



ATTENTION ALL DEVELOPERS AND CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL

Important Information Regarding the Desert Tortoise and The Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Desert Tortoises are protected under Federal Law

Desert Tortoises are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act as a Threatened species. Under the Endangered Species Act it is illegal to "Take" desert tortoises.

***Take** means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued Clark County an incidental take permit for the desert tortoise under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. This permit allows for the incidental take of desert tortoises on non-federal (private land) project sites after the developer has paid the mitigation fee and secured all other permits necessary for development.

***Incidental take** is take which occurs in the process of performing otherwise lawful activities and which is not the purpose of that activity.*

Developer Obligations under the County's Section 10 Permit

If you see a desert tortoise on your construction site you should collect the desert tortoise and place it in a clean box with a ventilated lid. To prevent death by overheating, immediately take it to a cool, shaded place. Call the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line at 702-593-9027. All calls will be answered the next business day. Someone will be scheduled to pick up the tortoise from the construction site and find a suitable site to relocate the tortoise. There is no charge to you for this service.

Under no circumstances may a desert tortoise be taken from the wild (or from a construction site) for private use. It is illegal to remove wild desert tortoises for private use. Please do not handle or otherwise disturb wild tortoises unless they are in harm's way on a private land construction site.

Clearance Surveys are Voluntary

The search for and removal of tortoises on non-federal (private land) project sites is voluntary. Developers who choose to search for tortoises shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 702-515-5230 for further information about conducting voluntary clearance surveys. Only individuals approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are authorized to handle wild desert tortoises unless they are in imminent danger.

A Note about Gila Monsters

Do not handle Gila monster – their bite is venomous. Gila monster are protected by the State of Nevada. Any encounters with a Gila monster should be reported immediately to the Nevada Department of Wildlife at (702) 486-5127.

Desert Tortoise Adoption Program

Under authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it is legal to have a pet desert tortoise as long as you didn't take it from the wild. Currently there are over 1,000 pet desert tortoises per year that are being surrendered in Clark County alone. Due to the possibility of the spread of disease, these animals cannot be put back into the wild. If you would like to legally adopt a pet desert tortoise, please visit www.tortoisegroup.org for more information. And, if you currently have a pet desert tortoise, please consider spay/neuter, or at the very least separating mating pairs to avoid unintentional backyard breeding.

**WILD DESERT TORTOISE ASSISTANCE LINE
702-593-9027**