

Quarterly Report

Agency/Organization: The Great Basin Institute

Project Name: Eldorado Valley Post Translocation Surveys

Project Number: 2017-GBI-1741A

Reporting Period: January 2024 – March 2024

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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?

This quarterly report documents the status of the Desert Tortoise Eldorado Valley Post Translocation Surveys (Year 2) conducted by the Great Basin Institute (GBI) for the third quarter of project number 2017-GBI-1741A; January 2024 – March 2024. GBI was contracted by the Clark County Desert Conservation Program (DCP) to conduct line-distance sampling (LDS) surveys and telemetry surveys to estimate the population of the Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) in experimental translocation and control plots in Clark County, Nevada.

Project Goals and Objectives:

- Recruit and train monitors on project protocols, handling, and desert safety
- Complete assigned transect surveys and submit data as assigned in the deliverable schedule
- Complete telemetry surveys to correspond with transect surveys
- Write reports as assigned in the deliverable schedule

Objectives Completed this Quarter:

- Trained 1 data specialist, 4 crew leads, 5 field technicians, and 2 telemetry technicians
- Launched field season

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

No issues were encountered during the first quarter.

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.

Project activities are on track at this time.

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

It is estimated that 25% of the project has been completed for Year 2 at this time.

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

No future problems are foreseen for upcoming project activities at this time.

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

LDS surveys for this project consist of technicians walking 10-kilometer straight-line transects separated by 50m. To assure that transects are walked on the assigned bearings, waypoints are taken every 500 meters. When either a live or deceased tortoise is sighted, the team makes a series of measurements from the transect line to the tortoise. These measurements are used in data analysis to estimate population density. Size, sex, and a simple body condition assessment are recorded for each tortoise. All tortoises are handled with minimal contact by one individual in the team wearing single-use gloves. When possible, all live tortoises will be marked using a paper tag with a unique number provided by USFWS.

Telemetered tortoises are monitored using a VHF receiver and directional antenna. Information on location and behavior is collected on each individual between two and four times per day, every day that transect surveys take place. Telemetry technicians will change sites as transect survey locations change.

All data are recorded in the field on paper datasheets and electronically using Apple iPad-mini tablets running ArcGIS Survey123. Data is downloaded into a master database each week and assessed for consistency and errors.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

GBI trained 1 data specialist, 4 crew leads, 5 transect technicians, and 2 telemetry technicians.

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

**Appendix 1
Milestone/Deliverable/Invoicing Schedule Table
Project Name: Eldorado Valley Post Translocation Surveys
(Year 2)
Project Number: 2017-GBI-1741A**

Date Due	Deliverable / Milestone #	Deliverable / Milestone Title	Status
November 1, 2023	M09	Year 2 Mobilization	Complete
November 16, 2023	M10	Project Kick-off Meeting	Complete
January 5, 2024	D20	Quarterly Progress Report (October 2023 – December 31, 2023)	Complete
March 21, 2024	M11	Training	Complete
April 3, 2024	D21	Permits	Complete
April 3, 2024	M12	Begin Field Work	Complete
April 14, 2024	D22	Digital Data Upload	
April 5, 2024	D23	Quarterly Progress Report (January 2024 – March 2024)	Complete
April 21, 2024	D24	Digital Data Upload	
April 28, 2024	D25	Digital Data Upload	
May 5, 2024	D26	Digital Data Upload	
May 12, 2024	D27	Digital Data Upload (If Necessary)	
May 19, 2024	D28	Digital Data Upload (If Necessary)	
May 26, 2024	D29	Digital Data Upload (If Necessary)	
May 31, 2024	M13	Completion of Field Work	
June 9, 2024	D30	Digital Data Upload (If Necessary)	
June 30, 2024	D31	Final Biennium Progress Summary Report	
July 5, 2024		Quarterly Progress Report (April 2024 – June 2024)	

TBD	M14	2024 Annual Project Review Presentation (If requested)	
September 15, 2024	D32	Final Project Data	
September 15, 2024	D33	Final Project Report	
October 1, 2024	M15	End of Season Debriefing Meeting	
20 Days Prior to End Date	M16	Receipt Submittal (As necessary)	
October 15, 2024	D34	Project Review Summary Form and Project Claim Release	
		NO COST 6 MONTH EXTENSION	
October 31, 2024		Project Closeout	