Biological Goals and Objectives

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What are Biological Goals and Objectives?

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- In general, goals are long term intended outcomes and objectives are measurable steps
- Aim to create a framework that links a program vision and plan requirements with on-the-ground conservation measures, programs, and actions
- They should be specific, realistic, and achievable and should fit the conservation program vision without inherently basing them on existing or preferred conservation actions.

Why are BGO's Important?

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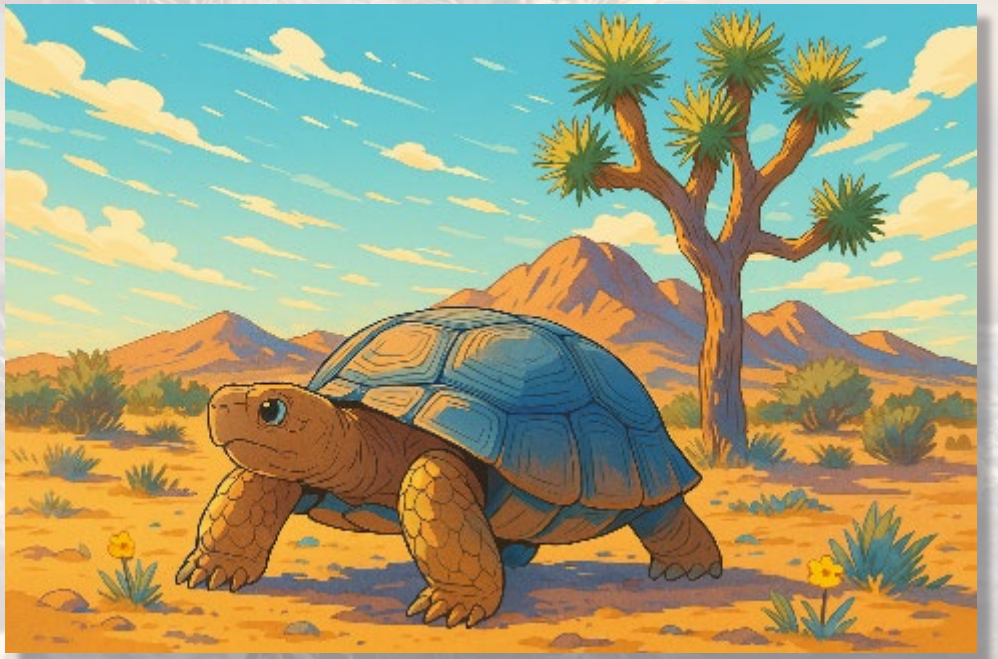
- They should form the basis for developing, administering, and evaluating conservation measures undertaken by the DCP
- They allow us to judge the success of the program
- Show us where adaptive management may be necessary



Timeline

2001- Permit was initiated success was based on dollars spent

2016- DCP worked with the science advisor to develop BGOs for each property type (riparian vs Upland)

2017- DCP worked with the science advisor to create an Adaptive Management and Monitoring plan (AMMP)

2022- First full evaluation of the AMMP was implemented in the Adaptive management report

2023- Updated the AMMP and BGOs to streamline them and make sure all BGO's satisfy the S.M.A.R.T. principles (specific, measurable, achievable, result-oriented, and time fixed)

Goal 1

- Habitat based
- Property management
- Property acquisition
- Other form and function based objectives

Biological Goal 1: Maintain or improve habitat quality and quantity within DCP reserve system lands to promote resiliency, redundancy, and representation for covered species.	
Obj 1.1	Utilize invasive species treatment methods to maintain or decrease the 8-year average area requiring weed management.
Obj 1.2	Acquire riparian acreage at an equivalent rate as take over the life of the permit. An 8-year lag after riparian acreage is developed is allowed to account for the willing-seller, willing-buyer basis of property exchange, within the life of the permit.
Obj 1.3	Protect, restore, or otherwise increase the quality and quantity of habitat for MSHCP-covered species, as determined by the monitoring methods, definition of quality, and timeframes specified in the AMMP.
Obj 1.4	Incorporate natural ecological, hydrological, and geomorphological processes into restoration design and implementation to maintain ecological integrity, ecosystem function, and biological diversity. Include consideration that climate change may result in significant changes in these processes over historical frequencies and magnitudes. Review quadrennially as part of every other Adaptive Management Report (AMR) using project level worksheets (Appendix B).
Obj 1.5	Identify critical uncertainties (e.g., climate change, human population growth) of MSHCP-funded projects on DCP reserve system lands and report on them in biennial updates to the DCP Reserve System Management Plans.
Obj 1.6	Incorporate concepts of ecosystem redundancy and representation to promote ecological resiliency in the biennial updates to the DCP Reserve System land Management Plans.
Obj 1.7	Protect and enhance connectivity (i.e., road restoration, culvert placement) within DCP reserve system lands for Desert Tortoise and other high priority covered species. Review and report on the status of these projects quadrennially in every other AMR.

Goal 2

- Species based
- AMP

Biological Goal 2: Maintain stable or increasing populations of covered species occurring within DCP reserve system lands.	
Obj 2.1	Monitor covered wildlife species as described in the AMMP. Report quantitative population data, as described in the AMMP, for covered species biennially in the AMR and report statistical analyses of population trends quadrennially in every other AMR.
Obj 2.2	Conduct surveys for covered plant species as described in the AMMP. Protect, conserve, and monitor known occurrences of these species annually. Report quantitative population data as described in the AMMP biennially in the AMR, and report statistical analyses of population trends quadrennially in every other AMR.
Obj 2.3	Translocate and augment desert tortoise populations in accordance with USFWS guidance through translocation programs that achieve survivorship rates within 10 percentage points of resident tortoise survival rates in the same areas (or with survivorship as prescribed by USFWS guidance). Report survivorship data biennially in the AMR and report analysis on aggregated translocated tortoise survivorship compared to aggregated resident tortoise survivorship quadrennially in every other AMR.
Obj 2.4	Ensure the best available scientific information is being evaluated and incorporated into population management efforts for covered species, including monitoring methods and identification of critical uncertainties (e.g., climate change, human population growth), by completing a focused literature review (or Systematic Review) and updating it quadrennially in the AMMP.

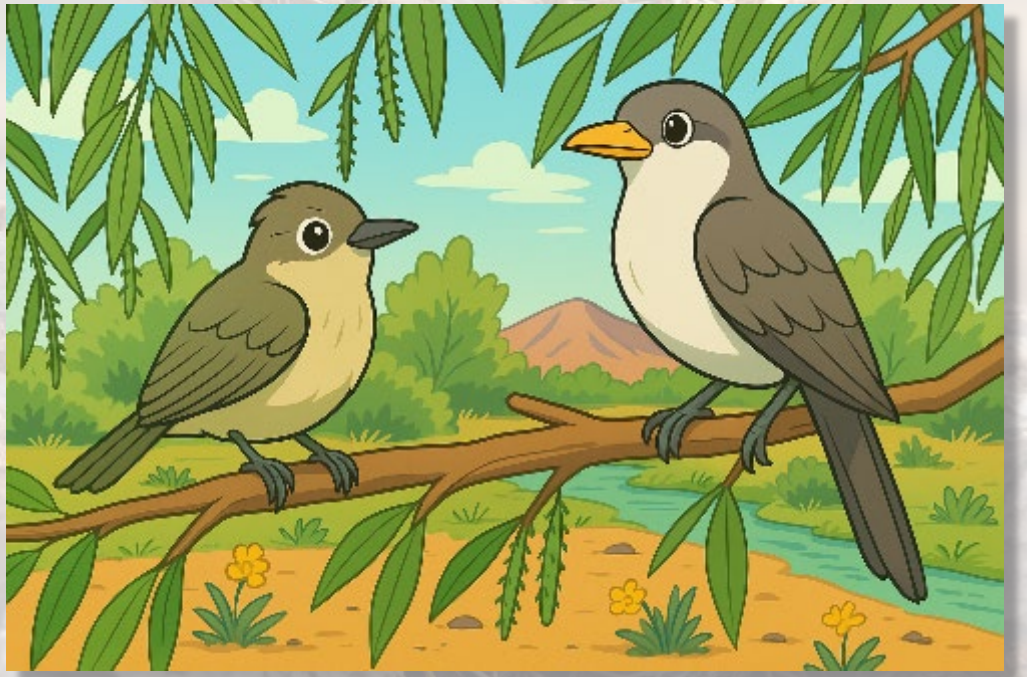
Goal 3

- Community based
- Education
- BMP
- Law enforcement

Biological Goal 3: Foster community and stakeholder engagement to maintain or improve covered species populations and their habitats.	
Obj 3.1	Develop and disseminate educational materials that cover the following topics: 1) the value of the desert ecosystem in Clark County; 2) promoting responsible recreation; 3) promoting following development procedures; and 4) avoiding and minimizing impacts to the environment. Re-evaluate material's relevance quadrennially (branding, technology, social and recreation trends, etc.).
Obj 3.2	Protect habitats within the Boulder City Conservation Easement (BCCE) from unauthorized land use through vigilance (by patrolling an average of at least 100 hours each month) and education (by providing information during encounters). Compile data annually and report quadrennially in every other AMR.
Obj 3.3	Provide information to permitted users (project proponents, construction personnel, researchers, biological consultants) about best management practices for the desert tortoise and associated reporting procedures. If BMPs are developed for other covered species, this objective would expand to apply to them also. Compile data annually and report quadrennially in every other AMR.

Conclusion

- Tracking is done on a project-by-project basis
- Success is evaluated every 4 years as part of the Biennial Adaptive Management Reporting process described in the AMMP
- Objectives that we have failed to meet are delt with through the adaptive management process



Questions?