

DCP QUARTERLY REPORT

VENDOR / AGENCY	Tortoise Group		
PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION			
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PROJECT TITLE	Road Warriors 2026-2027		
PROJECT NUMBER	2025-TORTGRP-2527A		
REPORTING PERIOD	July 1, 2026.	through	September 30, 2026

QUESTION 1

What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these help you meet your objectives of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

Tortoise Group staff and 15 volunteers completed 7.5 miles on US93, 2 miles on SR173, 24 miles on US95 for a total of 39.5 miles (NB/SB) of fence inspection surveys.

QUESTION 2

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

When conducting the fence inspection surveys it was observed that certain portions of the assigned mileage along US93 MP 52-54.5 SB and US95 South of Searchlight MP 8.5-9.5 SB/NB, for a total of 4.5 miles, did not have desert tortoise fencing. This was not communicated to Tortoise Group prior to conducting fieldwork that these sections did not have fencing, resulting in delays to the overall project. It was also noted that the assigned mileage along SR173 was originally listed as being 6 miles but was later discovered to only be 2 miles in length. Tortoise Group is currently in conversations with NDOT regarding completing the remaining miles along another section of assigned fencing.

Tortoise Group also had difficulty recruiting volunteers to conduct fence inspections during this quarter due to inconsistent volunteer availability, illness and high temperatures causing surveys to either be ended early due to volunteer safety concerns. This caused a delay in conducting fieldwork resulting in Tortoise Group not completing the total 50 miles of fence inspections for 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.

Due to the difficulty recruiting volunteers and miscommunication regarding mileage assignment Tortoise Group did not complete 10.5 miles of fence inspection surveys that were due for M06. This portion of US95 South of Searchlight was discovered to be incredibly damaged with over 300 areas of damage reported within the surveyed 24 miles, meaning it took longer than expected for volunteers to complete the surveys. Due to the amount of damage and the time taken to record them, temperatures rose too high to continue and some sections of assigned fencing could not be completed. Incomplete sections were finished on subsequent surveys. However, the outstanding mileage of the 50 miles will be completed before the amended deadline October 31st (M06).

QUESTION 4

What is the calculated percent of work completed?

79% of the work was completed for this quarter. 39.5 miles were completed out of the total 50 miles of fence inspections due September 30th (M07).

QUESTION 5

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

The only obstacle to this project is the continued need to accommodate volunteer availability when planning dates to conduct fieldwork. Volunteer involvement is expected to increase in the following months due to the cooler temperatures. Although the timeframe for fieldwork to be completed has been condensed due to the need to complete the outstanding mileage for the previous quarter as well as the mileage due for the current quarter, we anticipate that volunteer participation will increase and allow us to submit the deliverables on time. DCP has also shared their biologist volunteer list with Tortoise Group to assist with recruiting volunteers for surveys, which has resulted in additional volunteer participation for this last quarter. Tortoise Group will continue to utilize this list to recruit volunteers for future surveys.

QUESTION 6

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

Tortoise Group requested a Minor Amendment Date Request to DCP for the completion of the remaining 10.5 miles of fence surveys. The amendment was accepted on September 29th 2026, with the completion of the remaining mileage due October 31st, 2026 (M06).

QUESTION 7

What was produced during the reporting period?

Tortoise Group surveyed a total of 39.5 miles of desert tortoise fence along US95 South of Searchlight, SR173 and US93 from July 1st, 2026 to September 30th, 2026. Data was recorded using the Field Maps App and submitted to NDOT. One Class 5 (disarticulated and widespread) old tortoise carcass was observed during fieldwork conducted on 9/19 along US95 South of Searchlight near mile marker 2 NB. The majority of the carcass pieces were found outside the fence on the habitat side.

When surveying the fence along US93, due to the fact that repairs from last time Tortoise Group surveyed the area (in 2025) have not been completed, volunteers cross checked that the outstanding repair areas shown in the FieldMaps App were still observed in the field. They replaced the flagging tape at the existing points that were missing it. For any of these areas that had worse damage than that previously recorded in FieldMaps, the volunteers edited the point with the current state of the damage. They also marked any areas of new damage that were created since the last survey in 2025.

Volunteers also inspected any gates, culverts and guards seen during the surveys for damage and recorded any damage in the FieldMaps App. Pictures of culverts and gates that need repair will be submitted alongside the fence inspection data.