

**DEVELOPMENT PROTOCOLS
FOR PROJECTS WITHIN THE RED CLIFFS
DESERT RESERVE
AND/OR INCIDENTAL TAKE AREAS**

This revision to the protocols was recommended by the
Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee and approved by the
Washington County Commission August 1, 2006

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OVERVIEW

“Utility development protocols” were developed and adopted as a part of the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to avoid take and minimize potential adverse impacts to the Mojave desert tortoise in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve from utility and road right-of-way projects, such as the installation and maintenance of water, sewer, and electric lines and roadway maintenance, while still enabling utilities to be placed within the Reserve. The protocols also provide protection to desert tortoise habitat and other sensitive species. The Reserve will be considered an avoidance area for the location of new utilities. This means new utilities will be encouraged to co-locate along existing infrastructure when practical. The HCAC will review other new utilities routes to assure minimum habitat disturbance.

Since the Reserve is the central element in the County’s effort to stabilize and recover local tortoise populations, proposals that are wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Reserve are carefully evaluated. Once a proposed project receives HCP and, if necessary, other appropriate approvals, then the project proponent works with the HCP Administration to implement these Protocols. Protocols vary depending upon whether the project is proceeding during the inactive or active tortoise season. The inactive season is from December 1 to February 14 each year; the active season is from February 15 to November 30. The Protocols are more accommodating to construction during the inactive season. Plan ahead.

While this document provides the information required to comply with the regulatory requirements for protection of desert tortoises in most project situations, there may be cases where more specific information is required. An agency contact list is provided at the end of this document for further assistance.

REVIEW PROCESSES FOR DEVELOPMENT/MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS IN TORTOISE HABITAT

1. Proposals for utility development/maintenance inside the boundaries of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve: This process is described in the HCP Reserve **Utility Development Protocols** section.
2. Clearances for lands proposed to be graded or developed within an officially designated incidental take area (see maps, pages 16-23): This process is described in the **Incidental Take and Potential Habitat Area Review and Protocols** section.
3. Proposals for utility development/maintenance inside the Kayenta Development: see HCP Administration.

If desert tortoises are encountered on private property elsewhere in the County, contact the HCP Administration so that Washington County can remove them. If a proposed action will occur on private lands on the Beaver Dam Slope contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If a proposed action will occur on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), contact BLM.

Adherence to these protocols does not constitute consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is required if the project has a federal nexus.¹ Other required municipal, state or federal approval processes must be independently addressed with the appropriate authority.

Regardless of whether a proponent is seeking approval for a project within the Reserve or in an incidental take area, the first step is to contact the HCP Administration Office, 10 North 100 East in St. George, Utah, 84770 (telephone [435] 634-5759). This creates a good opportunity to preliminarily discuss a proposal with HCP staff and to ask initial questions about the applicable review process.

PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW LEGALLY REQUIRED PROTOCOLS

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Habitat Conservation Plan, current Development Protocols, and conditions of project approvals are punishable offenses and may trigger federal and state law enforcement actions. Washington County is required per the HCP permit to notify law enforcement authorities of violations. Only through compliance with HCP processes does a project proponent receive the benefits and protections of the Incidental Take Permit. Unresolved issues from an entity's previous projects should be resolved prior to that entity proceeding with the construction phase of a new project.

HCP INCIDENTAL TAKE AND POTENTIAL HABITAT AREA REVIEW & PROTOCOLS

Incidental take and potential habitat areas (hereafter collectively "incidental take areas") are privately-owned areas of tortoise habitat where surface disturbance and development can legally proceed after coordination with the Washington County HCP Administration. Incidental take areas are shown on the maps beginning on page 16.

Review of Proposals in Incidental Take and Potential Habitat Areas. Clearance request forms are available at the HCP Administration Office, 10 N. 100 E. in St. George. The County conducts tortoise clearances two times a year, spring and fall, during official clearance windows which are March 15-May 15 and August 20-October 20 respectively. Clearances outside the preferred windows may be possible in exceptional circumstances. Projects within incidental

¹A federal nexus is likely to exist if the project is in any part authorized (including any federal permits), funded or carried out by the federal government. Federal review can be triggered on private property when a project, such as a powerline or waterline, crosses both private and federally owned property under the policy of "interrelated-interdependent." The HCP process may, on occasion, proceed concurrently with the federal review; however, any approval granted by the HCP Administration, the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee and the Washington County Commission is subject to final federal review and approval. In particular, if the proposal has a federal nexus, the project may be required to undergo consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (If unsure, contact USFWS at (801) 975-3330)

take areas can proceed once appropriate measures to clear and remove tortoises have been taken, and a release form has been signed. The HCP Administration will work with the proponent to determine necessary protective measures. Once a property has been officially released by the County, the proponent is protected under the terms of the HCP. HCP Administration release does not substitute for other required municipal, state or federal approval processes.

INCIDENTAL TAKE AND POTENTIAL HABITAT AREA PROTOCOLS

- ITP-1 Clearance request form is completed and turned into the HCP Administration Office.
- ITP-2 HCP Administrator determines if a clearance is required. If a clearance is not required, HCP Administrator can issue a release. If clearance is required, it is scheduled appropriately. The County conducts a full clearance of the property at no cost to the land owner.
- ITP-3 If the clearance request is for property immediately adjacent to the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, a fencing/containment plan is required per city and county ordinances. This plan must be reviewed and approved by the HCP Administrator prior to surface disturbance. If the clearance request is for property which is not adjacent to the Reserve, the HCP Administrator will determine if fencing is necessary to protect tortoises from harm.
- ITP 4 If the clearance request is for a utility easement crossing through undeveloped property in a take area, clearances will only be required within the boundaries of the utility easement. Measures such as barrier fencing, tortoise education or a biological monitor may be required to avoid harm to tortoises without requiring the land owner to meet all of the requirements for a full release of the property. The costs of these measures are borne by the project proponent. The determination of which measures apply is based on the actual risk of harm to tortoises in the specific project area (e.g., density, activity season, adjacency to the reserve). If the determination is made that there is a need for a biological monitor, UDWR will supply one at no additional cost to the proponent.
- ITP-5 After the landowner has met all applicable requirements, the County shall issue a release for the property. The release will specify the deadline by which construction on the property must commence. Should construction fail to commence by this date, the cost of future clearances shall be the responsibility of the land owner. This deadline may be waived by the HCP Administrator if arrangements are made for fencing.

HCP RESERVE REVIEW & PROTOCOLS

Review of Proposals Inside the Boundaries of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. Proponents are required to bring preliminary proposals to the HCP Administrator for discussion prior to being placed on the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee's (HCAC) Agenda. The HCP Administrator may refer the proposal back to the proponent for further clarification, to the Technical Committee(TC) for review, or to the HCAC for discussion, based upon consultation with the project proponent. At the project proponent's request, the item will be placed on the HCAC Agenda. Proposals are reviewed by the HCAC once a month at their regularly scheduled meeting. The TC meets monthly. When the TC completes its review, it submits a report to the HCAC for consideration. The TC report includes findings on the proposal's potential impacts to tortoises, tortoise habitat, and the viability of the tortoise population within the Reserve, and may include recommended measures to offset these impacts. The HCAC considers the TC report, relevant input from the HCP goals and objectives, and relevant HCP guidelines. HCAC review may extend over several months. The HCAC's recommended motion is forwarded to the Washington County Commission for consideration and approval.

Once a proposed project receives HCP and, if necessary, local and federal approvals, then the project proponent works with the HCP Biologist to follow protocols outlined in this document.

To achieve the objectives of the HCP, some flexibility in the application of these protocols may at times be appropriate. Therefore, deviations from these protocols may be allowed if jointly approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the HCP Administration, UDWR and the project proponent. Of primary concern in approving a deviation from the Protocols, the deviation must not result in additional impact to tortoises or tortoise habitat.

Activity Seasons. There are two annual activity seasons; an inactive and active season. Tortoise activity is greatly reduced during the inactive season when tortoises have retreated to winter dens. The inactive season is from December 1 to February 14. **All construction and maintenance activities are encouraged to be scheduled during this period when potential harm to tortoises is minimized**, and therefore, several requirements may be relaxed (e.g., temporary tortoise fencing, on-site biological monitor). The active season is from February 15 to November 30. Additional precautions must be taken during the active season as outlined in the protocols to reduce the risk of animals being harmed by construction and maintenance activities.

Who Can Legally Handle Tortoises? Only individuals with the appropriate USFWS and UDWR tortoise handling permits can legally handle desert tortoises. This includes qualified private, state, and federal biologists, and the HCP Administrator and staff.

PRECONSTRUCTION PROTOCOLS

These protocols apply to the site preparation and construction phases of ALL approved projects, regardless of activity season:

PC-1 A contact person from the project proponent shall act as the contact representative to the HCP Administrator. He/she will be responsible for overseeing compliance with these protective protocols.

- PC-2 Following County approval but prior to any construction activity within the Reserve, the contact person will meet with the HCP Biologist (or his/her authorized alternate) to review the plans for the project. The HCP Biologist, in consultation with the TC, will carefully review alignment, pole spacing, clearing limits, blasting plans, burrow locations, and other specific project plans and other information which have the potential to affect the desert tortoise. The HCP Biologist may recommend project modifications to further avoid or minimize potential impacts to Mojave desert tortoise, tortoise habitat, and other sensitive species and to better meet this protocol.
- PC-3 A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction clearance surveys of all areas potentially disturbed by the proposed project. All winter dens, burrows, scat, tracks, live animals and animal remains discovered during the preconstruction survey shall be documented. The survey shall be submitted to the HCP Biologist as part of plan review.
- PC-4 Site mitigation criteria shall be determined in the preconstruction phase, including but not limited to: barrier fences, winter den or burrow relocation, laydown/staging areas and restoration planning, and will be reviewed by the HCP Biologist in consultation with the TC prior to implementation.
- PC-5 The project proponent will work with the HCP Administration to identify disturbance areas. The construction area shall be clearly fenced, marked, or flagged at the outer boundaries to define the limits of construction activities. The right-of-way shall normally not exceed 50 feet in width for standard pipeline corridors, access roads and transmission corridors, and should be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Existing access roads should be used to the maximum extent possible. Rights-of-way for new access roads should normally be kept to 20 feet or less except for turn-around areas. Permanent disturbance from such roads should be kept to the minimum necessary to accommodate long-term maintenance. Other construction areas, including well sites, storage tank sites, substation sites, turnarounds, and laydown/staging sites which require larger areas, will be determined in the preconstruction phase. All construction workers shall be instructed that their activities shall be confined to locations within the fenced, flagged, or marked areas.
- PC-6 A worker education program, conducted by Washington County, shall be implemented prior to the onset of each construction project. **All construction employees shall be required to attend a tortoise education class and read an educational brochure prior to site entry.** The class will describe the sensitive species which may be found in the area, the purpose of the Reserve, and the appropriate measures to take upon discovery of a sensitive species. It will also cover construction techniques to minimize potential adverse impacts. For each project, all project personnel shall sign an affidavit that they have read and understand the material presented in the brochure and class. Washington County will maintain all records of affidavits.
- PC-7 All preconstruction activities which could take tortoises in any manner (e.g., surface disturbance, driving off an established road, clearing vegetation, etc.) shall occur under

the oversight of a qualified biologist after coordination with the HCP Biologist.

- PC-8 If there are unresolvable conflicts between the HCP Biologist and the contact person, the matter will be arbitrated by the HCAC and, if necessary, by the County Commission.

Additional Active Season Preconstruction Protocols: The active season is from February 15 to November 30.

- PCA-1 An on-site biological monitor may be required to be present during preconstruction activities that involve surface disturbance, or that may otherwise endanger tortoises, to ensure compliance with protocols.
- PCA-2 The construction area shall be temporarily fenced using tortoise-proof fencing at the outer boundaries to define the limits of construction activities.
- PCA-3 Work areas shall be inspected for desert tortoises within 24 hours of the onset of construction. To facilitate implementation of this condition, winter den or burrow inspection and excavation may begin no more than seven (7) days in advance of construction activities, as long as a final check for desert tortoises is conducted at the time of construction.
- PCA-4 Any hazards to tortoises created by preconstruction activities shall be checked three times a day for desert tortoises. These hazards shall be eliminated each day prior to the work crew leaving the site, which may include installing a barrier that will preclude entry by tortoises.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION PROTOCOLS

These protocols apply to the construction phases of ALL approved projects, regardless of activity season:

- GC-1 A qualified biologist shall oversee construction activities to ensure compliance with the protective stipulations for the desert tortoise.
- GC-2 If desert tortoises are found above ground inside the project area during the inactive season, they shall be moved out of harm's way as directed by a qualified biologist. The project proponent shall contact the HCP Biologist who will coordinate final disposition of the tortoise with UDWR and USFWS.
- GC-3 No handling of tortoises will occur when the air temperature at 6 inches (15 centimeters) above ground exceeds 90° Fahrenheit (32° C).
- GC-4 Desert tortoise winter dens and burrows shall be avoided to the maximum extent feasible. Tortoises are not to be removed from winter dens or burrows until appropriate action is determined by the HCP Biologist in coordination with USFWS and/or UDWR. The response shall be carried out as soon as feasible, not to exceed 72 hours. A qualified biologist shall excavate any winter dens or burrows which the HCP Biologist

has concluded cannot be avoided and will be disturbed by construction. Winter den or burrow excavation shall be conducted with the use of hand tools only.

- GC-5 Winter dens and burrows outside the approved limits of clearing and surface disturbance shall not be excavated. Winter dens and burrows outside these limits, but at risk from accidental crushing, shall be protected by the placement of deterrent barrier fencing between the winter den or burrow and the construction area. Barrier fencing shall be installed to direct the tortoise leaving the burrow away from the construction area. Installation and removal of such barrier fencing shall be under the direction of a biological monitor.
- GC-6 Blasting generally is not permissible within 100 feet of an occupied tortoise burrow.
- GC-7 All trenches, pits, or other excavations shall be inspected for tortoises by a qualified biologist or a biological monitor prior to filling.
- GC-8 Equipment maintenance and staging areas, and storage areas for pipes, wires, etc., will be located outside of reserve areas, unless the HCP Biologist determines that impacts will be reduced by using a previously disturbed location within habitat. All culverts and pipes located within desert tortoise habitat (except within a permanently fenced right-of-way) shall have both ends capped or otherwise be inaccessible to prevent entry by desert tortoises. All open ended culvert or pipeline segments that are welded in place shall be capped during periods of construction inactivity to prevent entry by desert tortoises.
- GC-9 All trash and food items shall be promptly contained and removed daily from the project site to reduce the attractiveness of the area to ravens and other desert tortoise predators.
- GC-10 Construction activities which occur between dusk and dawn shall be limited to areas which have already been cleared of desert tortoises by the qualified biologist and graded or located in fenced construction areas.
- GC-11 The area shall be restored as determined during the preconstruction process, consistent with restoration/reclamation standards approved by the Washington County Commission. [Document in progress]

Additional Active Season General Construction Protocols: The active season is from February 15 to November 30.

- GCA-1 An on-site biological monitor will be assigned to each group of construction equipment, operating in discrete (spatially disjunct) areas.
- GCA-2 If a tortoise is found above ground within the project area during construction, it shall be moved out of harm's way by a qualified biologist and placed in a winter den, burrow or other sheltered location within 250 feet from where it was found. If a tortoise is found to be within a burrow or winter den within the construction area, refer to GC-4.

- GCA-3 All open trenches, pits or other excavations shall be checked three times a day by the biological monitor for trapped desert tortoises. If a desert tortoise is found, the biological monitor shall notify a qualified biologist who will remove the animal as soon as possible.
- GCA-4 Open trenches, pits or other excavations will be backfilled within 72 hours, whenever possible. A 3:1 slope shall be left at the end of every open trench to allow trapped desert tortoises to escape. Trenches not backfilled within 72 hours shall have a barrier installed around them to preclude entry by desert tortoises. All trenches, pits, or other excavations shall be inspected for tortoises by the biological monitor prior to filling.

ACTIVITY SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS

These protocols are activity specific, and must be followed in addition to the pre-construction and general construction protocols.

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS

- TC-1 Access for trail maintenance beyond R-1, R-2, and R-3 roads shall be non-motorized.
- TC-2 Construction and improvements of trails shall normally be accomplished with hand tools only.
- TC-3 Removal of vegetation and rock shall be minimized to the fullest extent possible and is only allowable to make trails safe and passable for appropriate uses. Not all trails will be conducive to all permitted uses.
- TC-4 Maintenance activities on trails shall be coordinated with the HCP Biologist to reduce potential impacts to tortoises. Trails shall generally be maintained in a primitive but passable condition.

WATER EXPLORATION AND CONSTRUCTION

- W-1 All test pump water will be routed to the most appropriate wash or natural drainage to minimize impacts. Prior to pumping, the drainage area expected to be impacted will be surveyed by a qualified biologist or biological monitor. If tortoises are found in the drainage area and are determined to be in harm's way, a qualified biologist will move the tortoises to a sheltered location within 250 feet outside the wash.
- W-2 Powerlines associated with water development, such as to provide power for pumps, should be buried underground within the access road right-of-way with a minimum separation allowed by applicable safety standards and a desired separation of five (5) feet from water pipes. All above ground structures deemed to be necessary shall be equipped with functional anti-perching devices that would prevent their use by ravens and other predatory birds. To prevent bird electrocutions, all above ground structures shall be equipped with raptor-safe devices that comply with standards outlined in

"Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 1996," or a more recent version, if or when one is developed. This document was written by the Avian Line Interaction Committee (APLIC).

ELECTRIC POWER LINE CONSTRUCTION

- E- 1 Poles or other above ground structures necessary for electrical transmission or distribution shall be minimized as much as possible. All new or upgraded above ground structures shall be equipped with functional anti-perching devices that would prevent their use by ravens and other predatory birds. To prevent bird electrocutions, all above ground structures shall be equipped with raptor-safe devices that comply with standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 1996" or a more recent version, if or when one is developed.
- E- 2 All disturbance areas around poles or concrete pads will be reduced to a size just large enough for the construction activity.

MAINTENANCE PROTOCOLS

- M-1 Access for maintenance (see Glossary) may occur only on R-1, R-2, and R-3 roads (see map, Appendix B, Page 23). Coordination with the HCP administration is required prior to travel off these roads.
- M-2 In order to perform routine utility operation and maintenance tasks within the Reserve, employees shall receive desert tortoise education training. A training/refresher course will be provided annually and by arrangement for those personnel not previously trained. Washington County will provide the training at no cost; however, it will be the responsibility of the municipality or utility to schedule annual training. The training will include at a minimum the following: identification of tortoises, activity patterns, winter dens, burrows, and other sign; and instructions on installing and maintaining tortoise barrier fencing. Untrained employees and those who have not regularly attended refresher courses may not perform maintenance operations within the Reserve. During the course of operation and maintenance, desert tortoises encountered in the road or in the project area must be avoided. If necessary, workers should contact the HCP Biologist.
- M-3 Maintenance that creates surface disturbance must be coordinated with the HCP Administration except when located within facilities or roadways where authorized barrier fencing has been installed and maintained. Maintenance that does not create surface disturbance and is in compliance with these protocols does not need to be coordinated.

ROAD MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The following road maintenance and improvement protocols correspond to categories of roads

(R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4) described and mapped in Appendix B, page 23.

- R-1 Maintenance and improvement work may be conducted without coordination with the HCP Administration on I-15, Highway 18, Tuacahn Road, Snow Canyon State Park Road and Red Hills Parkway (Skyline Drive) when and if permanent barrier fencing has been installed and maintained in accordance with HCP procedures.
- R-2 Maintenance of Babylon, Cottonwood and Turkey Farm roads may be conducted without coordination with the HCP Administration if they create no surface disturbance outside of the existing traveled surface. Grading may be conducted on these roads during the inactive season without coordination with the HCP.
- R-3 Maintenance of gated utility access roads may be conducted without coordination with the HCP Administration if they create no surface disturbance outside of the existing traveled surface. Grading or improvements to R-3 roads must be coordinated.
- R-4 Maintenance for the limited purpose of allowing vehicle access during exigencies may be conducted after coordination with the HCP Administration.

EMERGENCY WORK (See Glossary)

Preliminary repair during emergency work is exempt from the stipulations outlined in these protocols. A contact representative from the entity performing the repair must contact the HCP Administration within 24 hours to minimize impacts and coordinate post-emergency response. Day and nighttime phone numbers are included in the Addresses and Contacts section. Long-term surface disturbing construction associated with the emergency work must follow the appropriate protocols.

DISPOSITION OF SICK, INJURED, OR DEAD SPECIMENS

Upon locating dead, injured, or sick desert tortoises during any utility or road project, initial notification by the contact representative or qualified biologist must be made to the USFWS or UDWR within three working days of its finding. Written notification must be made within five calendar days with the following information: date; time; location of the carcass; photograph of the carcass; and any other pertinent information. Care must be taken in handling sick or injured animals to ensure effective treatment and care. Injured animals shall be taken care of by the qualified biologist. Should any treated tortoises survive, USFWS or UDWR should be contacted regarding the final disposition of the animals.

GLOSSARY

Barrier fence - A fence designed to protect the desert tortoise and its habitat from harm.

Biological monitor - A person serving in the capacity of biological monitor is responsible to assist a project proponent and/or contractor to avoid accidental or intentional take of tortoises or unauthorized take of tortoise habitat. The biological monitor has a specific training on the biology and habits of the desert tortoise. The individual need not have a degree, but previous experience in the field is generally required. This person's responsibility is to oversee construction activities for compliance with Utility Development Protocols. A qualified biological monitor is a person who would be reasonably expected to notice and identify tortoises and tortoise signs, including: dens/burrows/pallets; scat; tracks; egg shells; and probable tortoise nests. The person should be proficient at recognizing when there is a reasonable probability of tortoises in the area. This person should be observant and responsible. The person need not have state or federal handling permits, but must know who to contact to move any tortoises encountered. (Individuals must have appropriate federal and state permits to handle tortoises or tortoise eggs.)

Burrow - A cover site in soil that the desert tortoise excavates.

Coordination - Communication between the project proponent and the HCP Administration to ensure a proposed action is consistent with the requirements of the UDP and the HCP Incidental Take Permit.

Emergency work - A sudden, unexpected occurrence demanding immediate action or attention. Examples of emergency scenarios include downed power lines, structural fire, ruptured water lines, and flooded roadways.

Exigencies - Unanticipated events.

Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) - The HCAC is the committee charged with overseeing the administration of the HCP and serves in an advisory capacity to the County Commission. The committee includes representation from the Utah Department of Natural Resources (UDNR), BLM, USFWS, a conservation organization, local government, local development, and a citizen at large.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) - The HCP is the guiding document that establishes the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, outlines obligations to protect species and habitat, and identifies incidental take areas and outlines the incidental take process. The HCP was signed and went into effect in February 1996.

HCP Administration - Washington County employs the HCP Administrator, the HCP Biologist, and their staff to meet the obligations outlined in the HCP.

Maintenance - Any physical act of upkeep or repair of wear or damage whether from natural or

other causes. Examples include: inspecting and repairing power lines (e.g., damaged conductors and cross arms, insulators, rotten poles, and transformer repair); waterlines (e.g., valve and airvac replacement, and joint repair); water wells and tanks (e.g., maintaining well oil and gravel pack levels, replacing pump, motor, or bowls, replacing sand filter and other apparatuses, and pulling the column tube and shaft for camera purposes); substation equipment (e.g., inspection and replacement of fuses, insulators and switches, painting the structure, and fence repair).

Primitive Condition - The condition of having a natural surface with vegetation growing closely along the side of the road or trail. Surface may be rough and minimally improved to meet the need for which the access is designed. However, the access should be passable and generally safe, and should be designed to minimize long-term maintenance problems by reducing the risk of erosion (improvements may include culverts, cement dips, surface cap, etc., as required).

Qualified biologist - As a general rule, a qualified desert tortoise biologist is defined as a person with a bachelors degree or graduate degree in biology, ecology, wildlife biology, herpetology, or related fields. He/she must have demonstrated prior field experience using accepted resource agency techniques to survey for desert tortoises. Field experience may mean a minimum of 60 days field experience searching for tortoises and tortoise sign. The qualified biologist must have appropriate federal and state tortoise handling permits. In some circumstances, HCP Administration staff or local state or federal biologists may be available to serve this function. Contract qualified biologists must report to and coordinate with the HCP Biologist.

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve (Reserve) - An area of protected habitat set aside for the protection of desert tortoise and other species with the implementation of the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan.

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Restoration/Reclamation Standards - Available by contacting the HCP Administration at (435) 634-5759.

Sensitive Species - Wildlife species, whose populations have been greatly depleted, and/or are declining in numbers, distribution, and/or habitat.

Take - To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, would, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The term "harm" is further defined to include acts that may result in significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Technical Committee (TC) - A committee established by the HCP to provide biological information on endangered, threatened, and candidate species to the HCP Administrator and the HCAC.

Winter den - A permanent structure that is inhabited by desert tortoise during hibernation. The winter den is either in solid rock or soil.

ADDRESSES AND CONTACTS

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Utah Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2369 West Orton Circle
West Valley City, Utah 84119
PH: 801 975-3330
FX: 801-975-3331

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bob Douglas, Biologist
St. George Field Office
345 E. Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790
PH: 435-688-3204

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Richard A. Fridell, Wildlife Biologist
Ann M. McLuckie, Wildlife Biologist
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
344 East Sunland Drive, # 8
St. George, Utah 84790
PH: 435-688-1426
C: 435-680-1062
FX: 435-688-1427

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Bill Mader, HCP Administrator
PH: 435-634-5759 ext.3

Lori Rose, HCP Biologist
Washington County HCP Administration
197 East Tabernacle Street
St. George, Utah 84770
PH: 435-634-5759 ext.2
Home: 435-635-1024
C: 435-467-5759
FX: 435-634-5758

Justin Neighbor, HCP Field Assistant
C: 435-467-5766