Continued Road mortality surveys are necessary to prioritize where future desert tortoise fencing should be installed.



For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our [website](#).

If you have any questions about this project, please contact DCP Project Manager Kimberley Jenkins, at (702) 455-5529.