



desert conservation
PROGRAM

streamlining development, protecting species, preserving our future

ATTENTION ALL DEVELOPERS AND CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL

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

****Developers Should Provide All Field Personnel with this Information****

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 after the developer has paid the mitigation fee and secured all other permits necessary for development.

Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct. *Incidental take* is take which occurs in the process of performing otherwise lawful activities and which is not the purpose of that activity. An example would be the unintentional crushing of a desert tortoise by heavy equipment on a project for which the developer has secured all the necessary permits to proceed with development.

Desert Tortoise Clearance Surveys

The search for and removal of tortoises is voluntary, but highly recommended outside of urban areas. Developers who choose to search for tortoises shall contract or appoint a qualified individual to oversee the process. For a list of qualified firms, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 702-515-5230. Only individuals approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are authorized to handle desert tortoises unless they are in imminent danger. For additional information about conducting voluntary clearances, please contact the Desert Conservation Program at 702-455-3536.

Desert Tortoises on Construction Sites

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 within 24 hours. Someone will be scheduled to pick the tortoise up from the construction site and find a suitable site to relocate the tortoise.

Under no circumstances may the tortoise be taken 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.

**Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line
702-593-9027**