



July 7, 2026

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY
Road Warriors 2024-2025
2023-TORTGRP-2335A

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 construction of roads and highways has permanently fragmented previously contiguous desert tortoise habitat, a federally listed species. This has reduced connectivity among populations and restricted movement of individuals. Additionally desert tortoise mortality along roadways has been a significant issue to recovery of the species. Tortoise fencing has been installed along roadways to limit mortality, but that is an expensive process. Therefore, the purpose of this project was to collect species mortality data of desert tortoises prior to and after installation of desert tortoise fencing along roads and highways. The data can be used to identify mortality hotspots that should be prioritized for future fencing installation, provide information regarding potential benefits to other Mojave Desert fauna, and to evaluate the impact, or effectiveness of, desert tortoise fencing.

The major accomplishments or findings of this project include:

Volunteer community scientists under the supervision of a qualified biologist conducted systematic surveys along roads within tortoise habitat. During the tortoise inactive season, these surveys consisted of fence inspections to ensure the integrity of existing exclusionary fencing. During the active season, road mortality surveys were completed along unfenced roads to observe any tortoise carcasses, live tortoises, and tortoise signs. 2025 fence inspections completed along 50 roads miles, with a total of 241 reports of incidents of damage submitted to the Nevada Department of Transportation. Road mortality surveys were completed along a total of 40 road miles, with no tortoise road mortalities/carcasses, live tortoises, or signs of active tortoise observed during the surveys. Road mortality surveys will continue to be necessary, to prioritize where future



desert tortoise fencing should be installed and to maintain the integrity of existing fencing.

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 Elizabeth Herrmann, at (702) 455-2722.