



Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Partnership

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Department of War
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- BNSF Railway Foundation

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than \$12 billion.

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Mojave desert tortoise

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) established the Desert Tortoise Recovery Partnership (DTRP) in 2020 through a cooperative agreement with the Department of the Navy. This agreement established a funding framework between NFWF and the Marine Corps Air Ground Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms for Mojave desert tortoise conservation under the Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP). A 10-year implementation plan guides investments to achieve conservation goals for the Mojave desert tortoise and its habitat in California's Mojave Desert, particularly the Western Mojave Recovery Unit.

In the first three award years of the program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Department of War, U.S. Army, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and BNSF Railway Foundation awarded eight tortoise conservation grants totaling \$6.2 million. The eight awards leveraged nearly \$5.8 million in grantee matching contributions for a total conservation impact of nearly \$12 million.

Selected projects will produce measurable outcomes for threatened Mojave desert tortoise in California's western Mojave Desert. The projects address the leading factors in Mojave desert tortoise decline such as habitat alteration and fragmentation and tortoise mortality. The primary goal of this program is to marshal resources in a coordinated manner to work to recover the species by protecting Mojave desert tortoises from threats and restoring critical habitat.

(continued)

2022 GRANTS**Assessing and Restoring Off-highway Vehicle Impacts on Conservation Lands (CA)**

Grantee: Transition Habitat Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$132,800

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$132,800

Continue ongoing restoration efforts in desert tortoise critical habitat units via an established off-highway vehicle program. Project will build on previous work and support more frequent monitoring visits to restoration sites as well as a U.S. Geological Survey research study to analyze the extent of soil decompaction from illegal riding off trails.

Mojave Desert Tortoise Habitat Restoration and Shared Stewardship Coordinator for the Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (CA)

Grantee: Mojave Desert Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$1,099,400

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,099,400

Conduct a restoration project focused on habitat improvement for Mojave desert tortoise in Western Mojave Recovery Unit focal areas identified by the Mojave Desert Tortoise RASP, to include ground assessment, customized restoration plans, closure of unauthorized routes and habitat restoration. Grantee will hire a dedicated coordinator to be co-located in the BLM's Barstow Field Office to coordinate RASP project implementation.

Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Implementation in the Ord-Rodman Focal Area (CA)

Grantee: Preservation Ranch

Grant Amount:..... \$1,200,000

Matching Funds:..... \$5,500,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$6,700,000

Work with the MCAGCC to implement a demonstration project within the 298,790-acre Preservation Ranch Pilot Project Area to support the Mojave Desert Tortoise RASP. Project will support habitat restoration efforts across 3,093 acres of BLM lands and 6.43 miles of unauthorized routes.

2023 GRANTS**Improving Density and Vital Rate Estimates for Mojave Desert Tortoises in the Western Mojave Recovery Unit (CA)**

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Grant Amount:..... \$857,000

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$857,000

Improve density and vital rate estimates for the federally threatened Mojave desert tortoise in the Western Mojave Recovery Unit using line-distance sampling and established demographic plot field surveys. The project will establish baselines to evaluate population trends and efficacy of funded RASP recovery actions toward improved management and conservation of this species.

Outreach and Land Acquisition to Benefit Tortoise Habitat in the Superior-Cronese Focal Areas (CA)

Grantee: Mojave Desert Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$585,100

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$585,100

Conduct outreach to private landowners and pilot acquisition of private inholdings within the Superior-Cronese focal areas in the West Mojave. The project will establish and expand defensible polygons for Mojave desert tortoise restoration efforts, support landscape-scale connectivity and prevent land-use impacts that threaten tortoise habitat.

Reducing Human-Tortoise Conflicts in the West Mojave (CA)

Grantee: The Living Desert

Grant Amount:..... \$488,500

Matching Funds:..... \$260,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$748,800

Conduct education, engagement and outreach to build on and expand prior successes of reducing activities harmful to tortoises and their habitat in the Mojave Desert. Project will engage children, outdoor recreationists and the military communities surrounding the Western Mojave Recovery Unit focal areas in the Barstow region.

2024 GRANTS**Acquisition of Tortoise Habitat in the RASP Focal Areas (CA)**

Grantee: Mojave Desert Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$1,561,800

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,561,800

Acquire private inholdings within the Mojave Desert Tortoise RASP focal areas. Project will help to establish large defensible tracts of tortoise habitat for future restoration efforts, support landscape-scale connectivity, and prevent land-use impacts that would threaten tortoise habitat.

Conserving Tortoise Habitat through Route Restoration in the Fremont-Kramer Focal Area (CA)

Grantee: Transition Habitat Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$279,600

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$279,600

Monitor legal off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes, identify and close unauthorized routes, restore habitat, install educational signage, engage in public outreach with OHV enthusiasts, and collect and propagate native seed for restoration efforts. Project will revitalize habitats for desert tortoises and bring an elevated awareness and understanding of tortoise conservation among the OHV-using community, fostering responsible recreational practices.