

Date of Issuance: May 9th, 2023

**ACADEMIC CONSULTANT FOR DESERT TORTOISE RESTORATION WORKSHOP
2017-NRC-1760A**

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

The purpose of the above referenced project was:

The goal of this project was to conduct a thorough investigation of the existing science behind restoration as a tool for desert tortoise recovery and help identify areas where more research is needed. The knowledge gained through this project will promote sustainability in the near and long term by emphasizing healthy and resilient landscapes as well as reducing the long-term costs associated with repeated restoration attempts. This project will encourage progress toward restoring the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities upon which the Mojave population of desert tortoise is dependent.

The major accomplishments or findings of this project include:

- Completed 70-page literature review integrating over 350 published papers on desert tortoise habitat requirements and over 50 papers on habitat restoration practices in the Mojave and western Sonoran deserts. The review synthesizes the current status of knowledge of desert tortoise habitats and reliability and costs of restoration practices.
- Helped plan, participated in, and led sections of the habitat restoration workshop held January 24-26, 2022. The contractor delivered two presentations, a summary of the literature review prior to the workshop and a keynote presentation summarizing findings at the workshop. There were 79 participants at the workshop and consensus from participants was that the workshop participants were actively engaged and found the content and discussions useful for synthesizing the status of knowledge of habitat restoration and future research needs.
- Completed a synthesis document integrating the literature review and workshop content into best-management principles for restoring and conserving desert tortoise habitats and identifying future research priorities.
- A value-added fact sheet was prepared to summarize the literature review findings and a value-added synthesis paper is currently in progress to publish the literature review from the project as a potential U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report. This would be peer reviewed and would enable further wide, public distribution of the Clark County project.

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 Stefanie Ferrazzano at (702) 455-6386.