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DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY:

TRANSPORTATION ECOLOGY DOCUMENTARY

2009-UNLV-804L

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Below is a summary of project related information.

The purpose of the above referenced project was:

The Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) faces numerous threats hampering recovery of populations. Mortality and illegal capture along roads is seen as one of the more significant issues relative to recovery of the desert tortoise. The installation of tortoise fencing to limit mortality and encourage re-colonization of habitat has been determined to be an effective conservation action that reduces mortality of individuals crossing roadways. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has identified installation of tortoise fencing and wildlife undercrossing as a significant priority for desert tortoise recovery, yet many roads throughout desert tortoise habitat remain unfenced because of numerous barriers to construction (e.g., costs, timing, agency support, long-term maintenance needs, etc.). To address these issues, the Service in partnership with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC) and the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) planned a three-day workshop to discuss the various issues related to desert tortoise fencing, culvert designs, and policy issues. This workshop was initially envisioned to be an in-person event with up to 200 participants; however, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, plans were adjusted to provide this event via online tools. The in-person workshop was originally planned to include field trips to culvert and fencing study sites. In lieu of an in-person field trip, a documentary featuring a range-wide tour of study sites across four states was filmed and presented during the workshop. This project provided funding to develop the documentary film.

The major accomplishments or findings of this project include:

The 25-minute documentary titled, “The Road to Recovery” is now completed and available for public viewing at the following link: [The Road to Recovery](#)

For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our [website](#)

If you have any questions about this project please contact DCP Project Manager Kimberley Jenkins at (702) 455-5529.

