



North-East Mojave Recovery Implementation Team

SW Nevada 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

SW Nevada Workgroup Webinar



Webinar Structure

1. Introductions

2. Updates & Timelines

3. Threats & Recovery Action Rankings

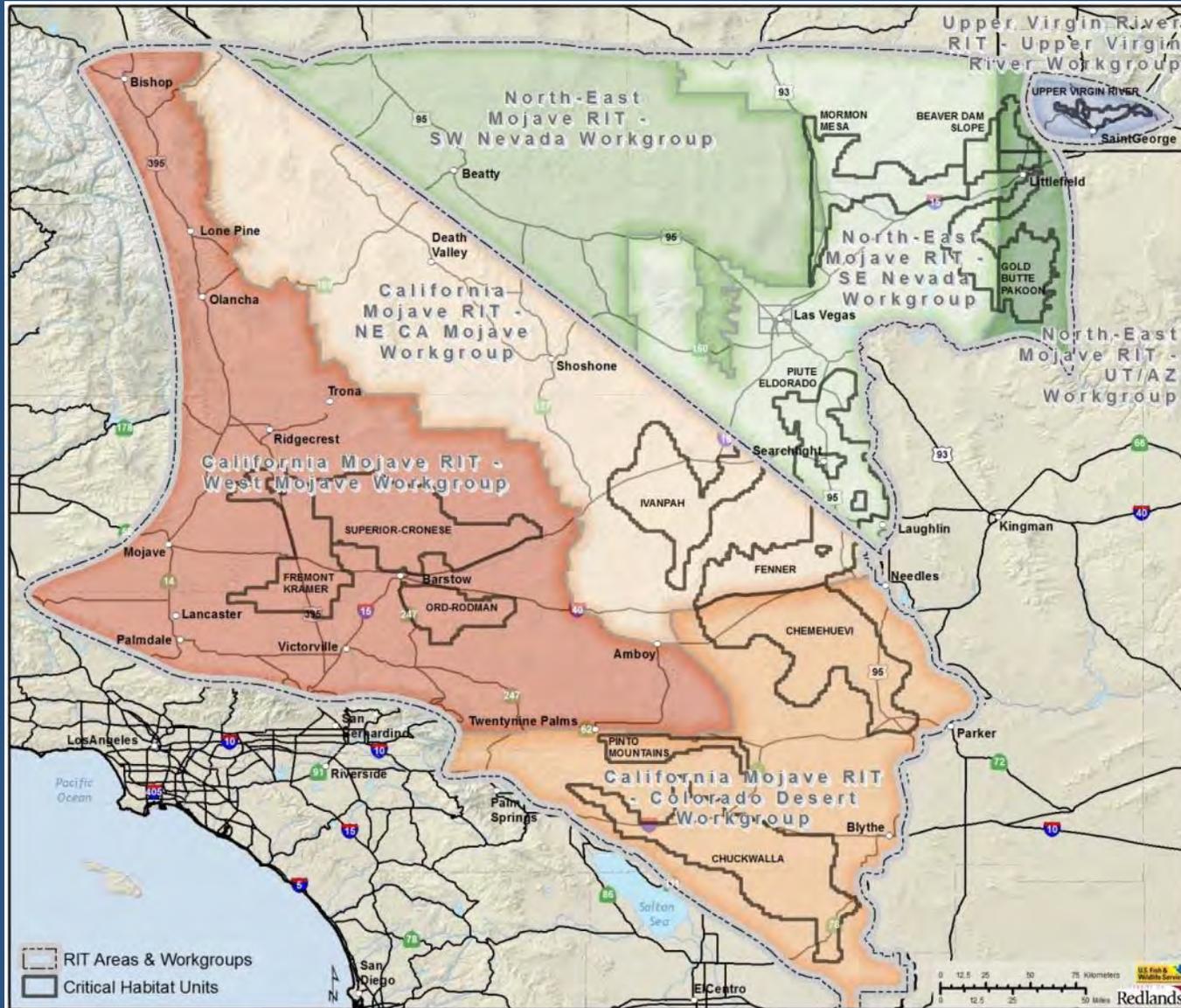
4. Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool

5. Next Steps

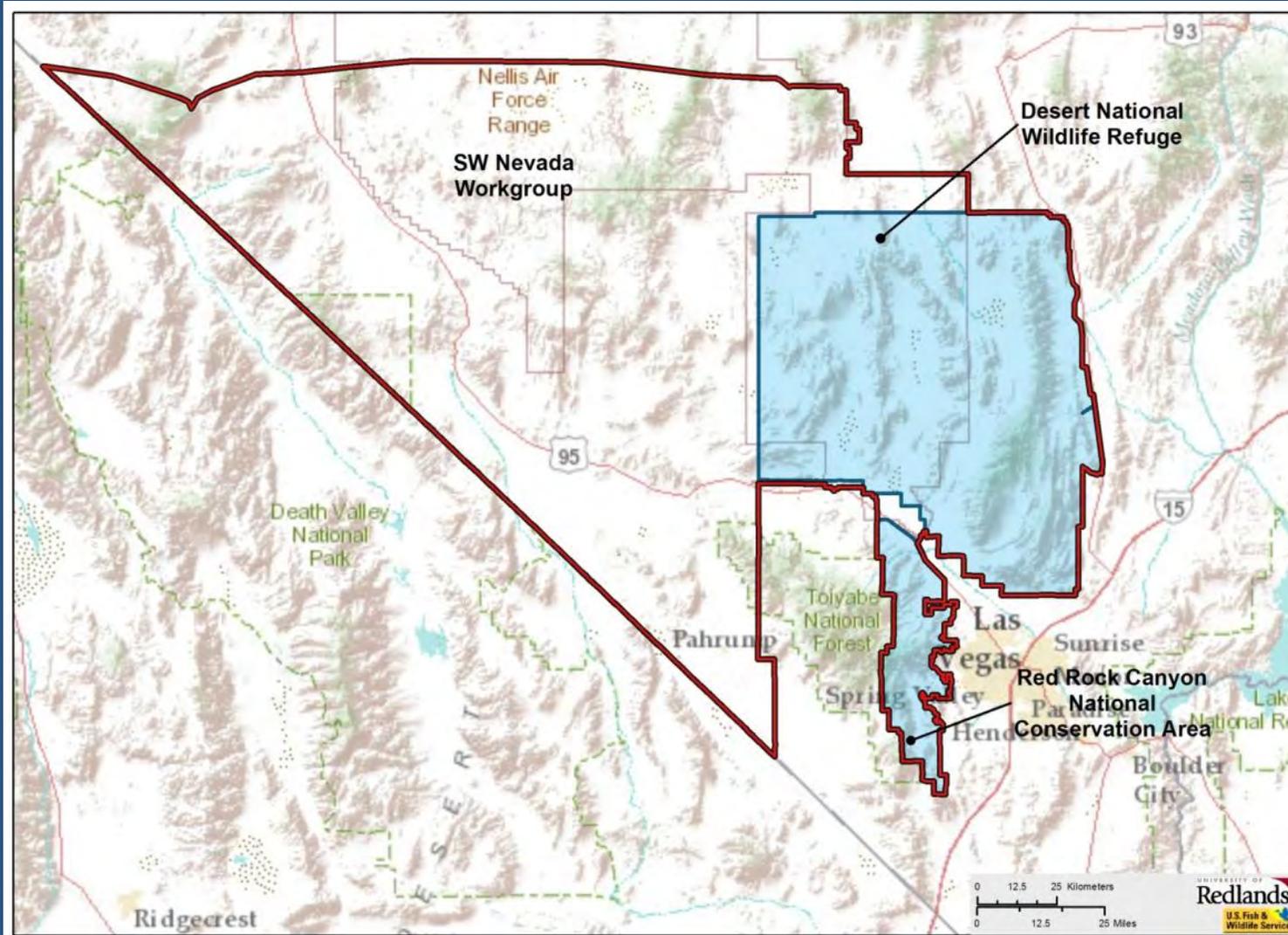


	Affiliation	Workgroup Members
Land Management	BLM, Tonopah Field Office	Dustin Hollowey
Land Management	BLM, Las Vegas Field Office	Jessica Stegmeier
Land Management	U.S. Air Force, Nellis	Bob Turner
Wildlife Management	Nevada Department of Wildlife	vacant
Wildlife Management	USFWS	Brian Novosak
Tribe	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	vacant
County	Nye County	Levi Kryder
Conservation Biology		vacant
Conservation Organization	The Nature Conservancy	Jim Moore
Resource Use		vacant
Recreation	Southern Nevada Land Cruisers	Michael Voegele

Recovery Implementation Teams



SW NV Workgroup Study Area



SW Nevada Workgroup Webinar



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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

NE Mojave RIT: Las Vegas

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

SW Nevada Workgroup Webinar



Questions?



SW Nevada 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

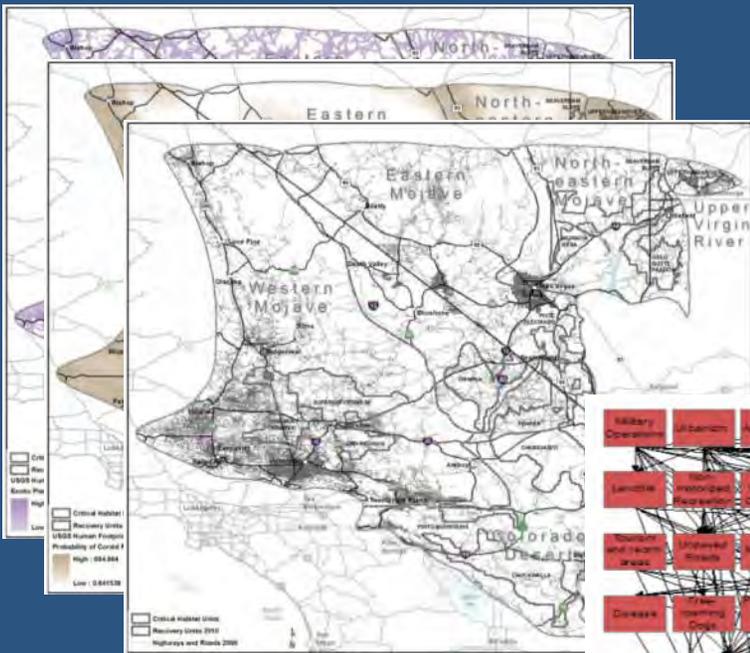
PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

- 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



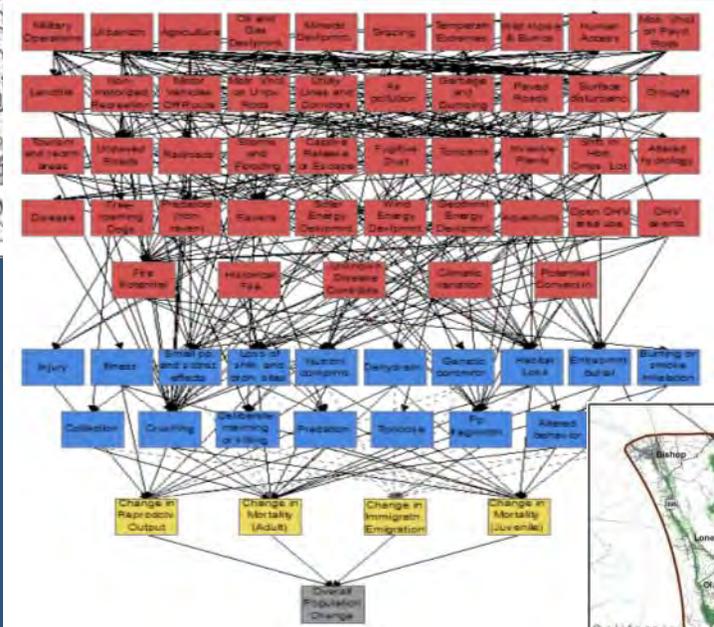
Spatial Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

Impact of Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

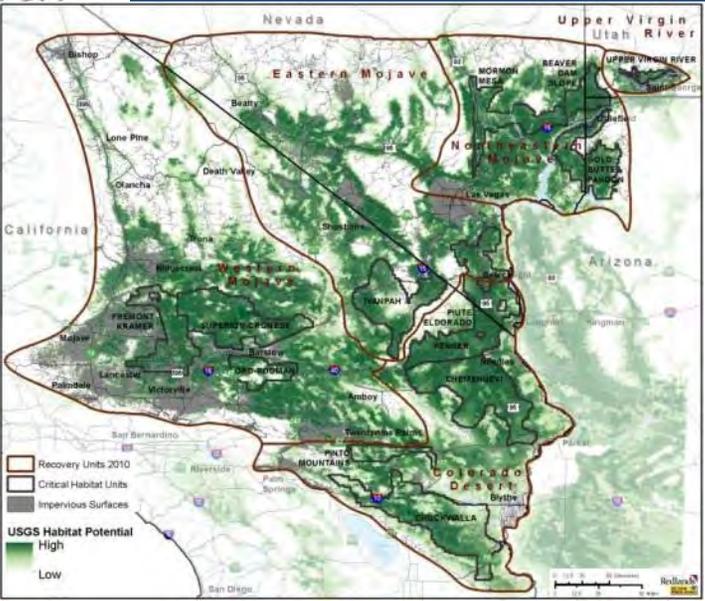
Risk to Population

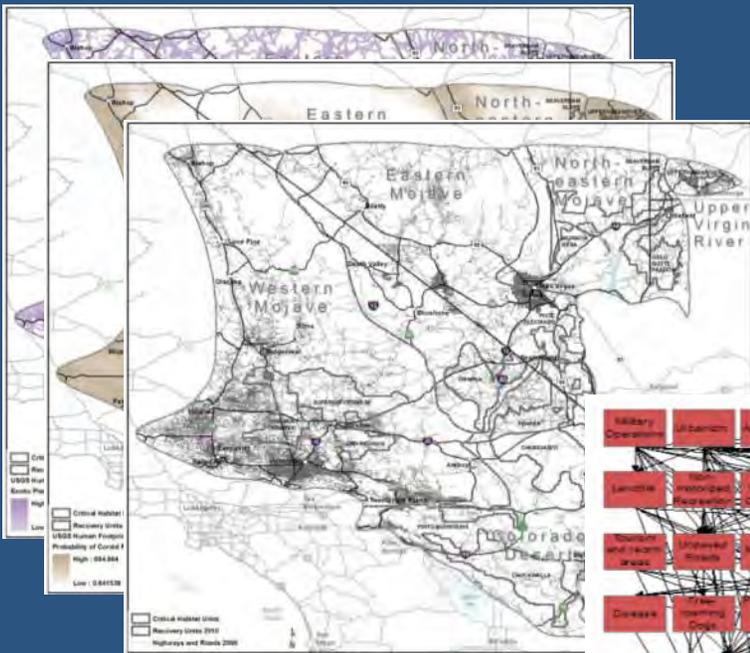


Spatial variation in threats

How threats effect tortoises

Where we expect tortoises to occur





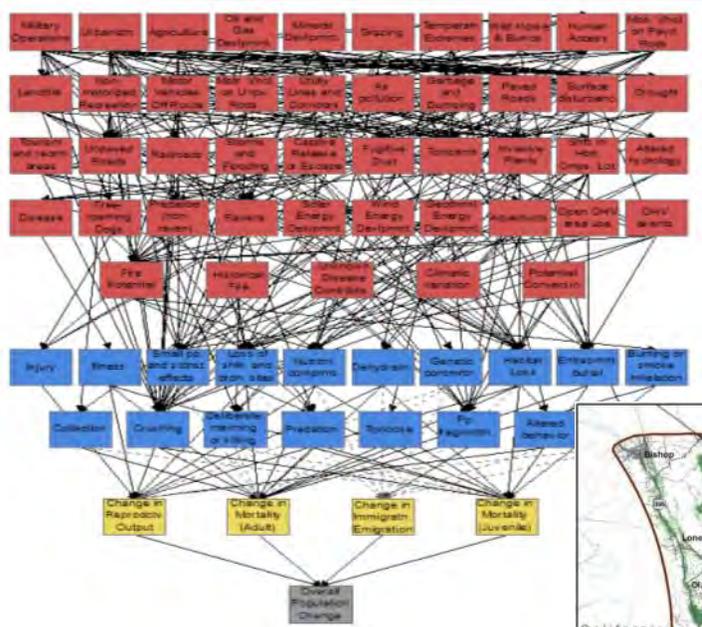
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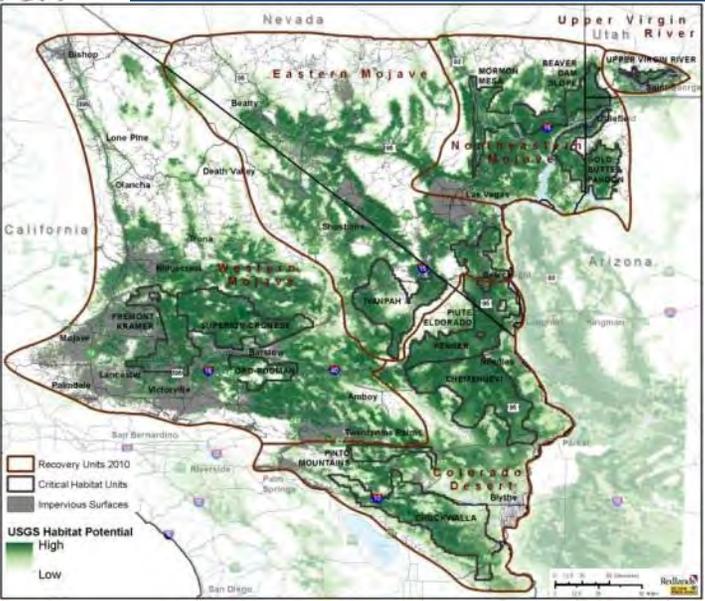
Risk to Population



Spatial variation in threats
Data Explorer

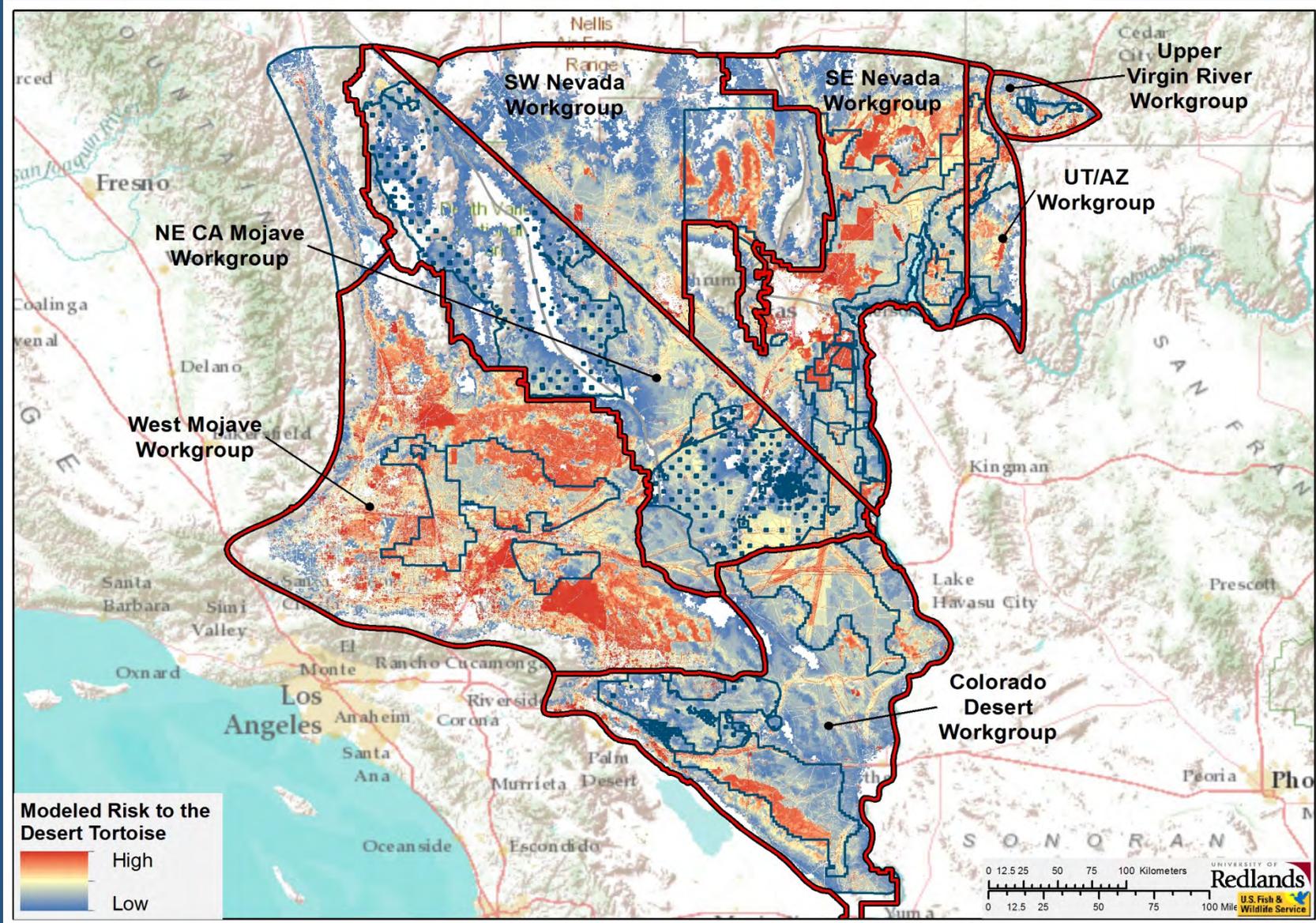
Revised based on RIT review!

How threats effect tortoises
Model Explorer



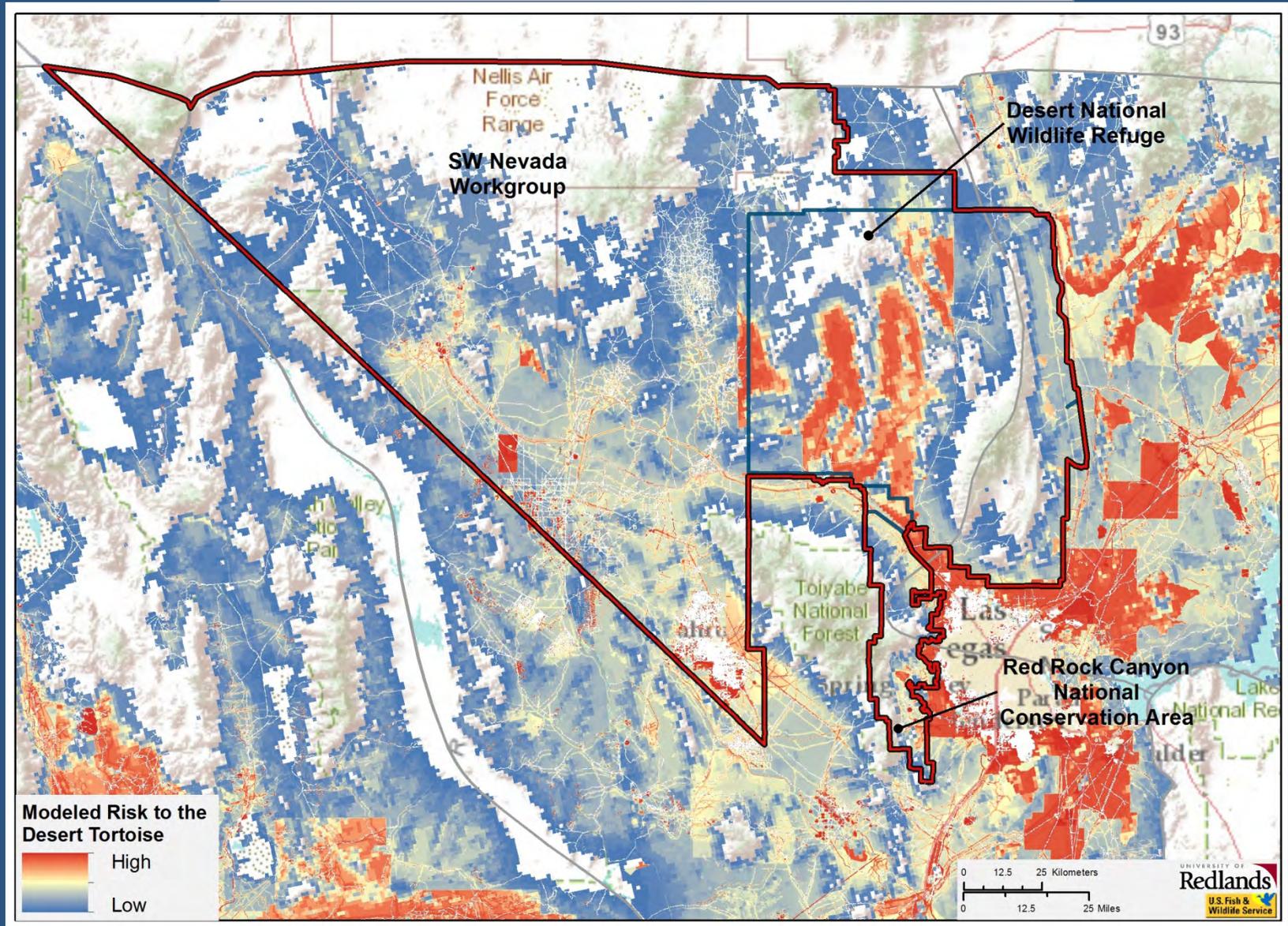
Where we expect tortoises to occur

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises

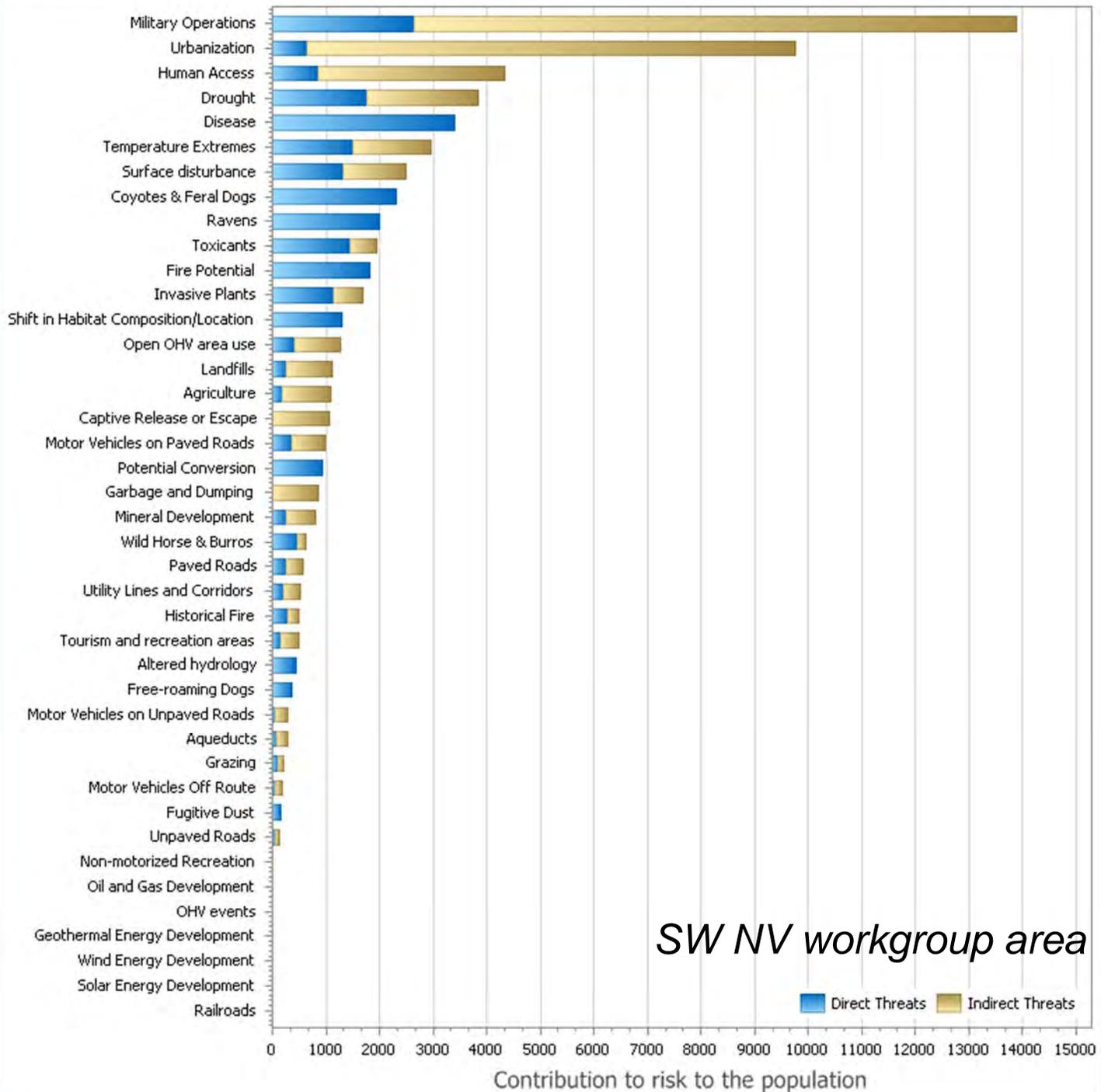


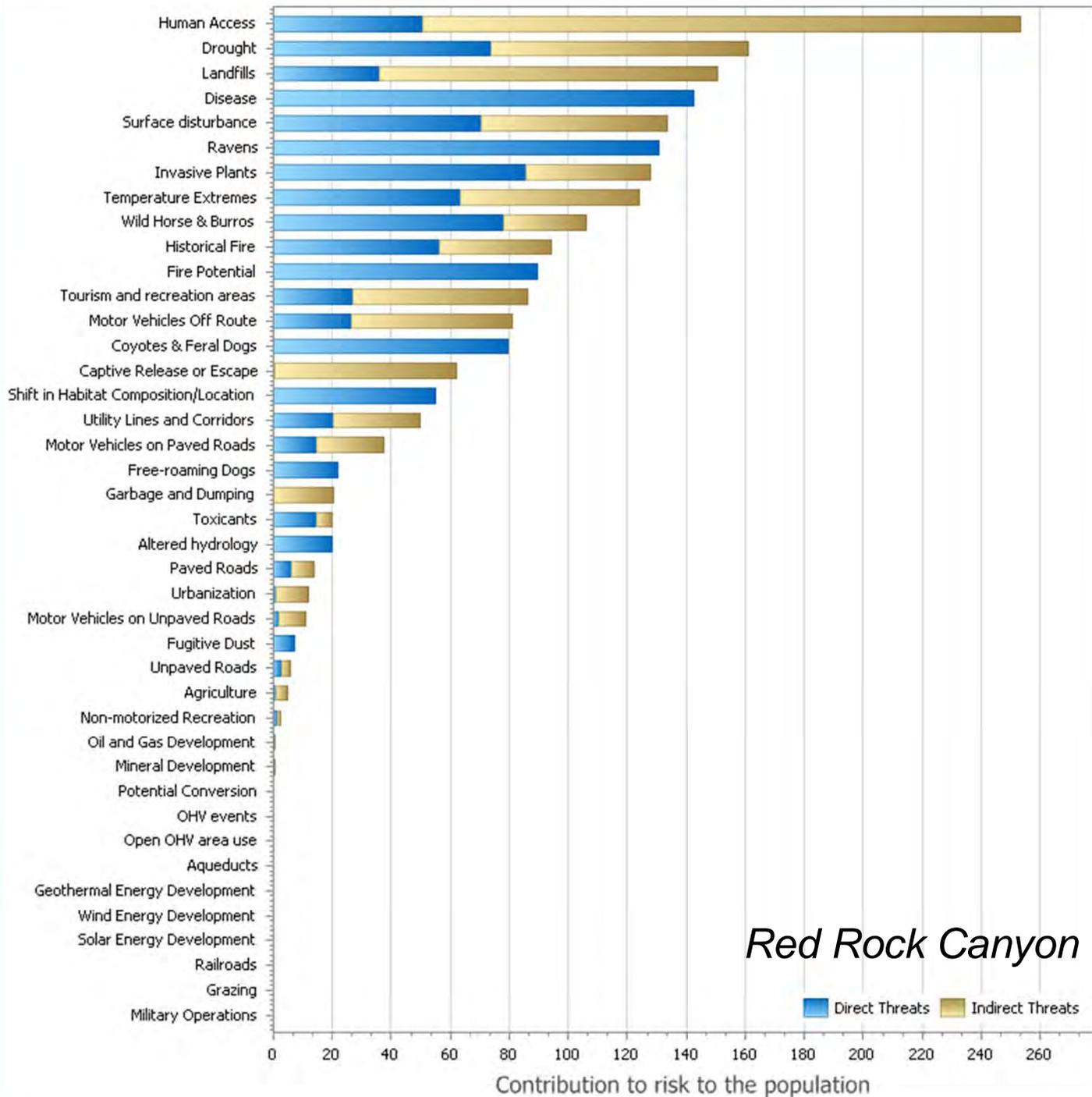
Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises



Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise



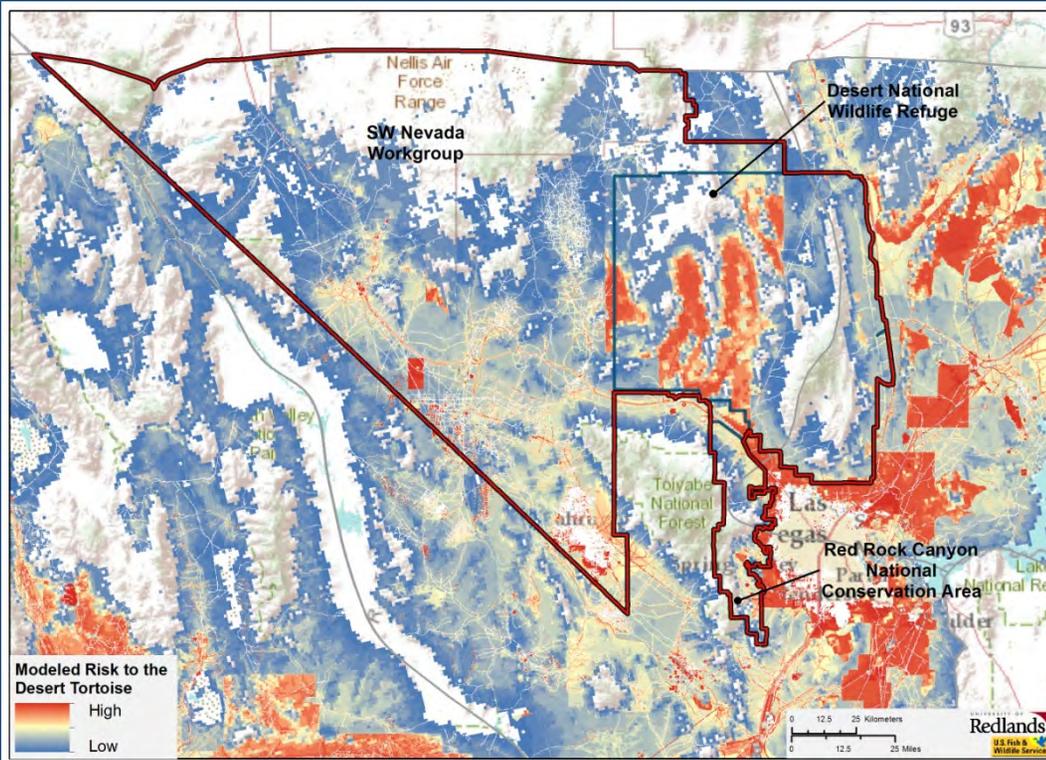


Rank	Southwest Nevada	Desert National Wildlife Refuge	Red Rock Canyon (NCA)
1	Military Operations	Military Operations	Human Access
2	Urbanization	Urbanization	Drought
3	Human Access	Human Access	Landfills
4	Drought	Toxicants	Disease
5	Disease	Drought	Surface disturbance
6	Temperature Extremes	Surface disturbance	Ravens
7	Surface disturbance	Disease	Invasive Plants
8	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Temperature Extremes	Temperature Extremes
9	Ravens	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Wild Horse & Burros
10	Toxicants	Potential Conversion	Historical Fire

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Risk to Population

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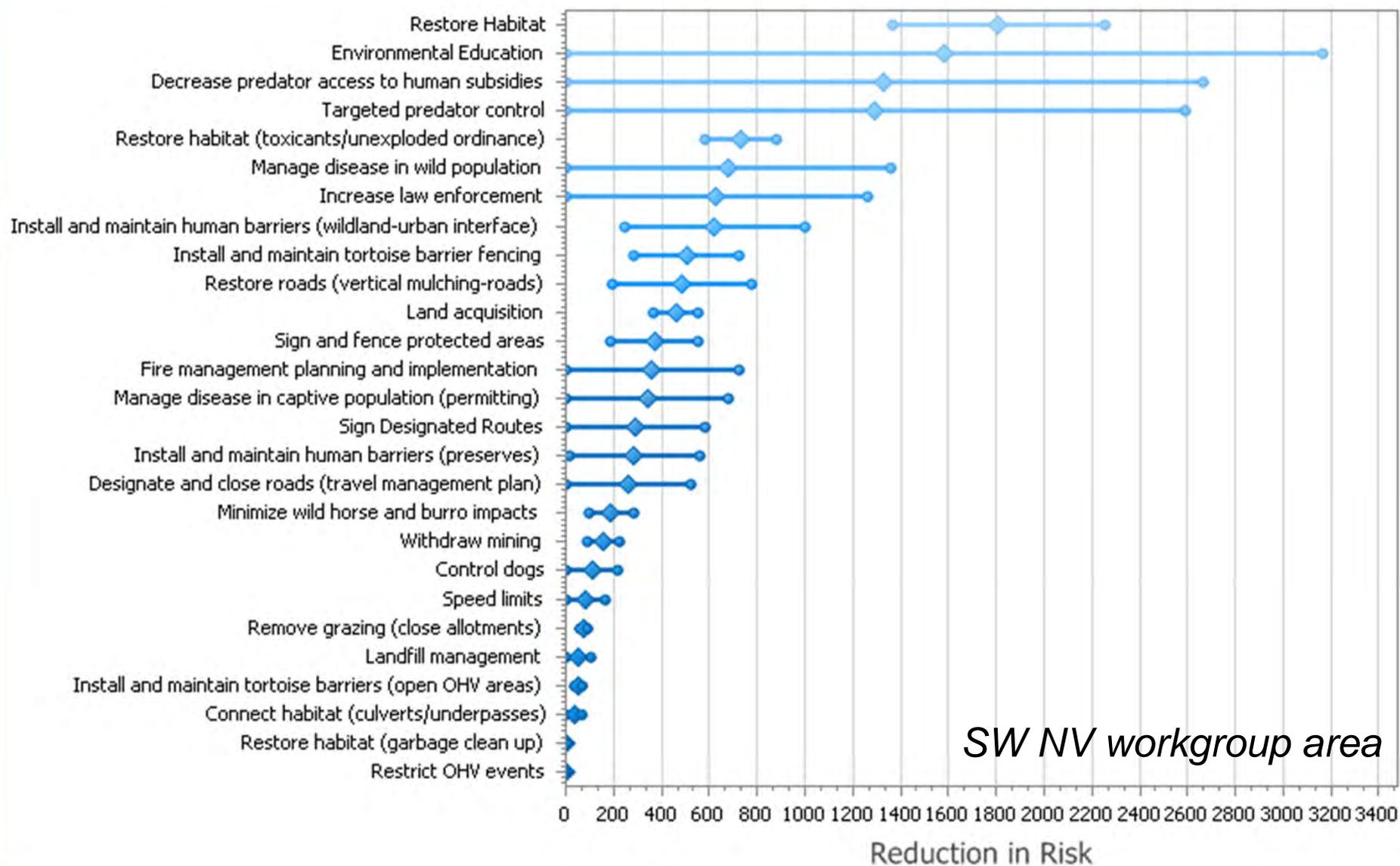


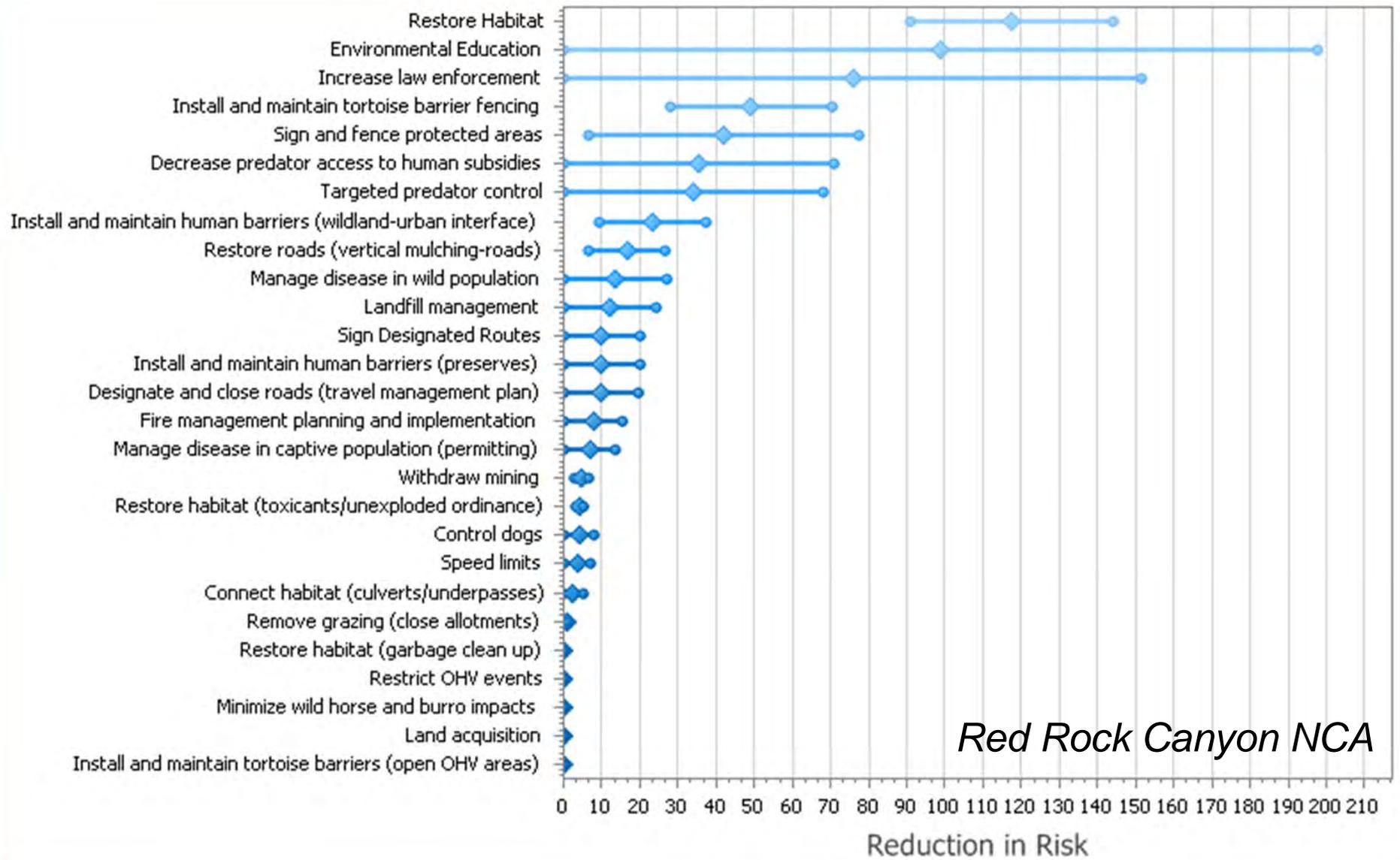
Action Effectiveness

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





Rank	Southwest Nevada	Desert National Wildlife Refuge	Red Rock Canyon (NCA)
1	Restore Habitat	Environmental Education	Restore Habitat
2	Environmental Education	Restore Habitat	Environmental Education
3	Decrease predator access to human subsidies	Restore habitat (toxicants/unexploded ordinance)	Decrease predator access to human subsidies
4	Targeted predator control	Decrease predator access to human subsidies	Targeted predator control
5	Restore habitat (toxicants/unexploded ordinance)	Targeted predator control	Restore habitat (vertical mulching)
6	Manage disease in wild population	Land acquisition	Install and maintain human barriers (wildland-urban interface)
7	Increase law enforcement	Restore roads (vertical mulching-roads)	Increase law enforcement
8	Install and maintain human barriers (wildland-urban interface)	Install and maintain human barriers (wildland-urban interface)	Minimize wild horse and burro impacts
9	Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing	Manage disease in wild population	Sign and fence protected areas
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Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup

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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=5

data explorer model explorer

Desert Tortoise Recovery RA Proposal Tool

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:

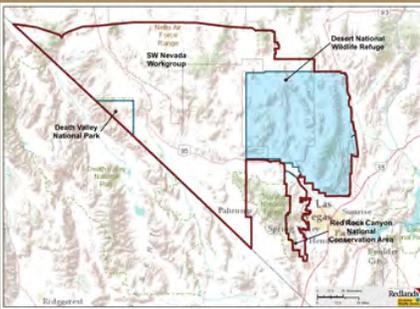
West Mojave Upper Virgin River Northeast California Mojave Utah/Arizona **Southwest Nevada** Colorado Desert Southeast Nevada

Workgroup: Southwest Nevada

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

Select an area:

- ▶ [Desert National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- Red Rock Canyon (NCA)
- Southwest Nevada



Ranked recovery action types for Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Recovery action types below are ranked based on their expected ability to decrease risk to the tortoise in Desert National Wildlife Refuge. 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) Decrease predator access to human subsidies (no proposed actions)
- 2) Targeted predator control (no proposed actions)
- 3) Restore Habitat (no proposed actions)
- 4) ...

<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:** Within burned habitat in Red Rock Canyon NCA, establish 40-acre plots (total 1,600 acres) to 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!