

MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Overview and Progress

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Desert Conservation Program
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1

Background

The Endangered Species Act, and how the Desert Conservation Program came to be.

2

The MSHCP today

How the plan and the incidental take permit work, and who carries them out.

3

Progress

Development, spending, and a look at the projects behind the numbers.

A desert landscape with a cactus in the foreground and mountains in the background. The cactus is a cholla cactus with a single large, vibrant pink flower. It is growing on a rocky outcrop. The background shows a vast desert valley with rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

01

BACKGROUND

The Endangered Species Act, and the origins of the Desert Conservation Program.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Enacted in 1973 to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems they depend on.

9

Section 9

Prohibits the take of any species listed as endangered or threatened.

10

Section 10

Creates a permit that allows non-federal parties to carry out activities that result in incidental take.

HCP

Habitat conservation plan

A required part of every Section 10 permit application.

What the plan has to show

The anticipated effects of the proposed take, and how those effects will be avoided, minimized, and mitigated.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service emergency listed the Mojave desert tortoise as endangered.

The listing was revised to threatened in 1990.

An immediate and total moratorium on all new construction.



| Tortoise delays building one year |

Las Vegas Review-Journal, December 5, 1989



A REGIONAL SOLUTION

Clark County and its partners built one of the first regional habitat conservation plans in the country.

1990

Desert Conservation Program formed

Clark County and its partners organize a regional response to the listing.

1991

Short-Term Habitat Conservation Plan

The moratorium lifts and development resumes.

1995

Desert Conservation Plan

A longer-term plan built around the desert tortoise.

2001

Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The current plan and its 30-year permit take effect.

MISSION

Manage regional compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act.

HOW

By implementing the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and its Section 10 incidental take permit, so that imperiled species survive.

Respect, protect and enjoy our desert.



02

THE MSHCP TODAY

How the plan and the incidental take permit work, and who carries them out.



The Desert Conservation Program administers the MSHCP and the incidental take permit on behalf of the Permittees.

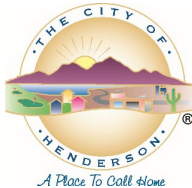
Ensure compliance

The program is responsible for meeting every provision of the permit.

Carry out the work

The program delivers the conservation actions described in the plan.

THE PERMITTEES



Clark County · Boulder City · Henderson · Las Vegas · Mesquite · North Las Vegas · Nevada Department of Transportation

THE INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT

30 years

Effective February 2001. The permit expires January 31, 2031.

167,650 acres

The total take now authorized under the permit.

All of Clark County

Plus segments of highway in tortoise habitat outside the county.

Where the permit stands in August 2026

Permit term elapsed



85%

Authorized take used



79%

34,634 acres remain.

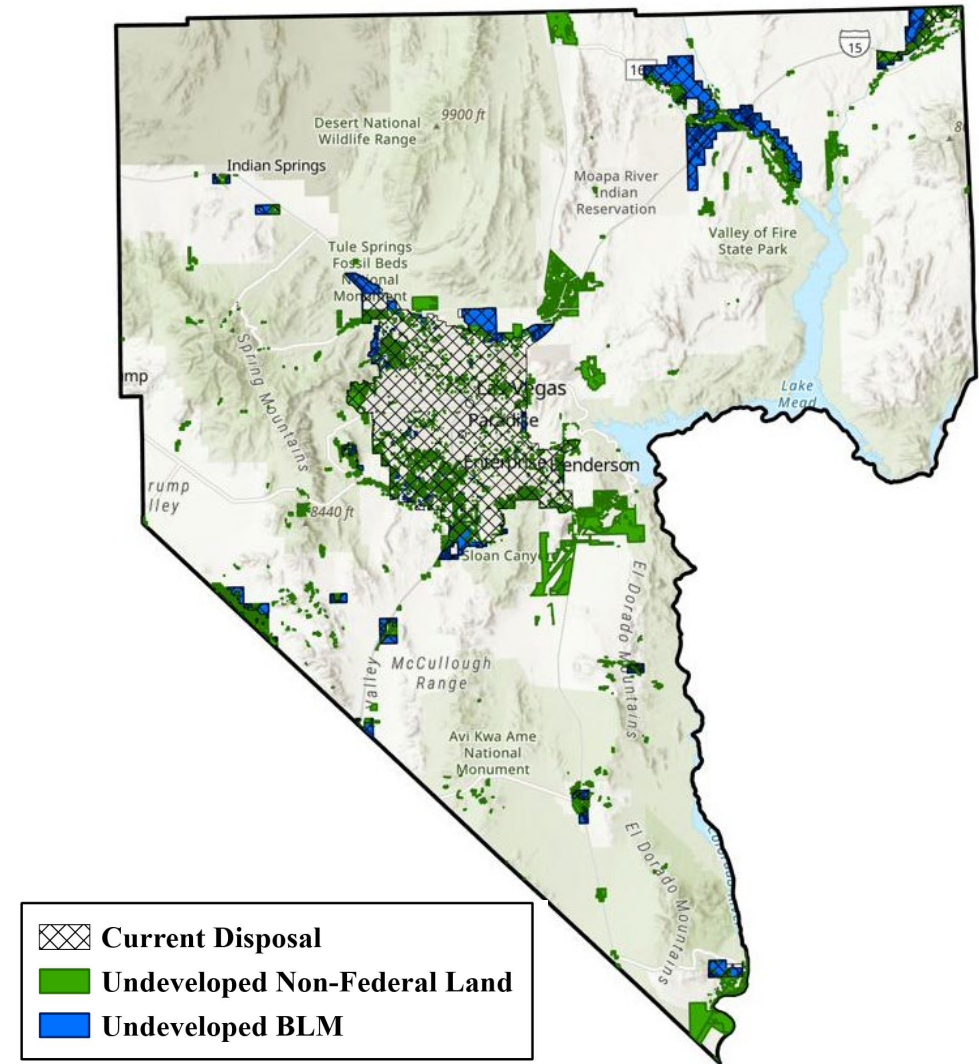
WHERE THE PERMIT APPLIES

Non-federal land

The permit covers all non-federal land in Clark County, and any land that later becomes non-federal.

BLM disposal areas

Bureau of Land Management disposal boundaries are the main source of land that moves out of federal ownership.



Sources: Esri, CGIAR, USGS, California State Parks, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS.

HOW THE PLAN IS FUNDED

\$550

per acre of disturbance

Developers pay the fee to opt in to the plan rather than pursue an individual federal permit.

\$64.4 million in disturbance fees since 2001

SNPLMA

federal grant funding

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act funds eligible conservation projects through a competitive grant program.

\$50.0 million spent through June 2026

OTHER SOURCES

- Interest earned on the banked fee balance
- A specialty license plate
- Miscellaneous fees collected from time to time

All of it pays for the same thing: the conservation actions the MSHCP commits the Permittees to carrying out.

Interest accrues to the Section 10 fund. It was substantial in the program's early years, when balances were high and rates were strong.

Non-discretionary

Explicit conditions of the permit.

- General administration
- Monitoring
- Adaptive Management Program
- Riparian property acquisition and management
- Desert tortoise translocation
- Desert tortoise fencing
- Boulder City Conservation Easement management

Discretionary

604 possible actions described in the MSHCP.

- Research
- Inventory
- Protective measures
- Restoration and enhancement
- Land use policies and actions

THE BIENNIAL PLAN AND BUDGET

The Implementation Plan and Budget sets which mitigation actions get funded, two years at a time.

1

Identify

Program staff and partners identify the mitigation actions to fund in the coming biennium.

2

Collaborate

Permittees, agencies, and stakeholders shape the draft through a collaborative process.

3

Adopt

The Board of County Commissioners approves and adopts the plan in even-numbered years.

4

Implement

Funded actions move into contracts, agreements, and staff work programs.

The 2025-2027 plan took effect July 1, 2025. The 2027-2029 plan is in development now.

Project completion notices

Filed as individual projects wrap up.

Annual progress symposium

Today. An update on overall implementation of the MSHCP, and on the progress of specific projects.

Biennial progress report

A required compliance report, provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Biennial adaptive management report

How monitoring results are feeding back into management decisions.



03

PROGRESS

Development, spending, and the work completed under the plan.



DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PERMIT

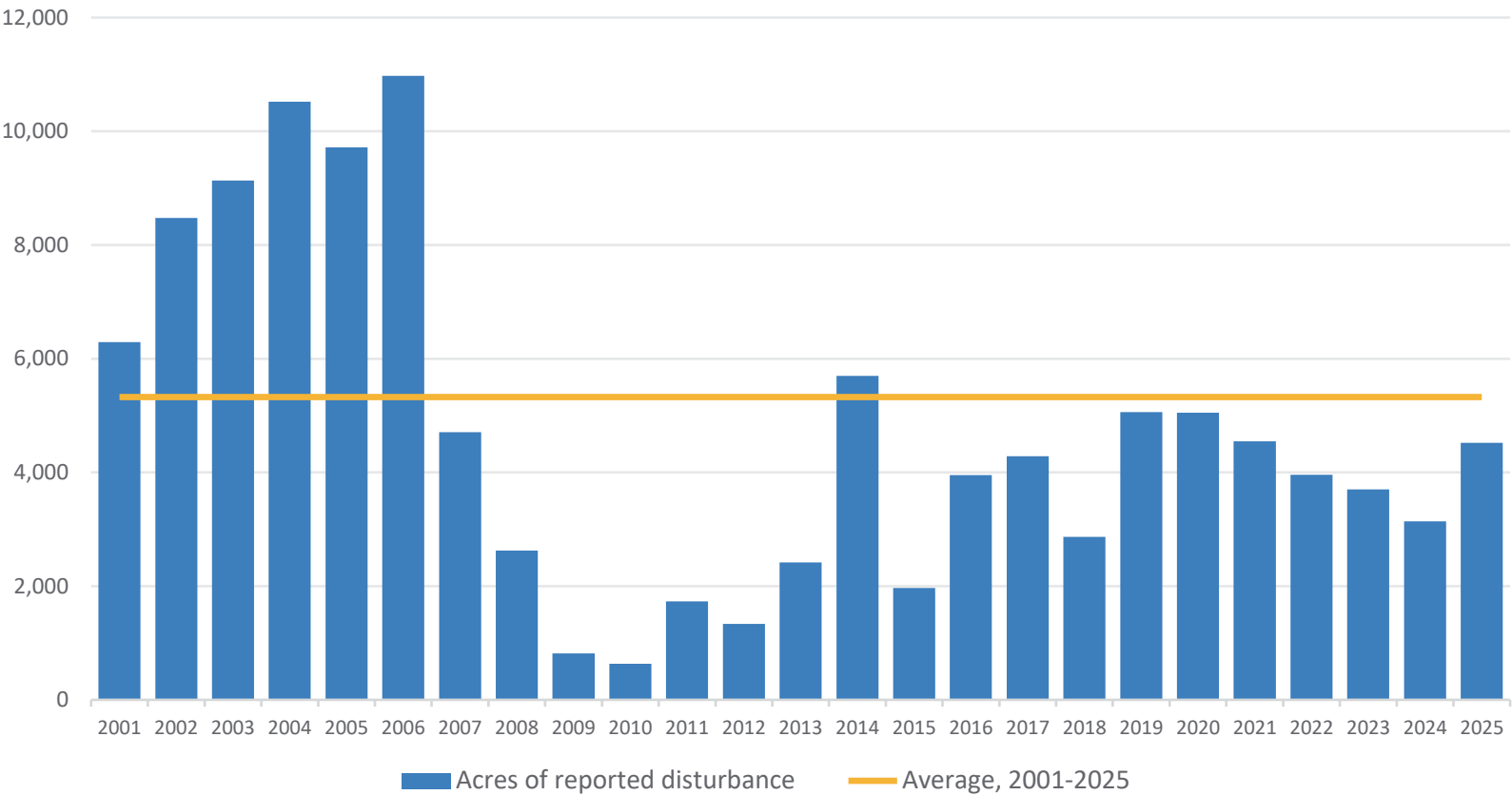


Chart excludes 15,000 acres of municipal development that were exempt from mitigation fees through January 2010. Partial-year 2026 data are not shown; a refund of a 2025 overpayment put net reported disturbance at -129 acres through June 2026.

133,016
acres of reported disturbance through June 2026

\$64.4M
in disturbance fees collected

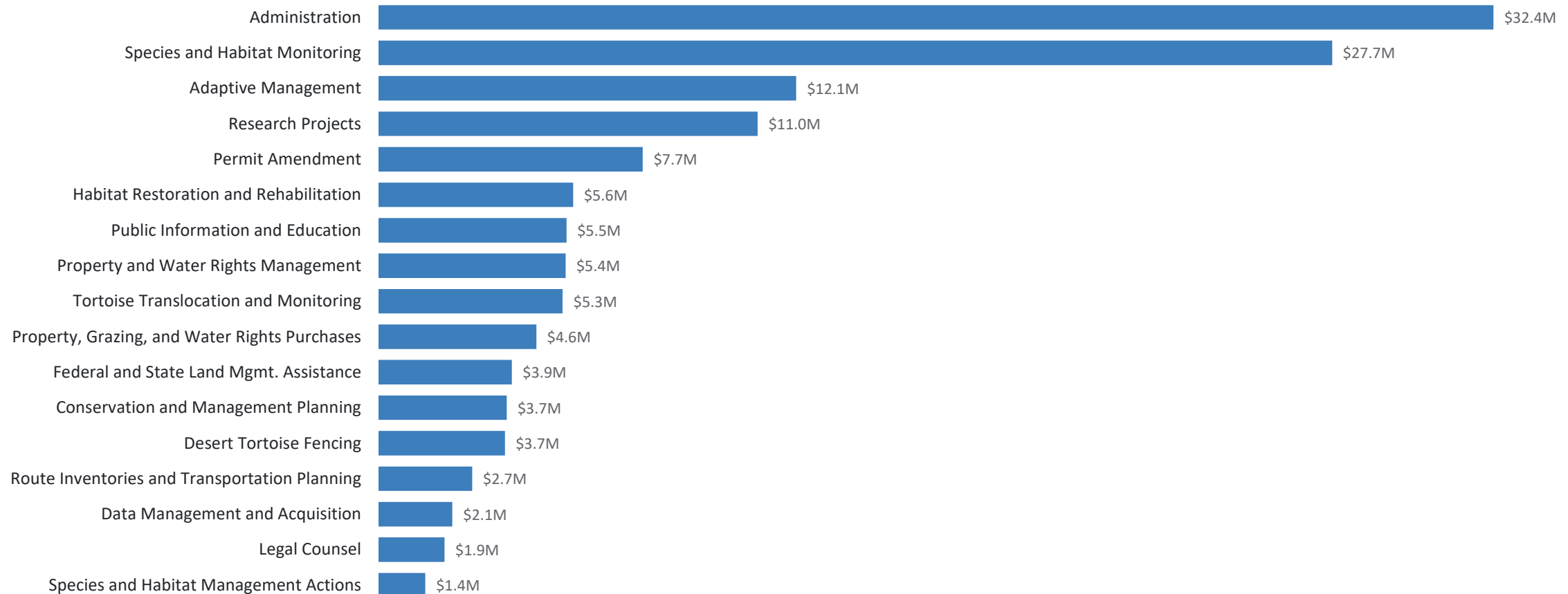
5,326
acres average per year, 2001-2025

34,634
acres remaining under the permit

Permit amendment update at 2:20 this afternoon.

WHERE THE FUNDING GOES

\$136.7 million across 1,671 project line items, permit period through June 30, 2026.



WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING NOW

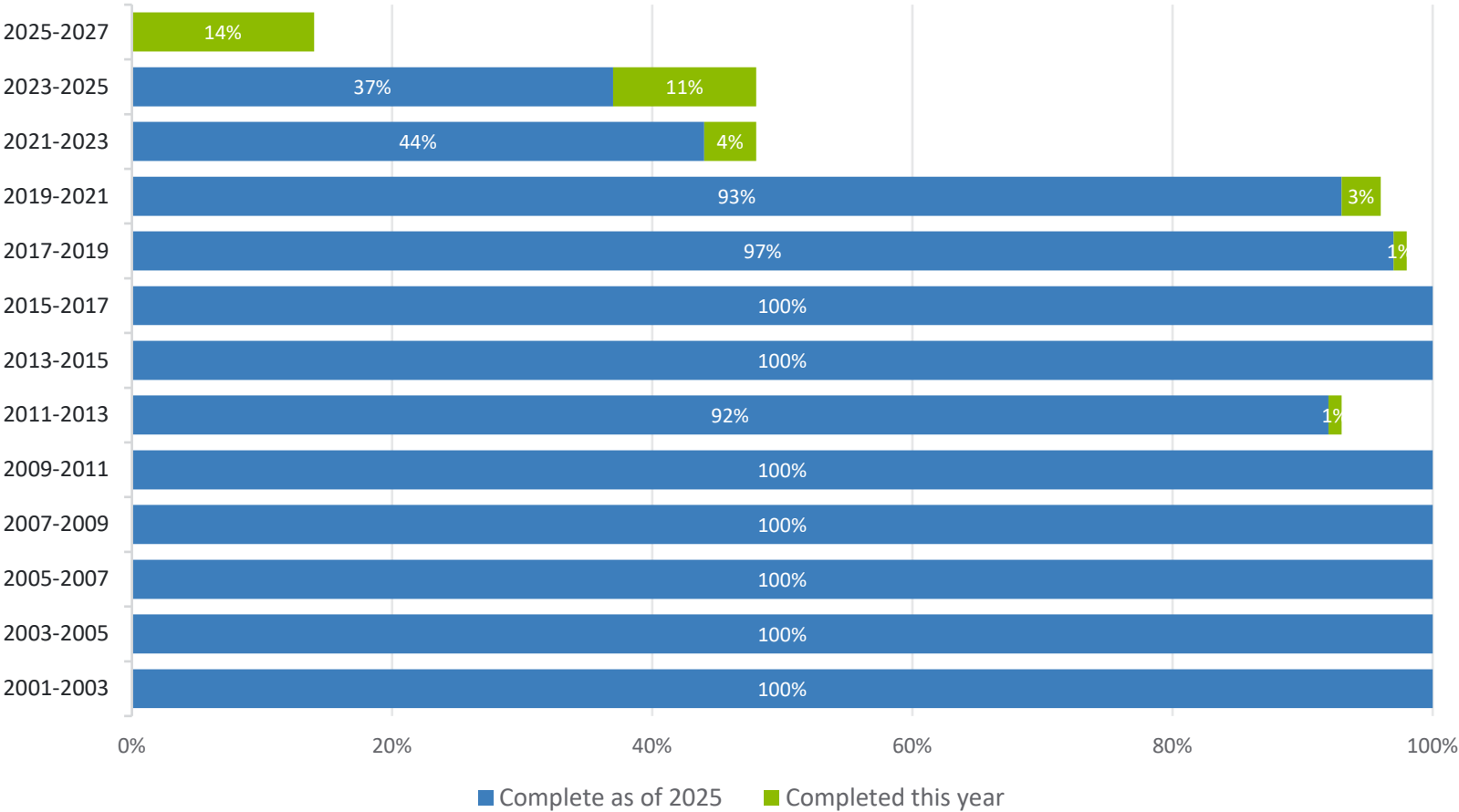
Spending on the 74 projects and purchase orders active in FY2026: \$7.96 million to date.

ACTIVE PROJECTS				SHARE SINCE 2001
11	Research Projects		\$2.1M 26.7%	10.5%
14	Species and Habitat Monitoring		\$1.8M 23.0%	26.5%
13	Permit Amendment		\$1.6M 20.2%	7.4%
12	Property and Water Rights Management		\$877K 11.0%	5.2%
1	Adaptive Management		\$533K 6.7%	11.6%
7	Habitat Restoration and Rehabilitation		\$468K 5.9%	5.4%
2	Tortoise Translocation and Monitoring		\$312K 3.9%	5.1%
2	Desert Tortoise Fencing		\$74K 0.9%	3.5%
2	Legal Counsel		\$49K 0.6%	1.8%
6	Public Information and Education		\$43K 0.5%	5.2%
2	Data Management and Acquisition		\$32K 0.4%	2.1%
2	Conservation and Management Planning		\$8K 0.1%	3.6%

Spending is cumulative life-to-date on each project, not spending incurred during FY2026 alone. Administration is excluded, because staff salaries and overhead are budgeted through a control account rather than through contracts.

PROGRESS PER BIENNIUM

Percent of the biennium's committed actions complete.



7

bienniums fully closed out

48%

complete in 2023-2025, up 11 points
this year

14%

complete in 2025-2027, in its first year

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

53

contracts administered

23

new contracts initiated

29

contracts completed or closed

15

purchase orders and goods

295

milestones met

349

deliverables accepted

274

invoices paid

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act grants currently under administration.

\$13.6 million

across 7 SNPLMA-funded projects

\$13,627,664 in total awards being administered by the program.

2

Round 18

projects

2

Round 19

projects

3

Round 20

projects

No new SNPLMA round was awarded to the program this year. The current portfolio carries forward work funded under Rounds 18, 19, and 20.

04

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

A look at work that is not covered elsewhere on today's agenda.

44

active projects under management today

12

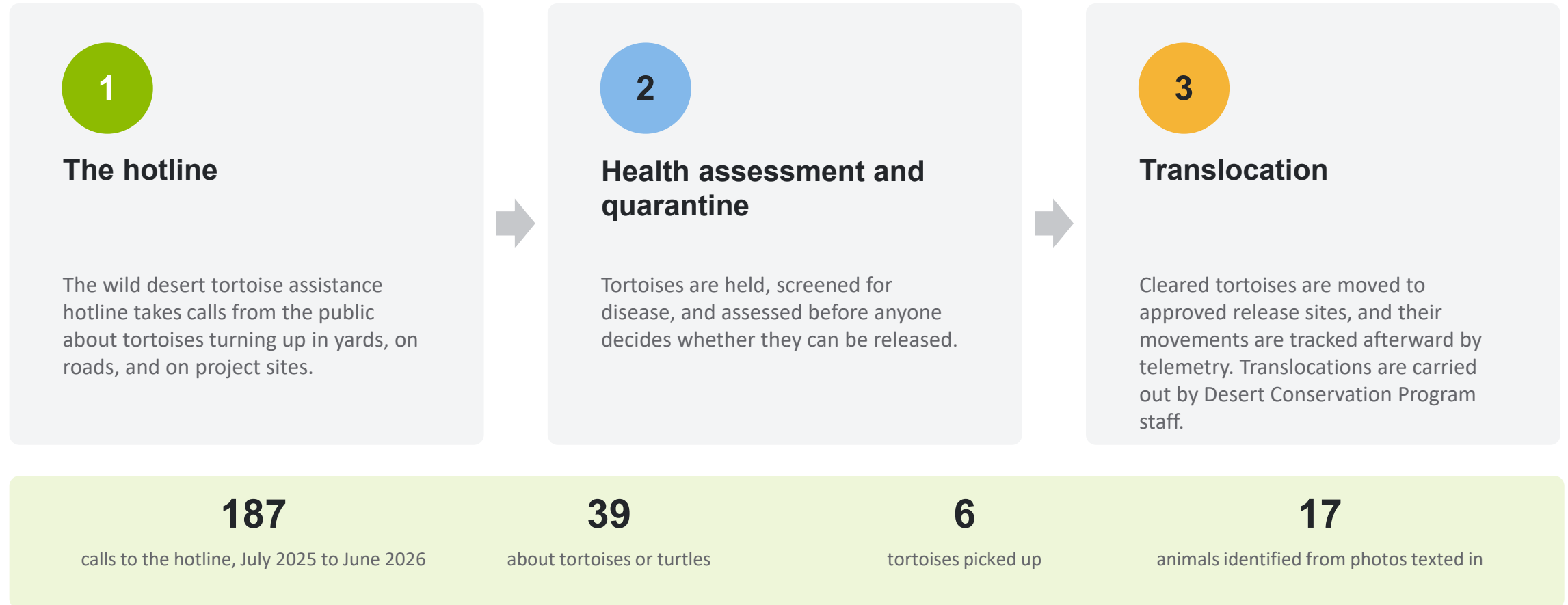
staff, 10 full-time and 2 part-time

Not every project has a contract behind it.

A large share of the plan's conservation actions are delivered by program staff directly, and never appear as a line item in the contract count.

FROM HOTLINE CALL TO RELEASE

A tortoise reported to the hotline moves through quarantine and a health assessment before it can go back out.



Two efforts aimed at the places where tortoises and traffic meet.

Road Warriors

A collaboration with the Tortoise Group, NDOT, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- **30.75 road miles of fence surveys**
Along I-15 southbound and US-93, closing out the 2024-2025 contract.
- **4 cattle guards and 5 tortoise guards**
Flagged along US-93 as needing extensive cleanout, and reported to NDOT.
- **20 transect miles of mortality surveys**
Milepost 75.5 to 85.5 on US-93 at Coyote Springs, half the 2026 requirement.
- **8 volunteers in the field**
Citizen scientists record observations through a mobile survey app.

The 2024-2025 contract closed in April 2026. The 2026-2027 contract runs through March 2028.

Coyote Springs Wildlife Crossings

A grant-funded NDOT project: roughly 33 miles of desert tortoise exclusion fencing along US 93, plus wildlife connectivity infrastructure.

The program's role

Funding match only. NDOT does the work.

A two-part effort to map vegetation across Clark County, using the National Vegetation Classification Standard.

PHASE 1 - COMPLETE

Coarse-scale map

Mapped at the division level of the classification standard.
This is the dataset behind every permit amendment analysis produced to date.

PHASE 2 – IN PROGRESS

Fine-scale map

Mapped at the alliance level, a finer resolution than Phase 1.
Work began this past year and runs through 2028.

Vegetation community underpins the habitat functionality analysis and the species distribution models that shape the conservation strategy.

Two SNPLMA-funded projects restoring damaged desert on federal conservation land in Clark County.

RAINBOW GARDENS ACEC

\$3.9 million

budgeted under SNPLMA Round 18

- **Bearpoppy reintroduction trials**
Desert Research Institute is testing reintroduction methods for the Las Vegas bearpoppy through April 2027.
- **Restoration and weed treatment**
About 125 acres of illegal disturbance to restore, and 175 acres treated for weeds and fuels.
- **Barrier and cleanup work**
10 miles of post and cable barrier, plus graffiti and trash removal across about 160 acres.

PIUTE-ELDORADO ACEC

\$3.7 million

budgeted under SNPLMA Round 18

- **Restoration plan complete**
The plan was finished in November 2025. It sets the treatment approach for the whole area.
- **74 linear disturbances identified**
Along with two areas of non-linear disturbance, all slated for restoration.
- **Route work being downscoped**
The award is being narrowed from 725 restoration points to the 75 the program will move forward with.

Both are BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Piute-Eldorado figure predates the downscoping now under way.

QUESTIONS?

Respect, protect and enjoy our desert.

Desert Conservation Program

clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/environment_and_sustainability/desert_conservation_program

Mojave Max

mojavemax.com

