

**Agency/Organization: U.S. Geological Survey, NOROCK**

**Project Name: Distribution and Threats to the Arizona Toad in Clark County**

**Project Number: 2023-USGS-2345A**

**Reporting Period: April 1, 2025 – June 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?**

During this reporting period, we completed several project milestones including a 2025 season kick-off meeting with DCP and renewing/acquiring scientific collection and research permits for 2025 (D12). Our seasonal technician was successfully onboarded and trained, and in mid-April, the field crew deployed to begin 2025 field surveys (M06).

The field crew has visited a total of 228 potential sites across both survey years. We found adequate aquatic habitat to conduct 174 unique visual encounter surveys at 135 different sites, including 53 nocturnal surveys and 121 diurnal surveys.

We have encountered 147 adult Woodhouse's Toads at 22 sites, 22 adult Arizona Toads at 6 sites, and 199 adult Red-spotted toads at 29 sites. We also encountered unidentified toad tadpoles at 39 sites.

We have collected 137 buccal swabs at 31 sites, including swabs from 102 Woodhouse's Toads, 29 Arizona Toads, and 6 potential Woodhouse's Toad x Arizona Toad hybrids.

We found adequate water to collect eDNA filters at 114 sites and have now collected a total of 280 filters. The mean volume of water filtered across all sites was 4.6L.

### **QUESTION 2:**

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

We didn't encounter any significant problems in this reporting period. Previous challenges associated with access to USGS resources and hiring of a seasonal technician have been mitigated, and we have been able to continue with a 2025 field season as hoped. Hot temperatures and poor roads precluded access to one low elevation site, and low winter rainfall has resulted in lots of dry spring points, especially in the southern part of Clark County. However, surveys at higher elevations have been fruitful and have yielded adequate water for surveying.

### **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 proposed activities for this reporting period have been completed and field surveys will continue through mid-July.

**QUESTION 4:**

**What is the calculated percent of work completed?**

We have completed surveys at 135 out of the proposed 100 sites for the 2-year project, or 135%. We plan to conduct surveys at ~15 additional sites in 2025 and have exceeded our original 2-year goal.

**QUESTION 5:**

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

We do not foresee any problems with future project activities. We have coordinated access to several sites that do not fall on public or county land and have scheduled visits to those parcels with land managers. Summer heat continues to be a challenge, but we are adjusting the timing of work hours to mitigate extreme conditions and will focus on sampling sites at higher elevations in mid-summer.

**QUESTION 6:**

**Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?**

Despite continuous changes in internal policy and structure, we have been able to proceed with plans for a 2025 field season. We are hopeful that 2025 field work will wrap up without further disruption.

**QUESTION 7:**

**What was produced during the reporting period?**

During this reporting period, we have completed/submitted:

- D11 (Quarterly Progress Report) – Accepted by DCP April 2, 2025
- D12 (Permits)
- M06 (Begin field work)