

Quarterly Report

These reports shall be Microsoft Word documents submitted electronically on or before January 5, April 5, July 5, and October 5 of each calendar year for the term of the project.

Quarterly reports should be submitted directly to dcp@clarkcountynv.gov County reserves the right to edit these reports for grammar and accuracy for posting to a public website.

Agency/Organization: U.S. Geological Survey

Project Name: Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics II

Project Number: 2021-USGS-2045A

Deliverable/Milestone #: D13

Reporting Period: January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Project Contact Name and Information:

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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?

- Recovered and redeployed wildlife cameras for spatial capture-recapture. Five arrays of 9 jackrabbit cameras were rotated to their next 8-week deployment locations in January, and again in March. Also performed status checks and routine maintenance on coyote cameras as needed, for a total of 246 camera visits. Processed and sorted photos from fifty memory cards recovered from jackrabbit and coyote cameras.
- Continued trapping and tracking (via radiotelemetry) of black-tailed jackrabbits. Between the beginning of January and the end of March, there were 19 jackrabbit captures, with 12 unique animals fitted with GPS/VHF collars. There are currently nine collared jackrabbits.
- Continued our winter coyote trapping season. Captured and collared 6 individuals (3 previously untagged/uncollared & 3 receiving new collars to replace expiring ones). Additionally, a previously collared coyote was found dead and had its collar recovered. Continued monitoring GPS data for coyotes in the BCCE and surrounding area. There are currently 18 coyotes that have transmitting collars (9 males, 9 females).
- Placed/monitored trail cameras at rabbit and coyote bait locations to assist in capture efforts (monitoring entails camera maintenance and regular downloads, as well as sorting and analyzing photos and data).

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

During our coyote trapping, we make efforts to minimize the chance of bird bycatch from happening by setting traps in the late afternoon/early evening and checking on the traps in the early morning before sunrise. Despite our best efforts, we had one raven mortality in a coyote trap. In addition to notifying DCP, we also reached out to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Group to discuss the incident. We plan to continue our discussion with USFWS concerning take mitigation efforts this fall.

In January, we lost four wildlife cameras used for this project; three were stolen, and one additional camera was shot. These cameras—discreetly placed near washes and labeled with USGS contact information—were on BLM land adjacent to the Boulder City Conservation Easement. We notified BLM law enforcement and have since replaced the lost cameras.

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.

No proposed activities were not completed during the reporting period.

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

For 2024, 25% of deliverables/milestones (4 of 16) have been completed. Field work continues successfully, with 16 months of data collection completed.

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

No

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

On 3/28/2024, we encountered two deceased jackrabbits that had been captured and collared a couple days prior. One carcass was fully intact, and we shipped it to Nevada Department of Wildlife to perform a necropsy. Results are preliminary, but hemorrhaging in the lungs suggests RHDV2 as a possible cause of death. Further testing is planned to confirm RHDV2 presence.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

(M07) Quarterly Status Meeting
(D14) Quarterly Data Deliverable

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.

Date Due	Delivery/ Milestone #	Deliverable/Milestone	Status
6/15/2022	M01	Contract Award and Mobilization	Completed
12/8/2022	M02	Project Kick-off Meeting	Completed
2/14/2023	D01	Work Plan	Completed
3/1/2023	D02	Data Management Plan	Completed
3/15/2023	D03	Permits	Completed

4/5/2023	D04	Quarterly Progress Report (Project start - Mar)	Completed
4/15/2023	D05	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
4/30/2023	M03	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
7/5/2023	D07	Quarterly Progress Report (Apr - Jun)	Completed
7/5/2023	D08	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
7/31/2023	M04	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
8/23/2023	M05	2023 Annual Project Review Presentation	Completed
10/5/2023	D09	Quarterly Progress Report (Jul - Sep)	Completed
10/5/2023	D10	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
10/31/2023	M06	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
11/15/2023	D11	Annual Data Deliverable	Completed
1/5/2024	D12	Quarterly Progress Report (Oct - Dec)	Completed
1/31/2024	M07	Quarterly Status Meeting	Completed
4/5/2024	D13	Quarterly Progress Report (Jan - Mar)	Completed
4/5/2024	D14	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Completed
4/30/2024	M08	Quarterly Status Meeting	Not Yet Completed
6/30/2024	D15	Biennium Progress Summary Report	Not Yet Completed
7/5/2024	D16	Quarterly Progress Report (Apr - Jun)	Not Yet Completed
7/5/2024	D17	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Not Yet Completed
7/31/2024	M09	Quarterly Status Meeting	Not Yet Completed
August TBD	M10	2024 Annual Project Review Presentation	If Requested
10/5/2024	D18	Quarterly Progress Report (Jul - Sep)	Not Yet Completed
10/5/2024	D19	Quarterly Data Deliverable	Not Yet Completed
10/31/2024	M11	Quarterly Status Meeting	Not Yet Completed
11/15/2024	D20	Annual Data Deliverable	Not Yet Completed
11/15/2024	D21	Year 1 & 2 Report	Not Yet Completed
12/15/2024	D22	Final Project Review Summary Form and Project Claim Release	Not Yet Completed
12/31/2024	N/A	End Year 2	N/A