

Quarterly Report

Agency/Organization: The Great Basin Institute

Project Name: BCCE Desert Tortoise Telemetry and Health

Assessments **Project Number:** 2023-GBI-2330A

Reporting Period: January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

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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 first quarter of project number 2023-GBI-2330A; January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026.

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 January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026
- 19 telemetered tortoises in total were tracked (11 resident and 8 translocated)
- Of these 19 tortoises, one was reported deceased 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 100% of the project has been completed for Year 2 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 January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026, 11 resident and 8 translocated tortoises were monitored in the BCCE (Table 1). Telemetry was conducted over 19 days with 99 observations. Individuals were observed 5 to 6 times over the course of the reporting period. Two tortoises were observed only 1 and 4 times and are listed as follows. One tortoise, FW10615 (1/13/26) was found dead. Three tortoise was reported missing this quarter (FW10614, CC0825, and EV4249) via a Lost Tortoise form. Of these three, only one tortoise (EV4249) was observed this quarter. Tortoises CC0111, FW8043, GS4410, GS4473 and GS4554 were recorded as Lost, but subsequently found, so they were not included in the Missing tally.

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.

Table 1. BCCE observations of tortoises by telemetry from January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026.

Status	Tortoises Transmitted	Tortoises Deceased	Tortoises Missing	Number of Days	Total Observations	Average Observations per Day
Resident	11	1	1	17	54	3.17
Translocated	8	0	2	16	45	2.81
TOTAL	19	1	3	19	99	5.21

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.

Date Due	Deliverable / Milestone #	Deliverable / Milestone Title	Completed
January 2, 2026	M01	Contract Award and Mobilization	Yes
January 5, 2026	D37	Quarterly Progress Report (Oct 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2025)	Yes
January 31, 2026	D38	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
February 28, 2026	D39	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
March 31, 2026	D40	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
April 5, 2026	D41	Quarterly Progress Report (Jan 1, 2026 – March. 31, 2026)	Yes
April 30, 2026	D42	Monthly Data Upload	
May 15, 2026	D43	Monthly Data Upload	
May 31, 2026	D44	Monthly Data Upload	
June 31, 2026	D45	Quarterly Progress Report (April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026)	
July 5, 2026	D46	Monthly Data Upload	
August TBD, 2026	M10	2026 Annual Project Review Presentation (If Requested)	
August 31, 2026	D47	2025 Annual Project Review Presentation (If Requested)	
September 31, 2026	D48	Monthly Data Upload	
October 5, 2026	D49	Quarterly Progress Report (Jul 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 2026)	

October 31, 2026	D50	Monthly Data Upload	
November 31, 2026	D51	Monthly Data Upload	
December 15, 2026	D52	Monthly Data Upload	
December 20, 2025	D53	Annual Project Data	
December 20, 2025	D54	Annual Project Report	
December 21, 2026	M11	Debriefing Meeting	
January 1, 2027	N/A	Year 3 Close-Out	