

Mark-Recapture Surveys on Demography Plots

Prepared by



Project Overview

Goal- Collect mark-recapture data that can be used with future data to examine the changing demography of the desert tortoise across Clark County, NV

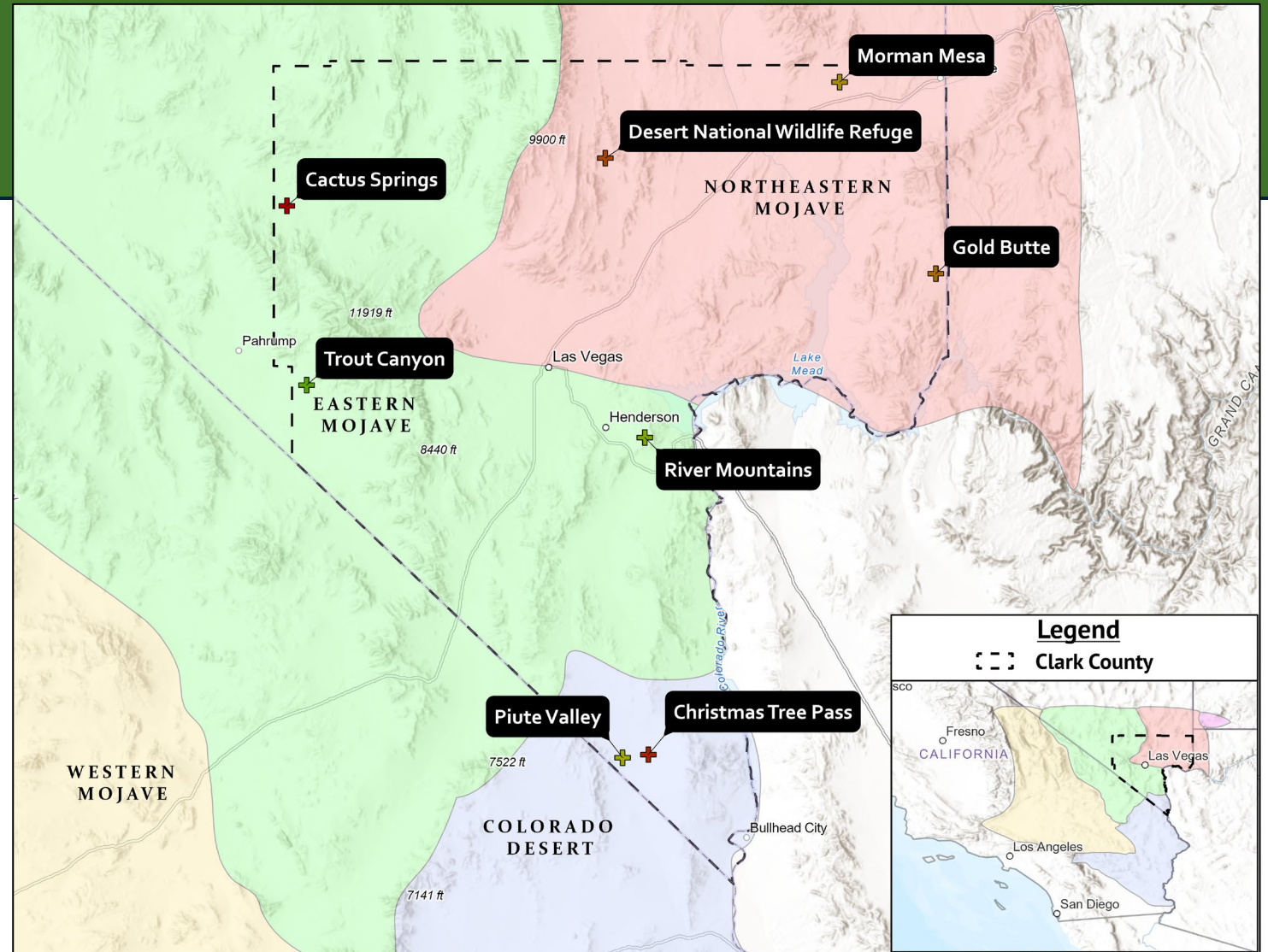
Plots total 1,976 acres within Clark County and are situated within larger desert tortoise recovery units.

This research contributes to recovery actions by monitoring desert tortoise population growth.



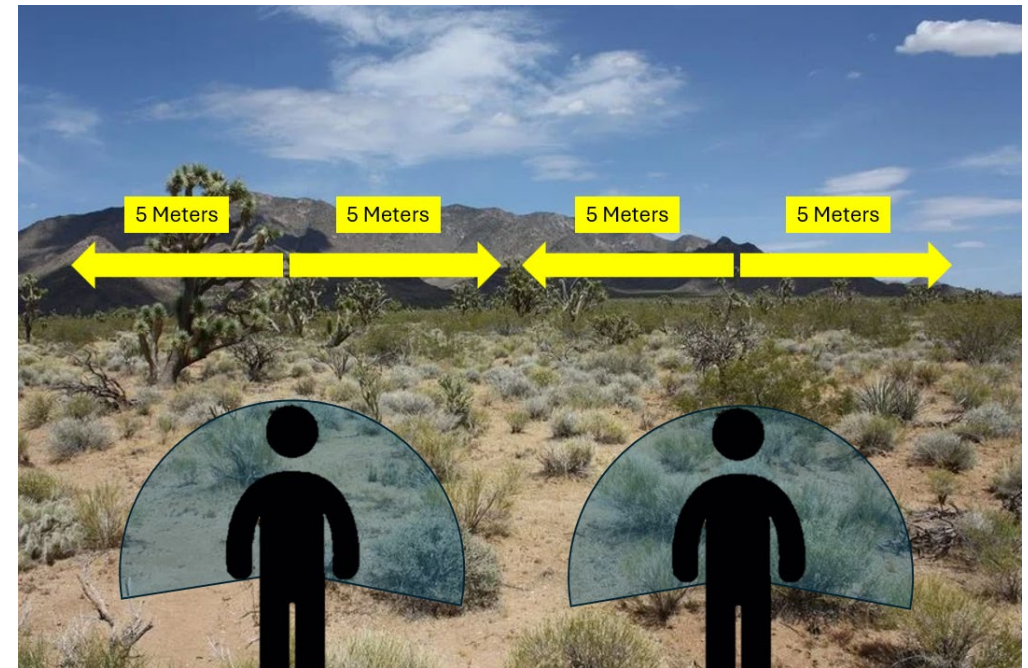
Plot Locations

- Eight 1km² plots across Clark County
- Two plots sampled each year
- In 2025, the Trout Canyon and Cactus Springs plots were sampled



Survey Methods

- 5-meter belt transects
- Three consecutive passes conducted over 3 days
- Surveyors search for tortoises, burrows, sign, and carcasses
- Live tortoises are uniquely marked
- Data is collected for each capture



Year 1 (2025) Results

- We were joined by a fantastic crew of 24 biologists!
- Cactus Springs-
 - 2 live tortoises
 - 9 carcasses
- Trout Canyon-
 - 15 live tortoises
 - 6 carcasses



Next Steps

- 2026 Plots - Mormon Mesa and Gold Butte
- Data from all plots will be compiled into a database for tracking over time and providing information on demographic statistics



Questions?



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