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, 2026 – Sept 30, 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 3) conducted by the Great Basin Institute (GBI) for this quarter of project number 2023-GBI-2330A; July 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 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 July 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 2026
- 23 telemetered tortoises in total were tracked (15 resident and 8 translocated)
    - Of these 23 tortoises, 1 was reported deceased and 1 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 75% of the project has been completed for Year 3 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, 2026 – Sept 30, 2026, 15 resident and 8 translocated tortoises were monitored in the BCCE (Table 1). Telemetry was conducted over 37 days with 250 observations. Individuals were observed 10 to 13 times over the course of the reporting period. Three tortoises were observed only 1-5 times as they are newly transmittered animals and are listed as follows: CC0202, FW10593, and FW7933. Tortoise CC0267 was found deceased on September 15, 2026. One tortoise, CC0223 was reported missing on September 15, but was seen as recently as September 7. It is included in the total number of tortoises and tallied as missing in Table 1. Two tortoises, FW10614 and CC0825 are still reported missing (initially reported missing in 2025) and were attempted to be tracked throughout this quarter, but are 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, 2026 – Sept 30, 2026.

Status	Tortoises Transmittered	Tortoises Deceased	Tortoises Missing	Number of Days	Total Observations	Average Observations per Day
Resident	15	1	1	37	152	4.1
Translocated	8	0	0	25	98	3.9
TOTAL	23	1	1	37	250	8

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	M09	Contract Award and Mobilization	Yes
January 5, 2026	D37	Quarterly Progress Report (Oct 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026)	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	Yes
May 31, 2026	D44	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
June 30, 2026	D45	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
July 5, 2026	D46	Quarterly Progress Report (April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026)	Yes
July 31, 2026	D43	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
August TBD, 2026	M10	2026 Annual Project Review Presentation (If Requested)	Yes
August 31, 2026	D47	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
September 30, 2026	D48	Monthly Data Upload	Yes
October 5, 2026	D49	Quarterly Progress Report (Jul 1, 2026 –	Yes

		Sept 30, 2026)	
October 31, 2026	D50	Monthly Data Upload	
November 30, 2026	D51	Monthly Data Upload	
December 15, 2026	D52	Monthly Data Upload	
December 20, 2026	D53	Annual Project Data	
December 20, 2026	D54	Annual Project Report	
December 21, 2026	M11	Debriefing Meeting	
January 1, 2027	N/A	Year 3 Close-Out	