

BLM Sonoran Desert Tortoise Conservation Implementation Reporting

CONSERVATION MEASURES	CONSERVATION BENEFITS	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	ANNUAL REPORTING METRIC	ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENTATION TO BE SHARED WITH AIDTT (DESCRIPTION)
Invasive Species and Fire				
Immediately suppress wildfires in Sonoran desert scrub vegetative communities.	Minimize Sonoran desert tortoise (SDT) habitat impacts associated with wild fires.	Average fire size reduced.	Summary of annual fire reports (number and size of fires in SDT habitat).	Report the number of fires and acreage burned in SDT habitat.
In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), review and implement Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (MIST) to minimize impacts of suppression activities to SDT habitat.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by fire suppression activities.	Coordinated with the USFWS, updated MIST being implemented.	MIST implemented.	NA - Standard Operating Procedure
Work with partners (AIDTT, local volunteers and organizations) to control or eradicate invasive plant species, especially buffelgrass.	Minimize potential for large or repeat fires in SDT habitat.	Decrease in buffelgrass.	Summary of invasive species control efforts.	Report the number of invasive plant species control efforts undertaken in SDT habitat, number of acres treated and provide maps of areas inventoried, areas of infestation and areas treated. All mapping data will be in Graphic Information Systems (GIS) format and include associated metadata.
Inventory and map invasive plant infestations and prioritize treatments in SDT habitat.	Minimize potential for large or repeat fires in SDT habitat.	Treatments prioritized and implemented.	Acres treated, maps updated.	
Land Tenure				
Designate for retention all lands containing occupied SDT habitat unless it is clearly in the public interest to dispose of those lands. Prioritize high quality SDT habitat for acquisition, as opportunities arise.	Maintain habitat and improve manageability.	Acres of available habitat maintained or increasing.	Summary of land tenure actions.	Report number of acres of SDT habitat acquired or disposed of and provide maps of subject lands. All mapping data will be in GIS format and include associated metadata.
Large Scale Energy Development				
Ensure SDT conservation allocations, objectives and management decisions to maintain or restore habitat connectivity are incorporated into planning documents during revision or amendment.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts and avoid habitat fragmentation.	All planning documents address SDT conservation priorities.	Plans finalized, summary of decisions included.	Provide description of management plans completed (including amendments and revisions) and a summary of SDT conservation decision included.
Through the National Environmental Policy Act process, ensure permitted activities conform to SDT management objectives contained in land use plans.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts and avoid habitat fragmentation.	Conformance documented.	Number of project applications reviewed.	Provide a summary of energy related applications reviewed. Include project name and type of land use reviewed.
Review all permitting activities on a case-by-case basis to determine associated impacts to SDT and implement measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to achieve SDT population and habitat objectives described in land use plans.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by development.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of project applications reviewed.	

Work with project applicants to minimize potential impacts to sensitive wildlife species and habitat loss and incorporate design features, mitigation and stipulations into authorizations that restore or maintain habitat connectivity.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by development.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of project applications reviewed.	
Minerals Activities				
All mining plans of operations will be assessed for impacts to SDT habitat on a case-by-case basis.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts associated with mining and minerals extraction activities.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of mining plans reviewed.	Provide a summary of mining operations reviewed. Include project name, number of acres of unmitigated or residual SDT habitat loss associated with approved mining plans under 43 CFR 3809 or number of acres of SDT habitat associated with mineral material sales authorized or denied.
Adverse impacts to desert tortoise will be mitigated to the extent allowable in the 43 CFR 3809 regulations.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts associated with mining and minerals extraction activities.	Impacts mitigated.	Acres unmitigated or residual habitat loss.	
Salable mineral material permits will be prohibited in occupied SDT habitat unless it is clearly in the public interest to permit them.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts associated with mining and minerals extraction activities.	No net loss of habitat due to mineral material sales.	Acreage authorized and denied.	
Abandoned Mine Lands				
Prioritize and target potential SDT hazards associated with abandoned mines for reclamation to eliminate potential entrapment.	Minimize hazards associated with abandoned mines.	Incidence of entrapment reduced.	Number of hazardous mine features reclaimed.	Report # of abandoned mine features reclaimed or hazardous materials sites remediated within SDT habitat.
Prioritize clean up and remediation of contaminants associated with abandoned mines.	Reduce or eliminate potential exposure.	Reduction of known contaminant sites.	Number of sites inventoried and cleaned up.	
Roads and Highways				
Review all permitted activities on a case-by-case basis to determine associated impacts to SDT and implement measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to achieve SDT population and habitat objectives described in land use plans.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by development.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of project applications reviewed.	Provide a summary of road or highway right-of-way (ROW) applications reviewed and design features or mitigation incorporated to conserve SDT.
Work with applicants to locate facilities so as to minimize potential impacts to sensitive wildlife species and habitat loss.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by development.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of project applications reviewed.	
Incorporate design features, mitigation and stipulations into ROW authorizations that restore or maintain habitat connectivity (e.g. fencing, culverts, underpasses) and minimize vehicle strike mortality.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by development.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of project applications reviewed.	

Work with ROW holders to install or modify fencing to preclude SDT access to roadways, where practicable.	Minimize mortality associated with vehicle strikes.	Observed or reported vehicle strikes reduced.	Number of observed or reported vehicle strikes.	Report locations (UTM NAD83) incidental observations and reports of SDT road mortalities.
Travel Management and Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV)				
Restrict motorized use to designated roads and trails, through Travel Management Plans (TMP) to be completed statewide by 2020.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by off-road vehicle (ORV) route designation.	All TMP that include SDT habitat are complete.	Percent of SDT habitat covered by TMPs.	Reported by the State Office.
Wildlife biologists will participate in the route designation process to ensure SDT impacts are considered when determining route status and mitigation needs.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by ORV route designation.	Reduced miles of motorized routes in SDT habitat.	Number of miles of routes closed in SDT habitat.	Report number of miles of routes in SDT habitat closed in TMP.
Routes that conflict with maintaining desert tortoise habitat will be mitigated to achieve desired future condition. Mitigation will include, but not be limited to the following: route closure, seasonal restrictions, rerouting, vehicle type restrictions, speed restrictions, etc.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by ORV route designation.	Reduced miles of motorized routes in SDT habitat.	Number of miles of routes closed in SDT habitat.	
Prohibit "rock crawling" permits and designated use areas in occupied SDT habitat.	Reduce ORV related impacts and restore SDT habitat values.	No increase in number of authorized "rock crawling" areas.	Number of authorized use areas.	
Conduct public education to encourage users to avoid SDT and comply with regulations.	Reduce ORV related impacts and restore SDT habitat values.	Reduced miles of motorized routes in SDT habitat.	Number of attendees at public outreach efforts.	Report number of public participants in SDT related outreach and educational efforts for public land users.
Routes within SDT habitat closed as a result of travel management planning will be physically closed and/or reclaimed to restore habitat values for SDT.	Reduce ORV related impacts and restore SDT habitat values.	Route closed, are not used.	Number of closure structures installed and miles of routes in SDT habitat reclaimed.	Report number of vehicle route closures installed and miles of routes reclaimed in SDT habitat.
Prioritize ORV enforcement activities in SDT habitat.	Reduce ORV related impacts and restore SDT habitat values.	Incidence of unauthorized off-road use reduced.	Number of new routes detected in SDT habitat.	Report number of new unauthorized routes detected in SDT habitat.
Develop brochures and signs to educate OHV users about SDT conservation and best management practices (BMPs) to minimize direct impacts.	Better public understanding will encourage voluntary compliance with BMPs.	Incidence of unauthorized off-road use reduced.	Number of new routes detected in SDT habitat.	
Actively engage OHV user groups as partners in educating users and self-policing inappropriate behavior (the ORV Ambassador Program).	Better public understanding will encourage voluntary compliance with BMPs.	Incidence of unauthorized off-road use reduced.	Number of new routes detected in SDT habitat.	

Livestock and Burro Management				
Evaluate plant community condition through Range Health Evaluation – permit renewal process.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by grazing and maintain plant community structure and diversity.	Allotments meet Desired Plant Community (DPC) objectives.	Number of allotments evaluated and meeting DPC objectives.	Report number of allotments containing SDT habitat evaluated in Land Health Evaluations and meeting DPC objectives.
Implement and enforce regulations.	Avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts to SDT.	Allotments meet DPC objectives.	Number of allotments evaluated and meeting DPC objectives.	
Set DPC objectives that incorporate SDT habitat requirements.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by grazing and maintain plant community structure and diversity.	Allotments meet DPC objectives.	Number of allotments evaluated and meeting DPC objectives.	
Implement grazing management changes to achieve or make significant progress toward meeting Desired Plant Community objectives.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by grazing and maintain plant community structure and diversity.	Allotments meet DPC objectives.	Number of allotments evaluated and meeting DPC objectives.	
Encouraging livestock operators to rest or defer grazing during drought.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by grazing and maintain plant community structure and diversity.	Allotments meet DPC objectives.	Number of allotments evaluated and meeting DPC objectives.	
Ensure adequate forage remains for SDT following ephemeral use periods.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by grazing and maintain plant community structure and diversity.	Adequate SDT forage remains following ephemeral use.	Number of ephemeral allotments used.	Report number of ephemeral use permits authorized containing SDT habitat.
Monitor vegetative condition in areas of wild burro and SDT overlap.	Minimize habitat degradation due to wild burros.	Areas of wild burro overlap with SDT are meeting DPC objectives.	TBD through AIDTT.	Report number of areas monitored for wild burro impacts in SDT habitat.
Pursue funding and authority to control wild burro populations within SDT habitat when warranted.	Minimize habitat degradation due to wild burros.	Areas of wild burro overlap with SDT are meeting DPC objectives.	Number of wild burros removed.	Report number of burros removed from SDT habitat.
Review on a case-by-case basis, all discretionary use requests to determine associated impacts to SDT and implement measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to achieve SDT population and habitat objectives described in land use plans.	Avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts to SDT.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of project applications reviewed.	Provide a summary of range improvement applications or projects reviewed in SDT habitat.
Avoid locating livestock concentration areas within ¼ mile of occupied SDT habitat.	Avoid or minimize potential for adverse impacts caused by livestock trampling.	Impacts mitigated.	Number of project applications reviewed.	

Border Activities				
Law enforcement personnel will work with Customs and Border Protection to cooperatively enforce Federal immigration and smuggling laws and provide guidance to minimize environmental impacts associated with enforcement activities to the extent practicable.	Minimize potential for adverse impacts associated with border related activities.	Incidence of off-road use reduced.	Number of new routes detected in SDT habitat.	Report number of new unauthorized routes detected in SDT habitat.
Public Education and Outreach				
Work with AIDTT to develop brochures and signs to educate public land users about SDT conservation and best management practices to minimize direct impacts.	Minimize potential for adverse impacts associated with illegal SDT collection.	Reduced incidence of collection.	Number of outreach materials produced, distributed, and posted.	NA - Cooperative with AIDTT.
Population Monitoring				
Work with AIDTT to investigate new inventory/monitoring methods that more accurately, less intrusively and more cost effectively fulfill population management needs.	Minimize potential for adverse impacts associated with research and management.	New methodologies are developed and implemented.	Protocols finalized, summary of decisions included.	NA - Cooperative with AIDTT.
Monitor long term population and habitat trend range-wide and pursue alternative population monitoring methods (occupancy monitoring) that fills data gaps.	Long term monitoring will allow informed management decisions to adapt to changing conditions.	Stable SDT populations.	Monitoring results.	Report population monitoring results.