



California Mojave Recovery Implementation Team

Northeast CA Workgroup Webinar

Desert Tortoise Recovery Office
June 26, 2012

Goals for RIT Workgroup Webinar



- Introductions among workgroup members
- Improved familiarity among members with SDSS outputs for your workgroup: prioritized broad recovery action types for your areas
- Your suggestions for site-specific recovery actions via the Recovery Action Proposal Tool for use at the in-person RIT meeting → 5-Year Action Plan

Northeast CA Workgroup Webinar



Webinar Structure

1. Introductions

2. Updates & Timelines

3. Threats & Recovery Action Rankings

4. Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool

5. Next Steps



	Affiliation	Workgroup Members
Land Management	Death Valley National Park	Linda Manning
Land Management	Mojave National Preserve	Debra Hughson
Land Management	BLM, CA Desert District	Larry LaPre
Wildlife Management	California Department of Fish and Game	Becky Jones
Wildlife Management	USFWS	Brian Croft
Tribe	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	vacant
County	Inyo County	Bill Lamb
County	San Bernardino County	Matt Slowik
Conservation Biology		vacant
Conservation Organization	Defenders of Wildlife	Jeff Aardahl
Resource Use	RAIC (Ranching)	Ron Kemper
Recreation		vacant

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Updates



- RITs Orientation Webinars: Late-March
- FAQs from webinars sent out April 17th
- Review by RIT members of SDSS model and data: Model Explorer & Data Explorer (early-May)

*We received a total of 168 comments ;
>30 new GIS datasets; 10 new references*

- Comments & Responses sent out May 31st
- Revisions completed to SDSS & Explorers: June 15th

RIT Terms of Reference



Comments received:

- Representation and voting procedures
- FACA and ESA compliance
- Conflict of interest
- Charter & Terms of Reference consolidation
- Confidentiality and comment attribution
- RIT Scheduling and time commitment
- Recovery Plan implementation & funding
- Role of SDSS

Revised document under development; will be shared prior to in-person meeting

Recovery Implementation Teams



Timeline for 2012

- ✓ Overall Orientation: First Webinar in late-March
- ★ Workgroup-specific: Second Webinar in late-June
 - In-person Meeting late-fall to develop 5-Year Action Plans

CA Mojave RIT: Ontario or Barstow

Recovery Implementation Teams



What happens after the first year?

- ~ 2-3 webinars/meetings each year to:
 - Report on implementation
 - Track change in threats
 - Assess what's been learned
 - Re-evaluate action plan as necessary

Northeast CA Workgroup Webinar



Questions?



Northeast CA Workgroup Webinar



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Goal of 1st In-Person Meeting

Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup



- Your workgroup's recommendations for what specific actions should be undertaken for tortoise recovery in the next 5 years
- Provides guidance to agencies in their budgeting and planning processes
- Provides a prioritized menu of possible mitigation options which may be implemented as part of mitigation packages

Goal of 1st In-Person Meeting

Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup



BACKGROUND

SDSS

- I. Ranked threats for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region
- II. Ranked recovery action types for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region

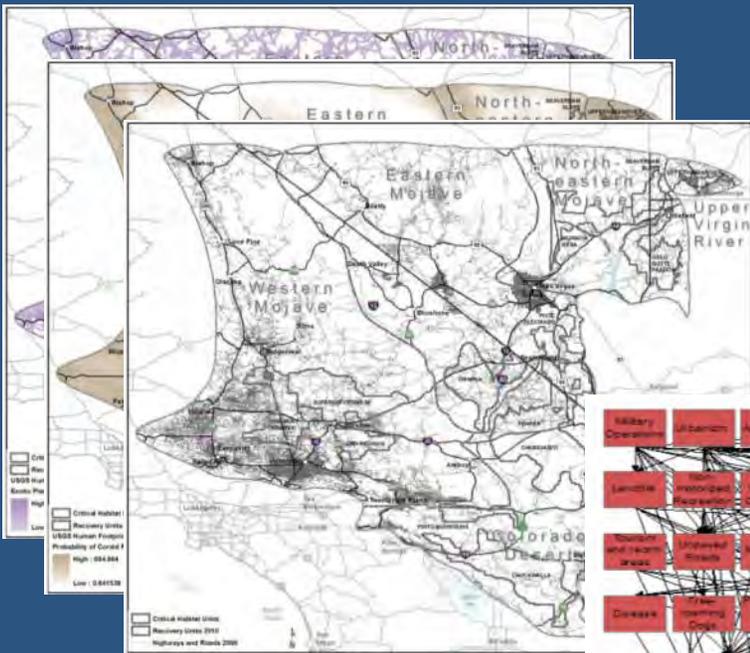
PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

- I. Prioritized site-specific recovery actions within ranked broad recovery action types

RITs

TRACKING & MONITORING PLAN

- I. Reporting requirements for recovery action implementation and maintenance
- II. Plan for supporting monitoring and research to assess action effectiveness



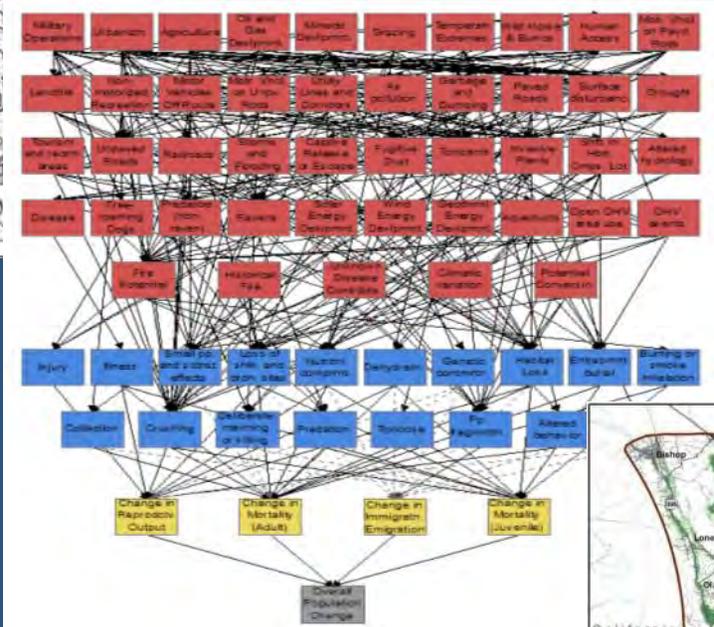
Spatial Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

Impact of Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

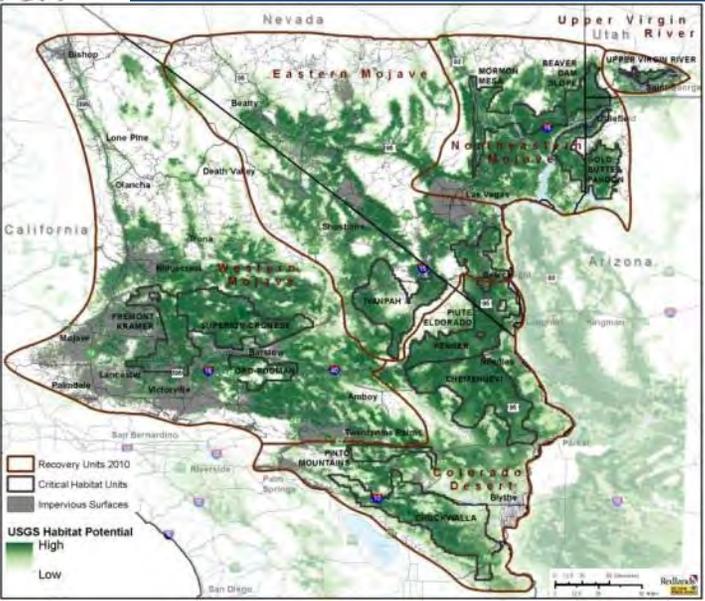
Risk to Population

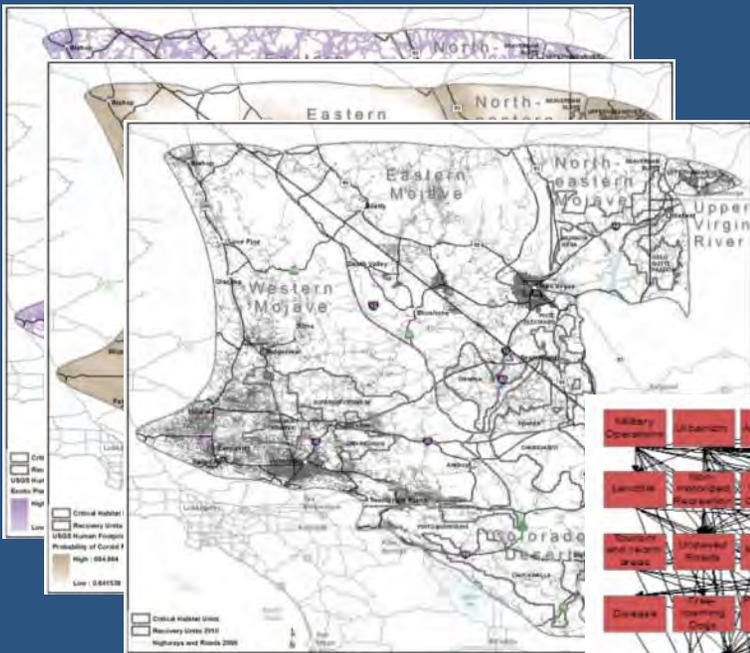


Spatial variation in threats

How threats effect tortoises

Where we expect tortoises to occur





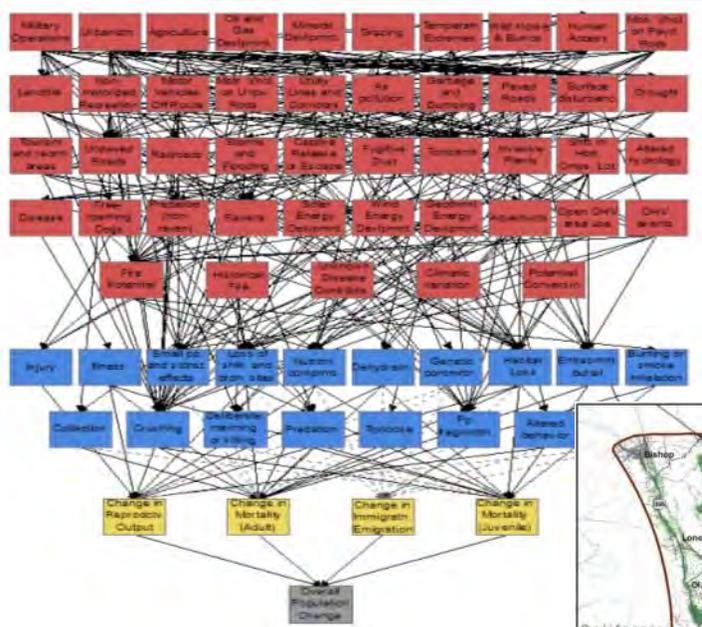
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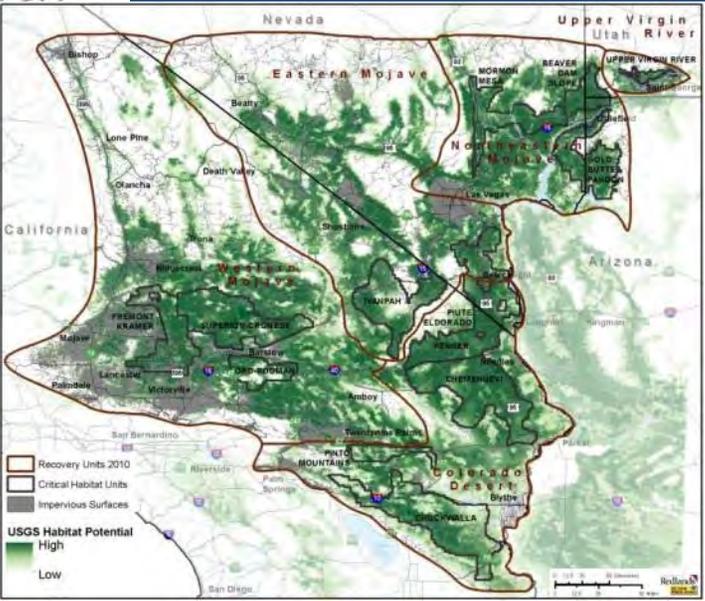
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Spatial variation in threats
Data Explorer

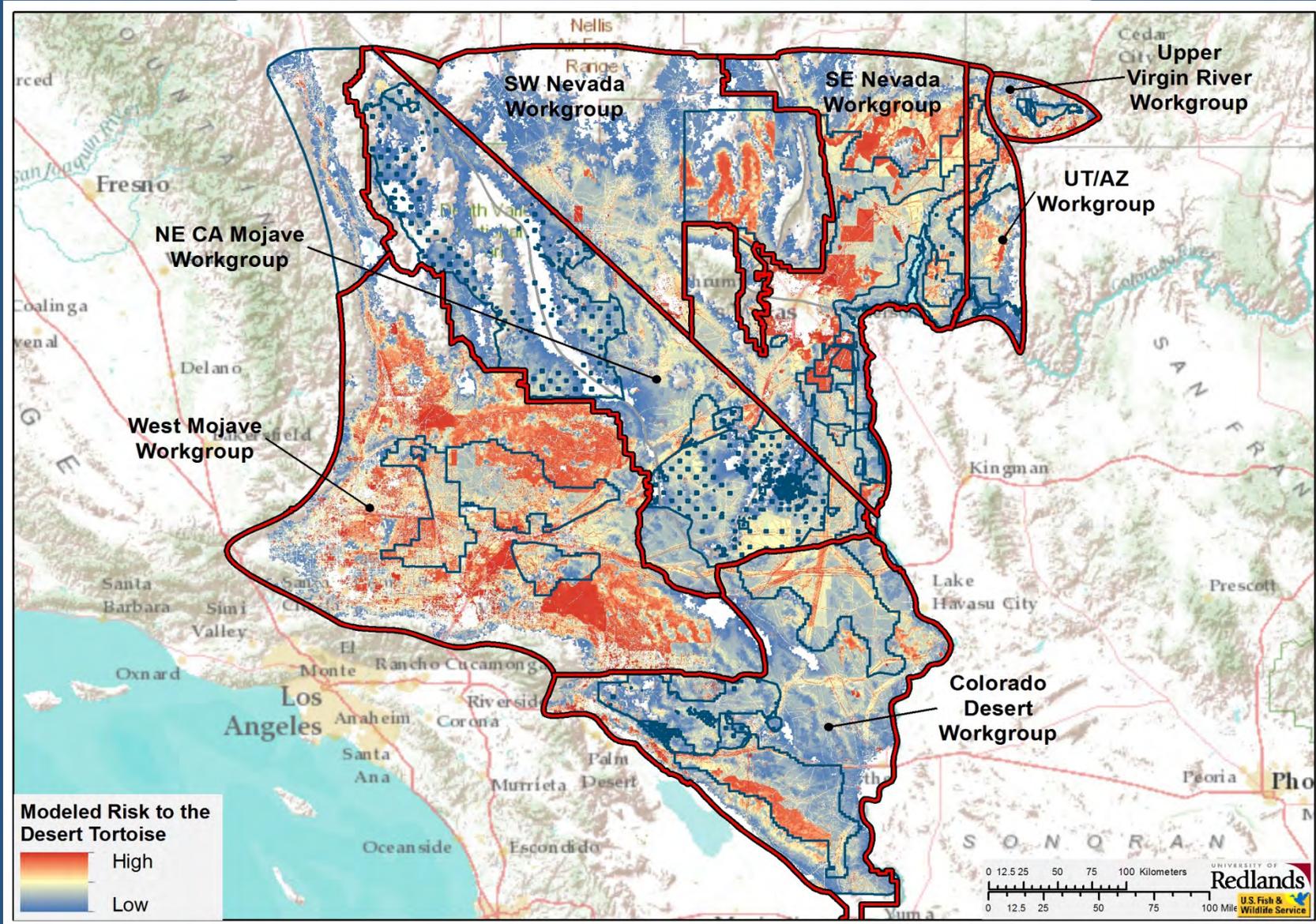
Revised based on RIT review!

How threats effect tortoises
Model Explorer



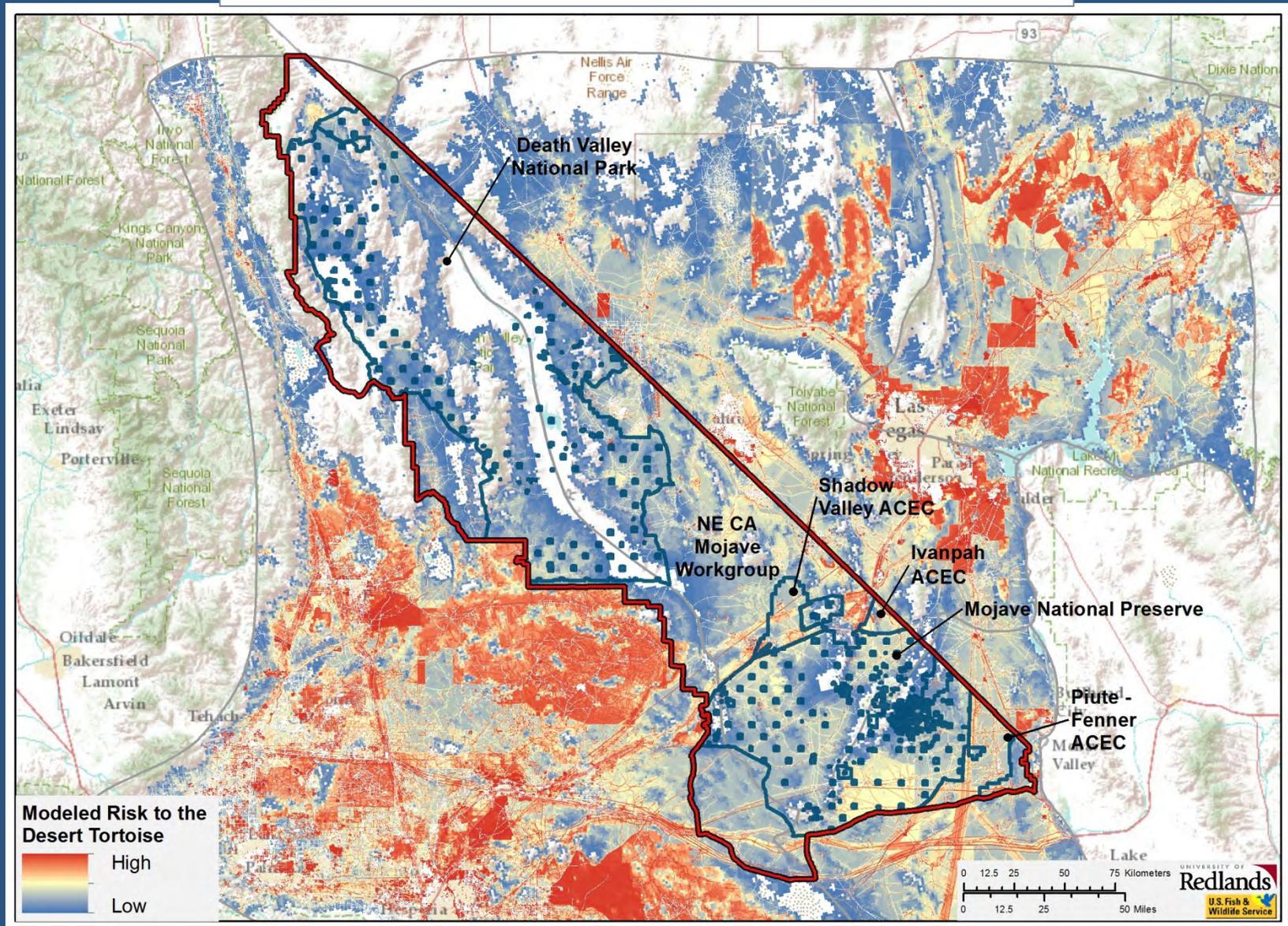
Where we expect tortoises to occur

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises

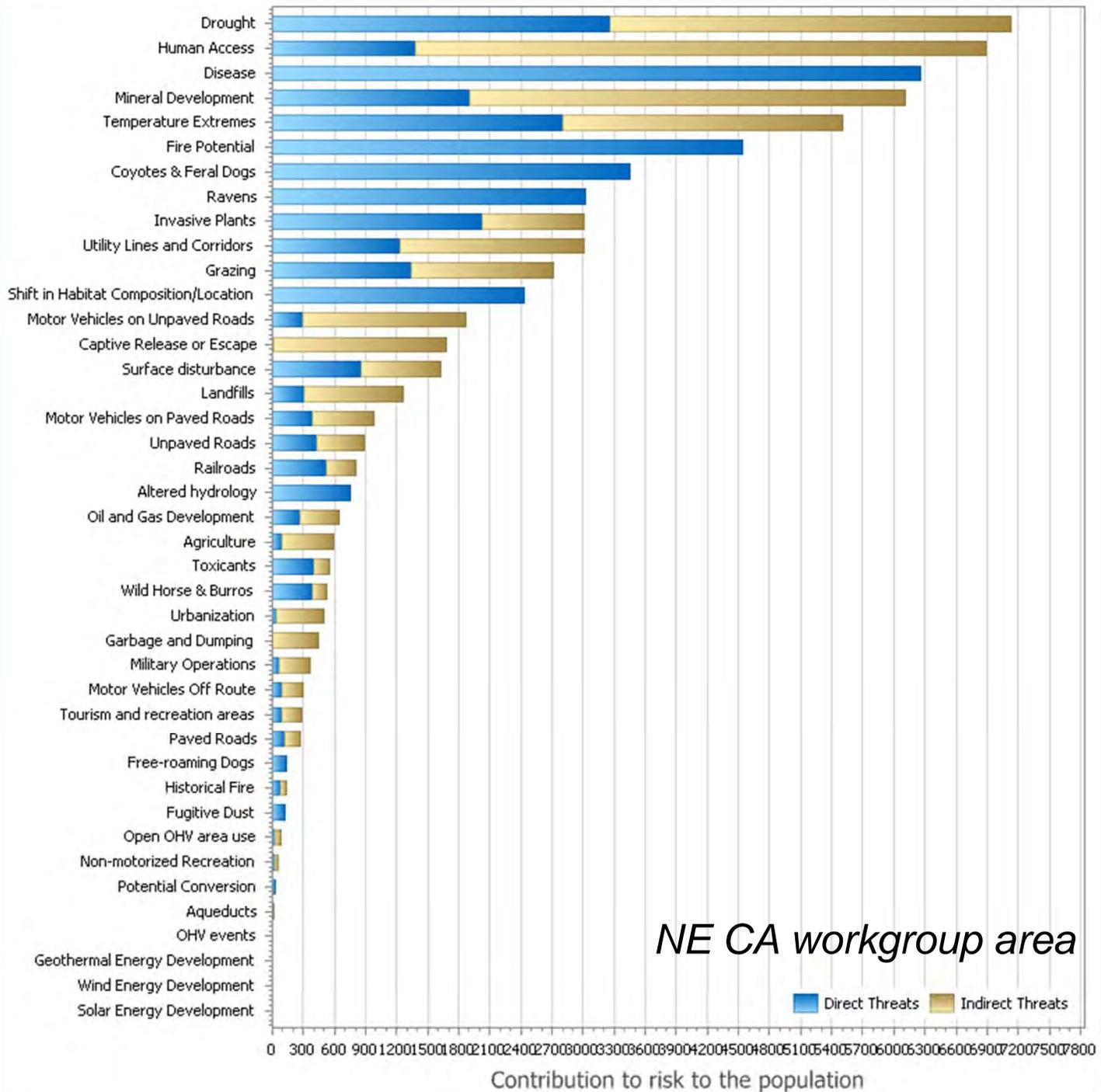


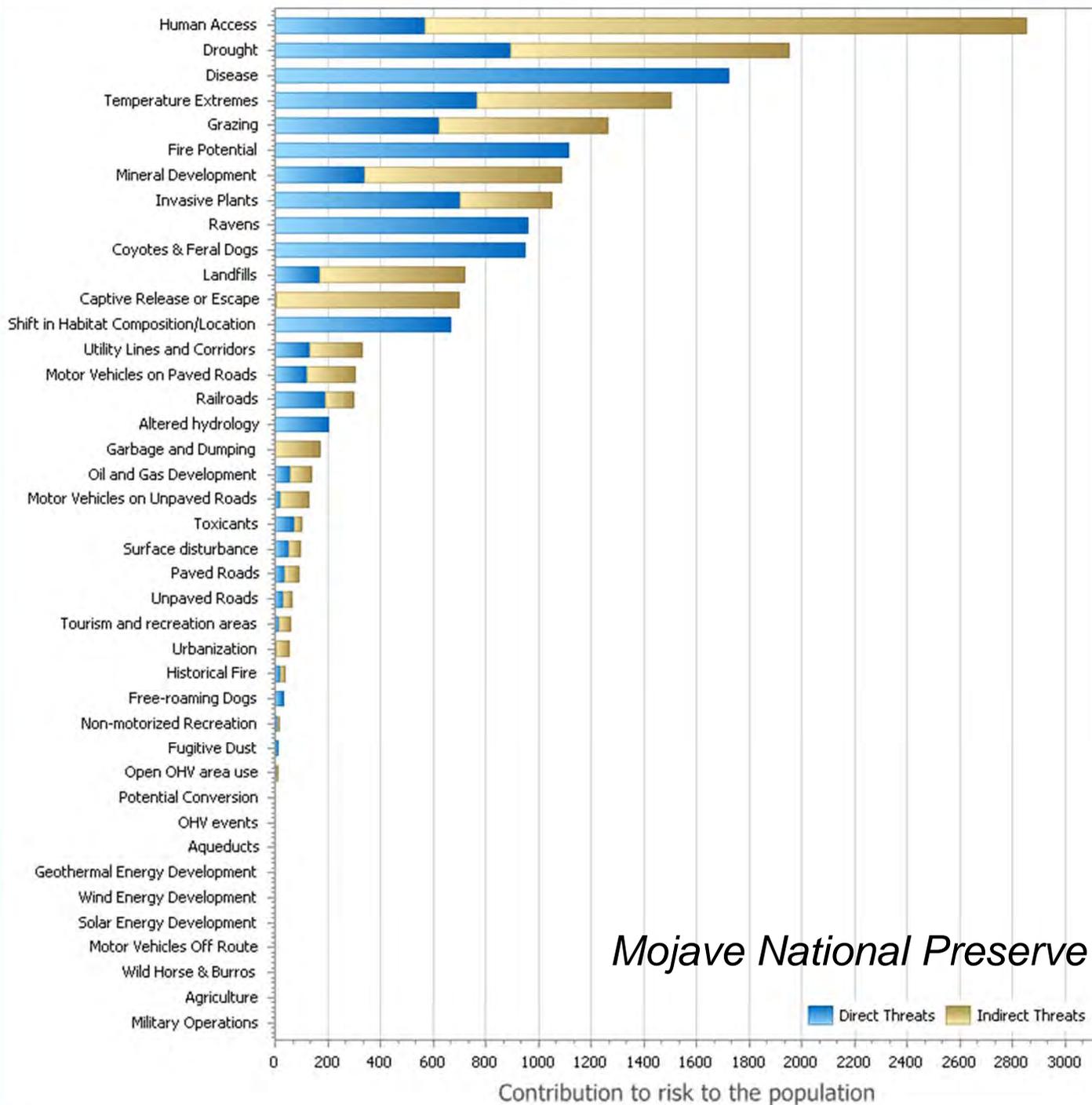
Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises



Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise



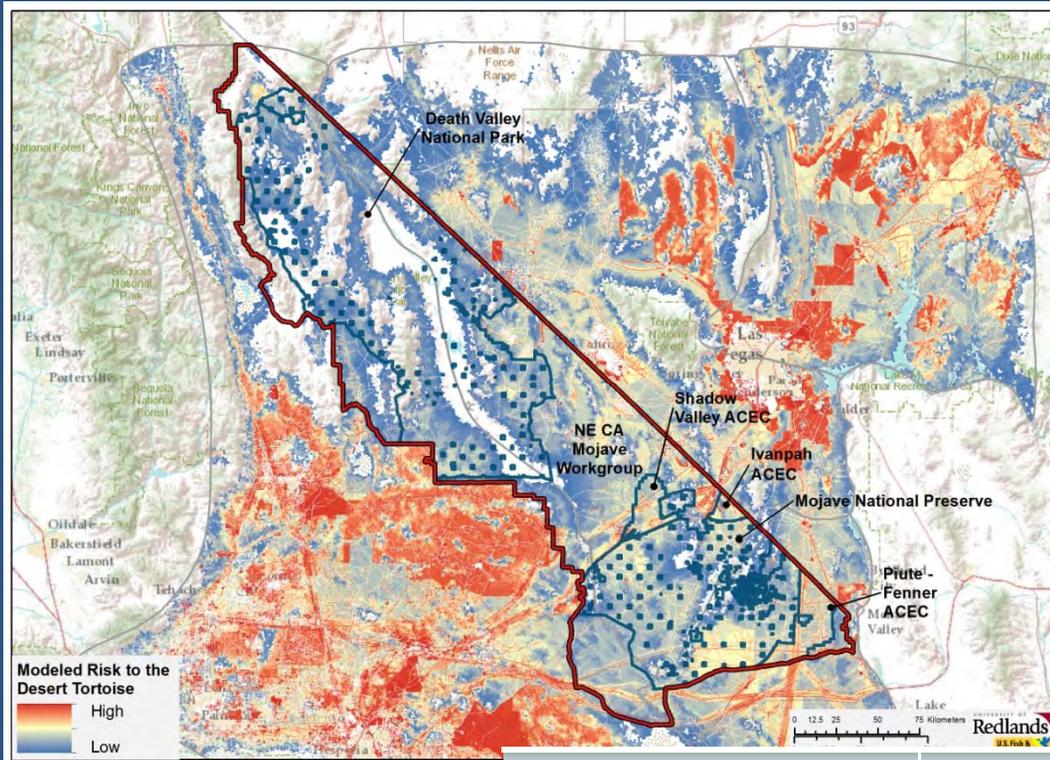


Rank	Northeast California Mojave	Death Valley National Park	Ivanpah (ACEC)	Mojave National Preserve	Piute - Fenner (ACEC)	Shadow Valley (ACEC)
1	Drought	Drought	Human Access	Human Access	Utility Lines and Corridors	Human Access
2	Human Access	Disease	Grazing	Drought	Motor Vehicles on Unpaved Roads	Utility Lines and Corridors
3	Disease	Temperature Extremes	Railroads	Disease	Drought	Mineral Development
4	Mineral Development	Fire Potential	Drought	Temperature Extremes	Disease	Drought
5	Temperature Extremes	Mineral Development	Disease	Grazing	Human Access	Disease
6	Fire Potential	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Motor Vehicles Off Route	Fire Potential	Mineral Development	Temperature Extremes
7	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Shift in Habitat Composition/Location	Temperature Extremes	Mineral Development	Temperature Extremes	Captive Release or Escape
8	Ravens	Human Access	Captive Release or Escape	Invasive Plants	Invasive Plants	Motor Vehicles on Unpaved Roads
9	Invasive Plants	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Fire Potential
10	Utility Lines and Corridors	Invasive Plants	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Railroads	Ravens

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Risk to Population

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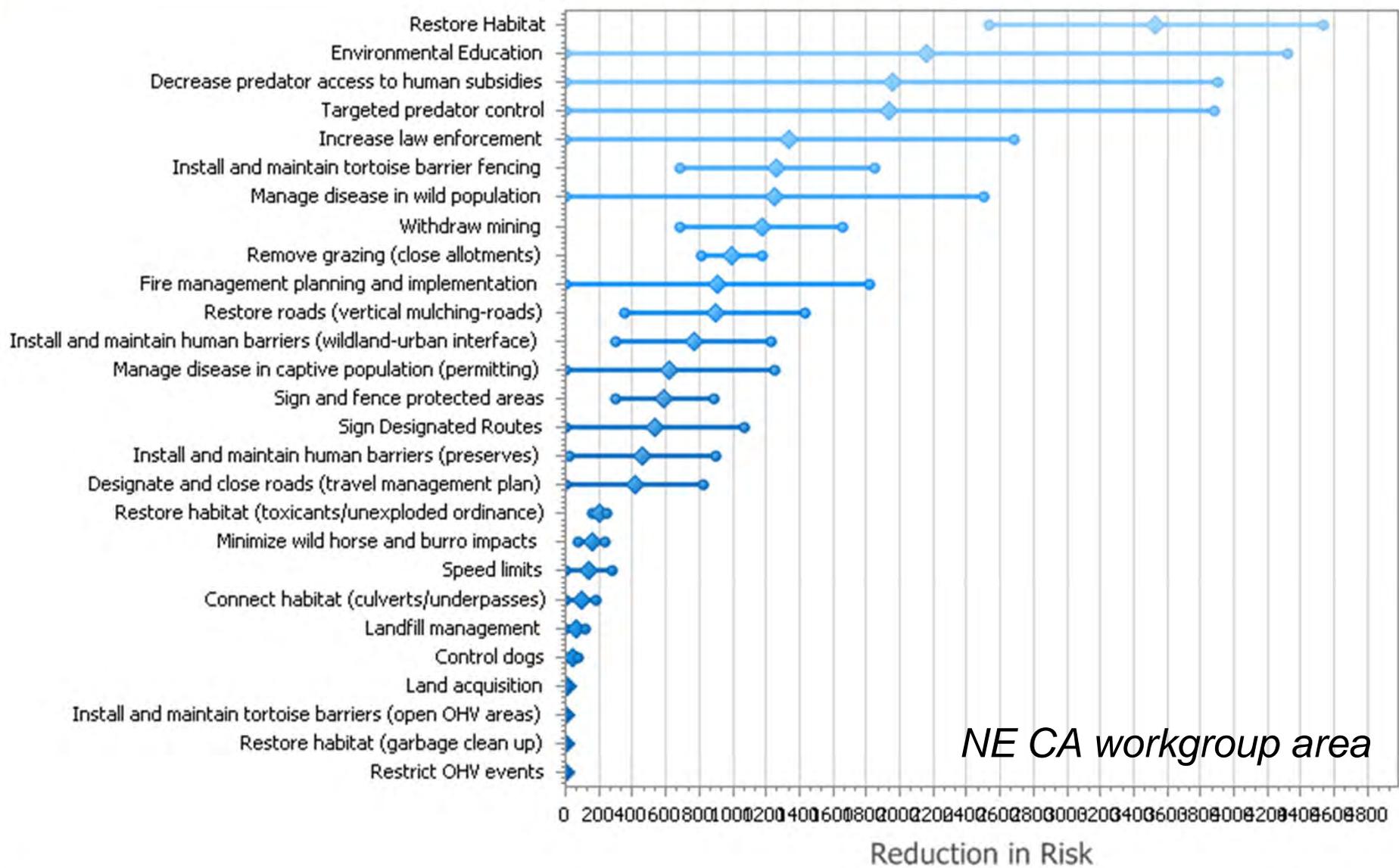


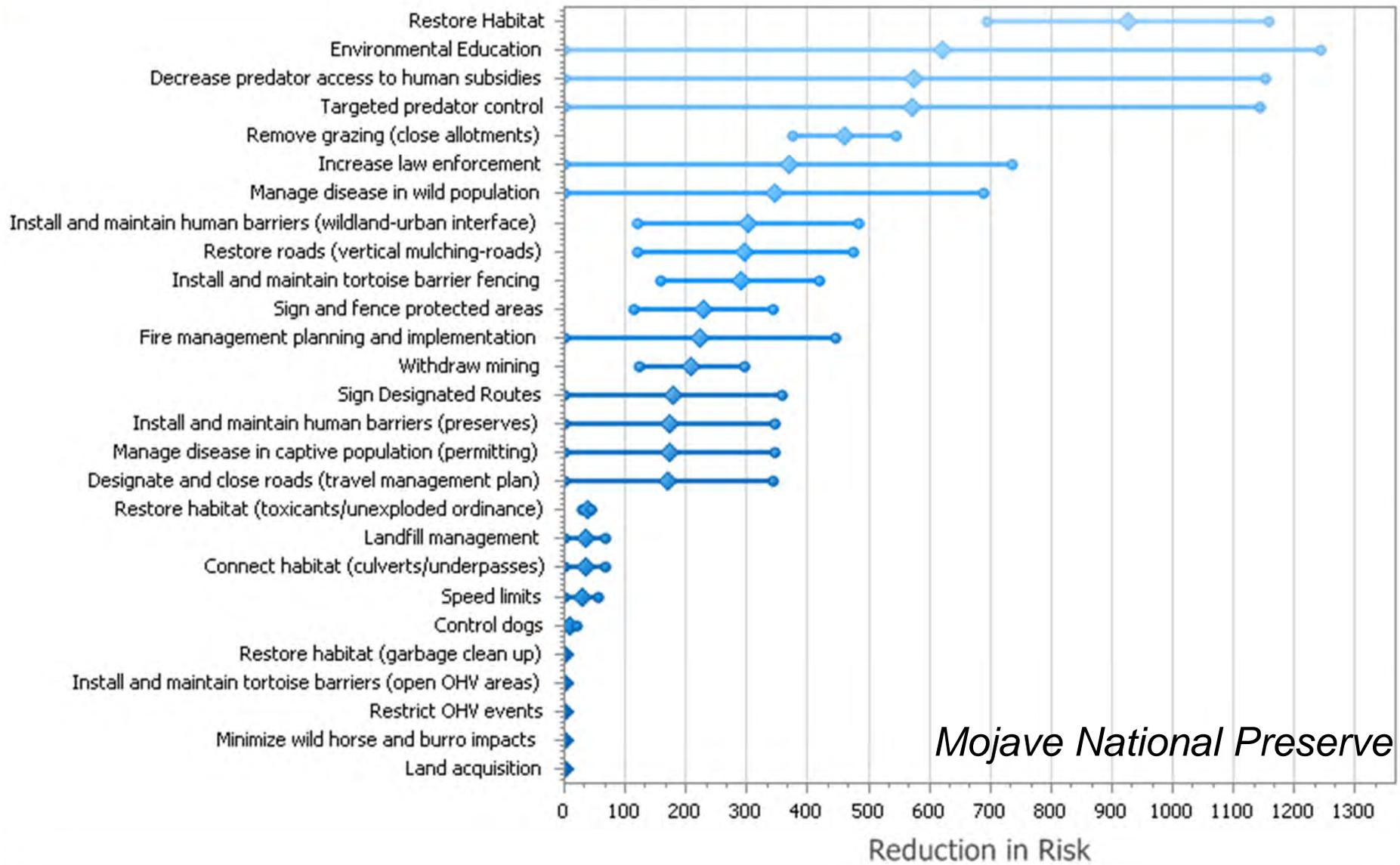
Action Effectiveness

Aggregate Population Risk

Recovery Action Types/ Threat–Stress	Predation– Ravens	Crushing–Cars on Paved Roads	Collection– Human access	Nutritional comp–Invasive Plants
Designate & Close Routes	0	0	3	0
Install & Maintain Tortoise fencing	0	5	0	0
Environmental Education	1	2	3	0
Decrease Predator Access to Subsidies	3	0	0	0
Increase Law enforcement	0	2	2	0
Habitat Restoration	0	0	0	4

Estimates how individual recovery actions effect threat–stress links





Mojave National Preserve

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2	Environmental Education	Environmental Education	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Environmental Education	Install and maintain tortoise fencing	Environmental Education
3	Decrease predator access to subsidies	Decrease predator access to human subsidies	Restore roads (vertical mulching-roads)	Decrease predator access to subsidies	Decrease predator access to subsidies	Restore roads (vertical mulching)
4	Targeted predator control	Targeted predator control	Environmental Education	Targeted predator control	Targeted predator control	Withdraw mining
5	Increase law enforcement	Manage disease in wild population	Decrease predator access to subsidies	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Environmental Education	Install and maintain tortoise fencing
6	Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing	Increase law enforcement	Targeted predator control	Increase law enforcement	Increase law enforcement	Decrease predator access to subsidies
7	Manage disease in wild population	Fire management planning and implementation	Sign and fence protected areas	Manage disease in wild population	Manage disease in wild population	Targeted predator control
8	Withdraw mining	Withdraw mining	Install and maintain human barriers (WUI)	Install and maintain human barriers (WUI)	Restore roads (vertical mulching)	Install and maintain human barriers (WUI)
9	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Manage disease in captive population (permitting)	Install maintain human barriers (preserves)	Restore roads (vertical mulching-)	Withdraw mining	Increase law enforcement
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Goal of 1st In-Person Meeting

Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup



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- I. Ranked threats for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region
- II. Ranked recovery action types for workgroup's tortoise conservation areas & region

PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

- I. Prioritized site-specific recovery actions within ranked broad recovery action types

RITs

TRACKING & MONITORING PLAN

- I. Reporting requirements for recovery action implementation and maintenance
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Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool



Recovery Action Proposal Tool - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Recovery Action Proposal Tool

www.spatial.redlands.edu/dtro/rit/ProposalTool.aspx?wg=3

Desert Tortoise Recovery RA Proposal Tool

data explorer model explorer

Welcome cat_darst@fws.gov | [Logout](#)

Welcome to the Recovery Action Proposal Tool. Use this site to propose specific actions that you think should be implemented for desert tortoise recovery in the next five years. Actions are submitted under the associated recovery action type, which are listed in order of expected benefit to tortoise recovery. Please spend more of your effort developing proposals for highly ranked action types, also considering the range of effectiveness indicated in the chart associated with each planning area. Although less effective action types are accessible here, due to the low return estimated for these actions, it is not expected that they will be adopted by the workgroup without particular justification, such as being important preconditions for future implementation of higher priority recovery actions. For each proposed action, please provide the specific location, area, and/or number of activities. Please provide enough detail about what should be implemented and where, so that all proposals can be easily assessed by your workgroup during the prioritization process.

You are a member of multiple workgroups. Please select a workgroup:

West Mojave Upper Virgin River **Northeast California Mojave** Utah/Arizona Southwest Nevada Colorado Desert Southeast Nevada

Workgroup: Northeast California Mojave

[Click here to see a table comparing top ranked threats and recovery action types](#)

Select an area:

- ▶ **Death Valley National Park**
- Ivanpah (ACEC)
- Mojave National Preserve
- Piute - Fenner (ACEC)
- Shadow Valley (ACEC)
- Northeast California Mojave



Ranked recovery action types for Death Valley National Park

Recovery action types below are ranked based on their expected ability to decrease risk to the tortoise in Death Valley National Park. Please type your specific proposals for actions within this tortoise conservation area below the action type, one action at a time. For each proposed action, please provide details to describe location, area, and/or number of activities.

[Click here to see the chart of ranked threats and recovery action types for this area](#)

1) Environmental Education	(no proposed actions)
2) Increase law enforcement	(no proposed actions)
3) Restore Habitat	(no proposed actions)
4) Fire management planning and implementation	(no proposed actions)
5) Withdraw mining	(no proposed actions)

<http://www.spatial.redlands.edu/dtro/rit/proposaltool.aspx>

Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool



Examples of the necessary specificity for proposed recovery actions in the RA Proposal Tool

- 1.) **Habitat Restoration:** Removal of invasive weeds or non-native plant species in the south-central swath of Mojave National Preserve within five 40-acre plots; create "fertile islands" to act as seed banks from which native plants can disperse
- 2.) **Install & Maintain Tortoise Barrier Fencing:** Install ~20 miles of desert tortoise barrier fencing along each side of Highway 247 between the Mojave National Preserve's Barstow Office and the Lucerne Valley Cutoff Road
- 3.) **Increase Law Enforcement:** Fund two dedicated law enforcement officers to patrol the Gold Butte Pakoona ACEC
- 4.) **Restore roads:** Identify and close all unauthorized (i.e., not designated as "open" on BLMs travel management plan) routes within the Ivanpah DWMA through use of vertical mulching or vehicle barriers (~50 miles)
- 5.) **Remove grazing:** Purchase the base property for the Lazy Daisy allotment (~310,000 acres) and retire the allotment's grazing permit

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Next Steps



- **Deadline:** August 10th → when workgroup members need to have actions submitted to RA Proposal Tool
- Chris & Cat are available if you have questions as you enter specific actions in the RA Proposal Tool
- In-person Meeting: Late-Fall → options: end of October or beginning of December
- Look for follow-up email from us with doodle poll for in-person meeting dates!