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# Boulder City Conservation Easement

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## Objectives

### Presentation Objectives:

- Background
- Management Context
- Management Activities
- Research Activities
- Future Activities
- Summary



- Clark County purchased the easement in 1995 as a permit condition
- Purpose:
  - “...ensure that the property is retained in a natural condition, and to prevent any uses that will impair the conservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural resource values, especially those values associated with habitat for the desert tortoise and other indigenous flora and fauna.”

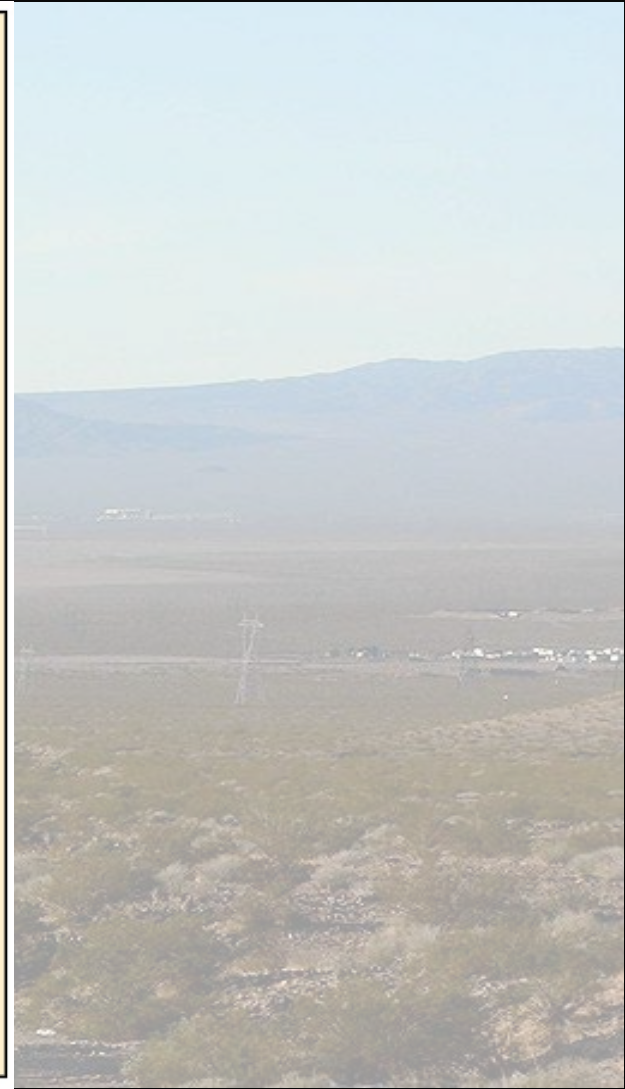
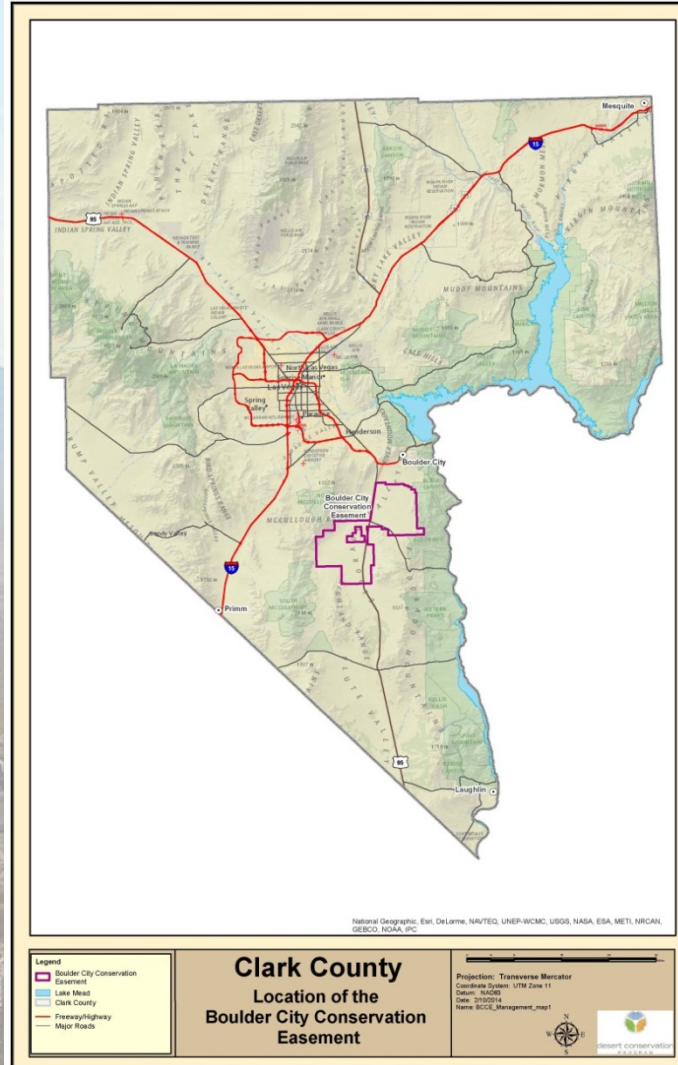




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## Management Context





- Approximately 86,540 acres
- Bisected by U.S. 95 and S.R. 165
- Highly accessible to the public (95 miles of open roads)
- Energy zone, substations, and switching yards
- 58+ rights-of-way
- New solar areas and transmission lines
- Boulder City bypass (Corridor I-11)

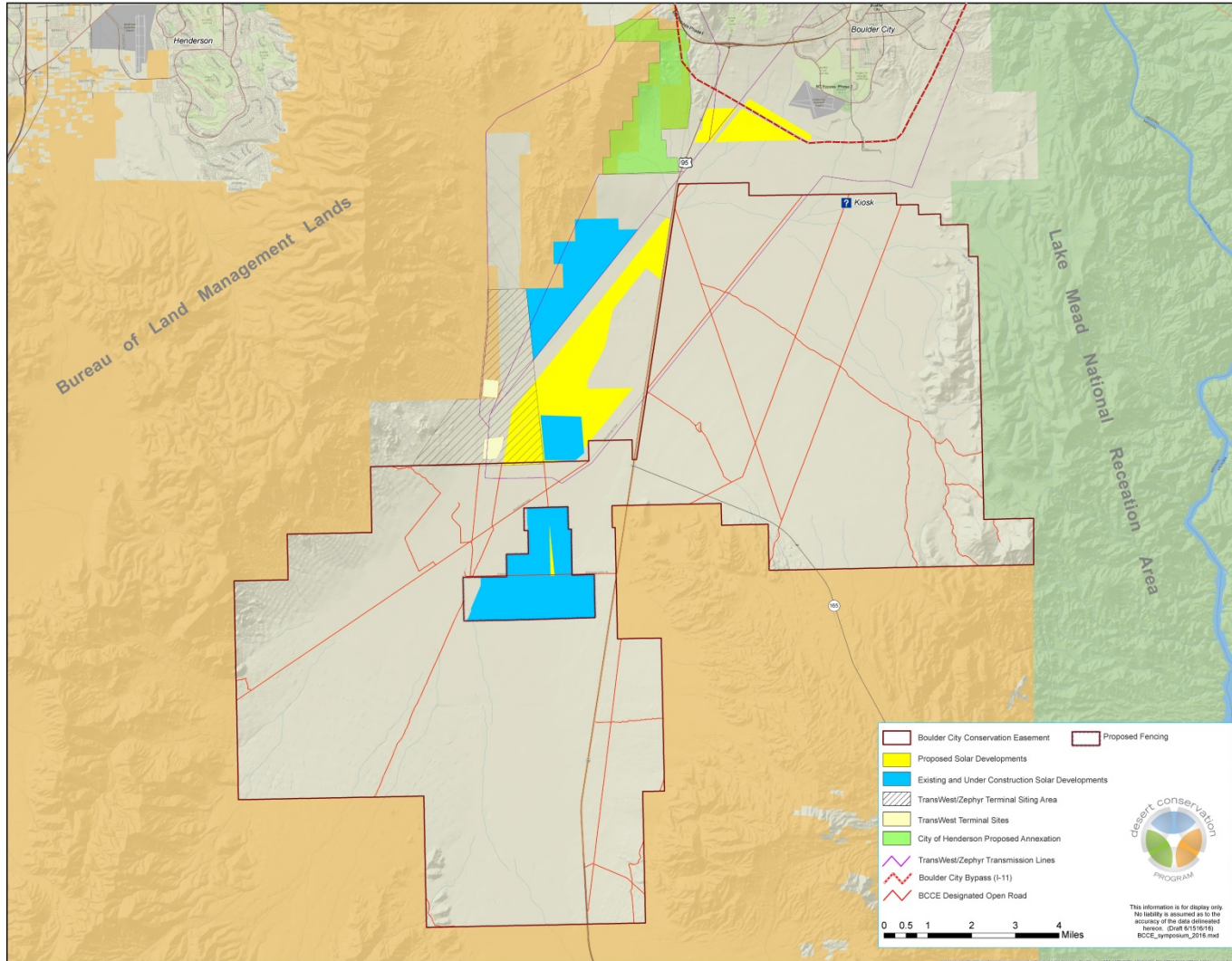




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## Management Context





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## Management Activities

- Law enforcement with Boulder City
- Ongoing signage/fencing/gates/trash/cattle and tortoise guard maintenance
- Project management for a variety of research projects
- Working with several energy companies
  - New transmission areas, trespass, land exchange
  - Tortoise fencing of the energy zone





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## Management Activities

- Completed installation of informational gateway signage at a key access point to the BCCE from Boulder City







- Tortoise Occupancy Project
  - Vegetation survey completed 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - Tortoise occupancy survey completed 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Range-wide tortoise surveys being conducted
- UNLV Project
- University of Texas LiDAR project
- Predator study



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## Future Activities

- Continue weed inventory and treatment
- Continue law enforcement
- Continue Tortoise Occupancy Project
- Continue onsite and research project management (95+ DCP staff visits in 2015)
- Contract to install tortoise fencing around the energy zone (includes installation of 3 tortoise guards and 1 culvert)





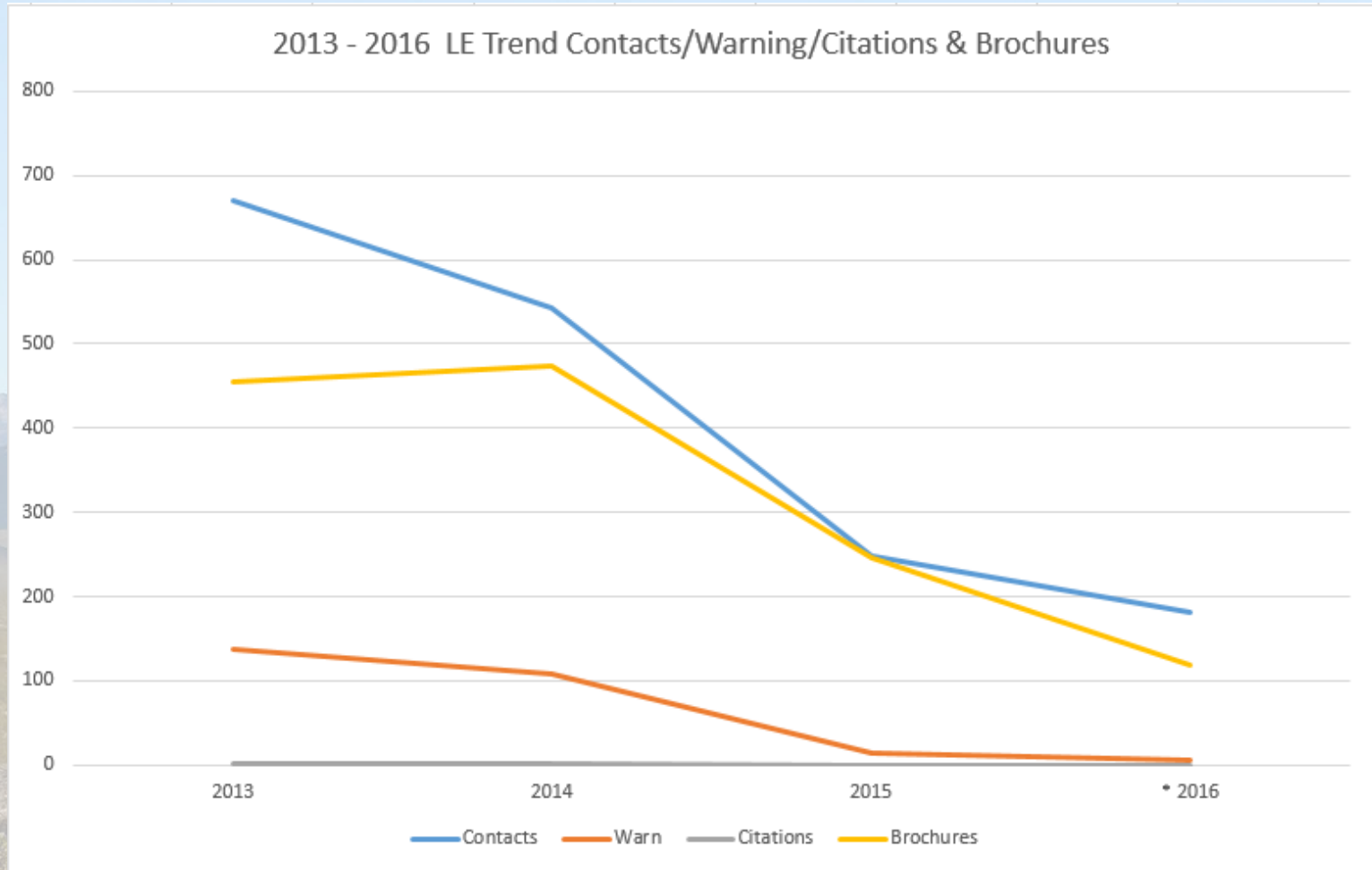
- Large restoration project (winter 2016/2017)
- Remove old tortoise fencing (approximately 1 mile)
- Continue to develop a new tortoise habitat model
- Monitor and work with future developments (residential/commercial/industrial)



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## Summary







- Pet cemetery fence installed in 2013 vandalized 10 times first 18 months 0 times last 16 months
- Locked gates (8) and closed roads with cable barriers (7) have had 0 incursions since 2013
- Post and cable barrier (500') has been cut 3 times since 2013
- Signage maintenance schedule (2009 – 2016) has been reduced from 6/year to almost 1/year
- Incursions around most restoration sites have been minimal



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Questions?





## Covered Species Present:

- Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)
- Desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*),
- Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)
- Mojave green rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus*)
- Speckled rattlesnake (*C. mitchelli*)
- Arizona bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii arizonae*)
- Other sensitive plants and animals