Agency/Organization: U.S. Geological Survey

Project Name: Developing a Non-lethal Tortoise Aging Methodology

Project Number: 2025-USGS-2580A

Reporting Period: Project Start – September 30, 2026

Project Contact Name and Information:
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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?

Project Accomplishments included:

- Project Mobilization (M01) September
- Kick off meeting (M02) September 29
- Submission of Work Plan (D01) October 2

We are currently working to complete the last of the sample acquisitions. We have highlighted a handful of tortoises in the 21 and older age group. We are currently contacting and planning visits as needed with custodians identified through the Clark County interest forms. All other age groups are sufficiently sampled to move forward with the initial sequencing and panel development stage.

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

No problems were encountered at this time.

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.

All activities that were planned for this quarter have been completed, based on the project start-date in September, project mobilization and kickoff occurred in September.

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

We estimate that approximately 90% of sample acquisitions are completed (M03), about 10% of the total project work.

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

The next deliverables and milestones include completing the Data Management Plan (D02; due mid October) and completing the sample collections (M03; end of November). We do not foresee any issues completing this phase of the project. Potential problems further out could include a slow purchase order process within the USGS to complete the sequencing phase of the project (M04 April 1st 2027). If this becomes an issue, we will notify the DCP and request an extension if appropriate.

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

Not at this time.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

Deliverable 01: Work Plan