

What is the MSHCP?

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Desert Conservation Program

The Desert Conservation Program provides:

- Compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act through a Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit
- Implementation of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)
- Provides regional ESA compliance without requiring project-by-project consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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Desert Conservation Program

The Desert Conservation Program serves as the Administrator of the MSHCP and incidental take permit on behalf of the "Permittees":

- City of Las Vegas
- City of North Las Vegas
- City of Henderson
- City of Mesquite
- City of Boulder City
- Clark County
- Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)



Take & Incidental Take Permit

Some important terms:

- Take: means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in such conduct
 - Includes significant habitat modification
- Incidental Take Permit (ITP): a permit that exempts a permittee from the prohibited take of a listed species



Habitat Conservation Plan

What is a Habitat Conservation Plan?

- A planning document that is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit
- A plan that ensures impacts to species and habitats are adequately minimized and mitigated





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August 4, 1989 Mojave desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) is emergency listed; formally listed as threatened on April 2, 1990	August 5, 1995 Long-term Habitat Conservation Plan is approved	September 2000 MS+CP is completed; Implementing Agreement approved November 2000 by permit- tees and state/federal land managment agencies	December 2004 Clark County commissions a Program Management Analysis (PMA) to assess MSHOP implementation June 2006 Clark County convenes Short-term Advisory Committee in response to findings of PMA
January 1991 Shortt term Habitat Conserva- tion Flan is approved	August 1996 Permittees initiate development of a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Ran (MS-ICP)	February 2001 U.S Fish & Widlife Service issues incidental take permit for MS-ICP	December 2006 Short-term Advisory Committee recommends Permittees amend MSHCP and Permit
			June 2007 Board of County Commissioners directs staff to initiate permit amendment
1989 1991 1993	1995 1997 1999	2001 2003	2005 2007 2009 2011

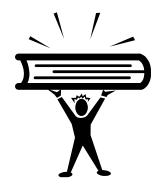


Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The MSHCP is the habitat conservation plan associated with the current incidental take permit

The MSHCP Contains:

- Species and impacts analysis
- Minimization and mitigation requirements
- Funding mechanisms
- Implementation guidelines





Scope of Permit & MSHCP

The current MSHCP:

- Covers all non-Federal land (private, municipal, state) lands within Clark County and NDOT activities within Clark, Nye, Lincoln, Mineral and Esmeralda counties south the 38th parallel and below 5,000 feet Guidelines
- Has a 30 year permit, starting February 2001
- States take shall not exceed 145,000 acres



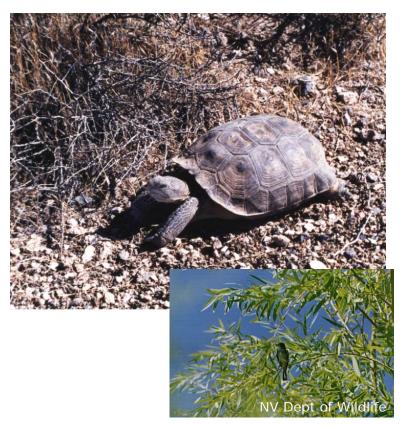
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Covered Species

The following species classifications are used:

- Covered Species
 - -78 species
 - Two listed
 - Desert Tortoise
 - SW Willow Flycatcher
- Evaluation Species
- Watch List





Minimization & Mitigation Strategy

Minimization

• Wild Tortoise Assistance Line and Pick Up Service to collect wild tortoises found on construction sites

Mitigation

 The MSHCP is unique in that it relies on a reserve system consisting of primarily federal lands that are categorized by levels of management to conduct mitigation and conservation actions



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MSHCP identifies 604 possible conservation actions that mitigate and monitor the impacts on take on covered species and their habitats

Actions include:

- Public information and education
- Research
- Inventory
- Monitoring
- Protective measures
- Restoration and enhancement of habitat
- Land use policies and actions



- Permitees
- Independent Science Advisor
- Independent Peer Review Program



Advisors







- Required to spend a <u>minimum</u> of approximately \$4 million per biennium to implement conservation actions
- Two funding sources:
 - Section 10 mitigation fee of \$550/acre
 - SNPLMA MSHCP category



Required vs. Actual Expenditures



* Pursuant to Section 11.02.C of the MSHCP Implementing Agreement (2001)



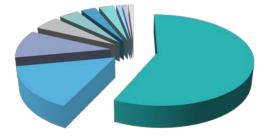
Overall Status

- The DCP has authorized 327 conservation projects totaling more than \$76 million
- Roughly \$1,180 per acre disturbed have been made available for conservation projects to offset impacts to covered species
- Permittees and implementing agencies have implemented 459 of the 604 conservation actions identified in the MSHCP
- All 22 permit conditions have been initiated or completed



Total Program Expenditures By Category

- Restoration & Rehabilitation Projects 57%
- Adaptive Management Program 15%
- Administration 10%
- Desert Tortoise Translocation 5%
- Facilitation & Legal Representation 4%
- Desert Tortoise Fencing 3%
- Public Information & Education 3%
- Permit Amendment 1%
- Acquisition Grazing Allotments, Property & Water 1%
- Maintenance of Grazing Allotments, Property & Water 1%

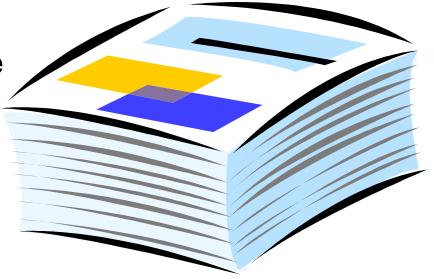




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The MSHCP provides:

- Quarterly Administrator Update
- Quarterly Financial Report
- Quarterly Land Disturbance Report
- Biennial Progress Report
- Biennial Adaptive
 Management Report
- Annual Progress Report Symposium



Reporting



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Questions?