



desert conservation
PROGRAM

August 27, 2010

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION NOTIFICATION:
DESERT TORTOISE MONITORING 2009, 2007-USFWS-785

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Please see the attached for all project related information.

The purpose of the above referenced project was:

To monitor Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus Agassizi*) populations and develop more efficient training and monitoring techniques to more effectively track trends in the status of Desert Tortoise in Clark County as well as to further the objectives of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan.

The major accomplishment or findings of this project include:

Conducting 2009 desert tortoise monitoring

- 512 transects were completed by Great Basin Institute in 2009 for areas that are partly or entirely in Clark County
- Conducted 2-1/2 weeks of training
 - Training improvements included revision of an expanded, comprehensive monitoring handbook (USFWS 2009), and utilization of crews from previous years to train new personnel on the correct protocol.
- Coordinated all components of data management
- Continued implementation of an approach first used in 2007
 - Transects were completed in one three different regions of Nevada, one region at a time, so that tortoise activity in each area would represent a narrower period of time and there would be level variability (less imprecision) in visibility. Because visibility is used to correct density estimates, making this estimate more precise also improved the density estimate.

This project received external peer review.

For more information about this project, please visit our website at:

<http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/depts/dagem/epd/dcp/Pages/dcpactiveprojects.aspx>

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If you have any questions, please contact Liz Bickmore, Project Manager at (702) 455-2972.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marci D. Henson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Marci D. Henson
Program Manager

cc:

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Board of County Commissioners (7)
Permittees' Executive Committee
Permittees' Process Management Group
John Hill, Purchasing
Catherine Jorgenson, District Attorney – Civil Division
Desert Conservation Program Community Advisory Committee
Desert Conservation Program Interested Parties List
Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Implementing Agencies
Science Advisor
SNPLMA Office (for SNPLMA projects)
Congressional Office
All Environmental Management Staff Distribution

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