

Quarterly Report

Agency/Organization: The Great Basin Institute

Project Name: BCCE Desert Tortoise Telemetry and Health Assessments

Project Number: 2023-GBI-2330A

Reporting Period: July 1, 2025 – Sept 30, 2025

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QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

This quarterly report documents the status of the BCCE Desert Tortoise Telemetry and Health Assessments (Year 2) conducted by the Great Basin Institute (GBI) for the third quarter of project number 2023-GBI-2330A; July 1, 2025 – Sept 30, 2025.

GBI was contracted by the Clark County Desert Conservation Program (DCP) to conduct line-distance sampling (LDS) surveys and telemetry surveys to estimate the population of the Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) in experimental translocation and control plots in Clark County, Nevada.

The overarching objectives of BCCE Desert Tortoise Telemetry and Health Assessments (Years 1-5) are to:

- Continue monitoring of resident and translocated desert tortoise started in 2014
- Collect telemetry data on up to 60 adult tortoises
- Acquire information regarding home range size, settling rates, survival, and habitat use for resident and translocated populations of desert tortoise
- Collect health data on all tortoises

Objectives Completed this Quarter:

- Radio telemetry monitoring took place July 1, 2025 – Sept 30, 2025 *
- 28 telemetered tortoises in total were tracked (16 resident and 12 translocated)
 - Of these 28 tortoises, 3 were reported deceased and 3 tortoise missing by the end of the quarter

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and the manner in which they were dealt.

No issues were encountered during this quarter.

QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.

Project activities are on track at this time.

QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?

It is estimated that 90% of the project has been completed for Year 1 at this time.

QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?

No future problems are foreseen for upcoming project activities at this time.

QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?

Telemetered tortoises are monitored using a VHF receiver and directional antenna. Location data is collected on each individual at least once monthly November through February, and weekly March through October. As batteries run out, transmitters will be replaced following USFWS protocol, typically during spring and fall when tortoises are most likely to be active above ground.

All data are recorded in the field on paper datasheets and electronically using Apple iPad-mini tablets running ArcGIS Survey123. Data is downloaded into a master database each month and assessed for consistency and errors.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

From July 1, 2025 – Sept 24, 2025*, 16 resident and 12 translocated tortoises were monitored in the BCCE (Table 1). Telemetry was conducted over 36 days with 257 observations. Individuals were observed 12 to 13 times over the course of the reporting period. Three tortoises were observed only 1-9 times and are listed as follows. Tortoises EV3966, FW10623 and CC0001 were found dead on July 7, July 15, and August 20, 2025, respectively. Three tortoises, EV3834, CC0109 and GS4409 were reported missing on July 7, July 9, and August 20, 2025, respectively. They are included in the total number of tortoises and tallied as missing in Table 1. CC0825 is missing from the previous Quarterly Report and was attempted to be tracked throughout this quarter, but this is not reflected in Table 1.

During the reporting period, the master database was updated, reviewed for quality control, corrected when necessary, and submitted to the DCP on a monthly basis along with scanned datasheets. GBI completed the annual presentation for DCP.

Table 1. BCCE observations of tortoises by telemetry from July 1, 2025 – Sept 24, 2025*.

Status	Tortoises Transmitted	Tortoises Deceased	Tortoises Missing	Number of Days	Total Observations	Average Observations per Day
Resident	16	2	1	36	152	4.2
Translocated	12	1	2	31	105	3.4
TOTAL	28	3	3	36	257	7.1

*Data from Sept 26, 2025 onward will be reflected in the subsequent October Monthly Upload

Please report on the status of each Milestone and Deliverable, indicate whether they are not started, in progress, or completed and provide comments on the status as necessary.

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Date Due	Deliverable / Milestone #	Deliverable / Milestone Title	Status
1/2/2025	M06	Contract Award and Mobilization	
1/5/2025	D18	Quarterly Progress Report (Oct 1-Dec 31, 2025)	Complete
1/31/2025	D19	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
2/28/2025	D20	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
3/31/2025	D21	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
4/5/2025	D22	Quarterly Progress Report (Jan 1 – Mar 31,2025)	Complete
4/30/2025	D23	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
5/31/2025	D24	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
6/30/2025	D25	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
7/1/2025	D26	Biennium Progress Summary Report	Complete
7/5/2025	D27	Quarterly Progress Report (Apr 1-June 30, 2025)	Complete
7/31/2025	D28	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
8.TBD.2025	M07	2025 Annual Project Review Presentation	
8/31/2025	D29	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
9/30/2025	D30	Monthly Data Upload	Complete
10/5/2025	D31	Quarterly Progress Report (July 1-Sept 30, 2025)	Complete
10/31/2025	D32	Monthly Data Upload	
11/30/2025	D33	Monthly Data Upload	
12/15/2025	D34	Monthly Data Upload	
12/20/2025	D35	Annual Project Data	
12/20/2025	D36	Annual Project Report	
12/21/2025	M08	Debriefing Meeting	
1/1/2026	N/A	Year 2 Close-out	