



North-East Mojave Recovery Implementation Team

UT/AZ Workgroup Webinar

Desert Tortoise Recovery Office

July 2, 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

SE Nevada Workgroup Webinar



Webinar Structure

1. Introductions

2. Updates & Timelines

3. Threats & Recovery Action Rankings

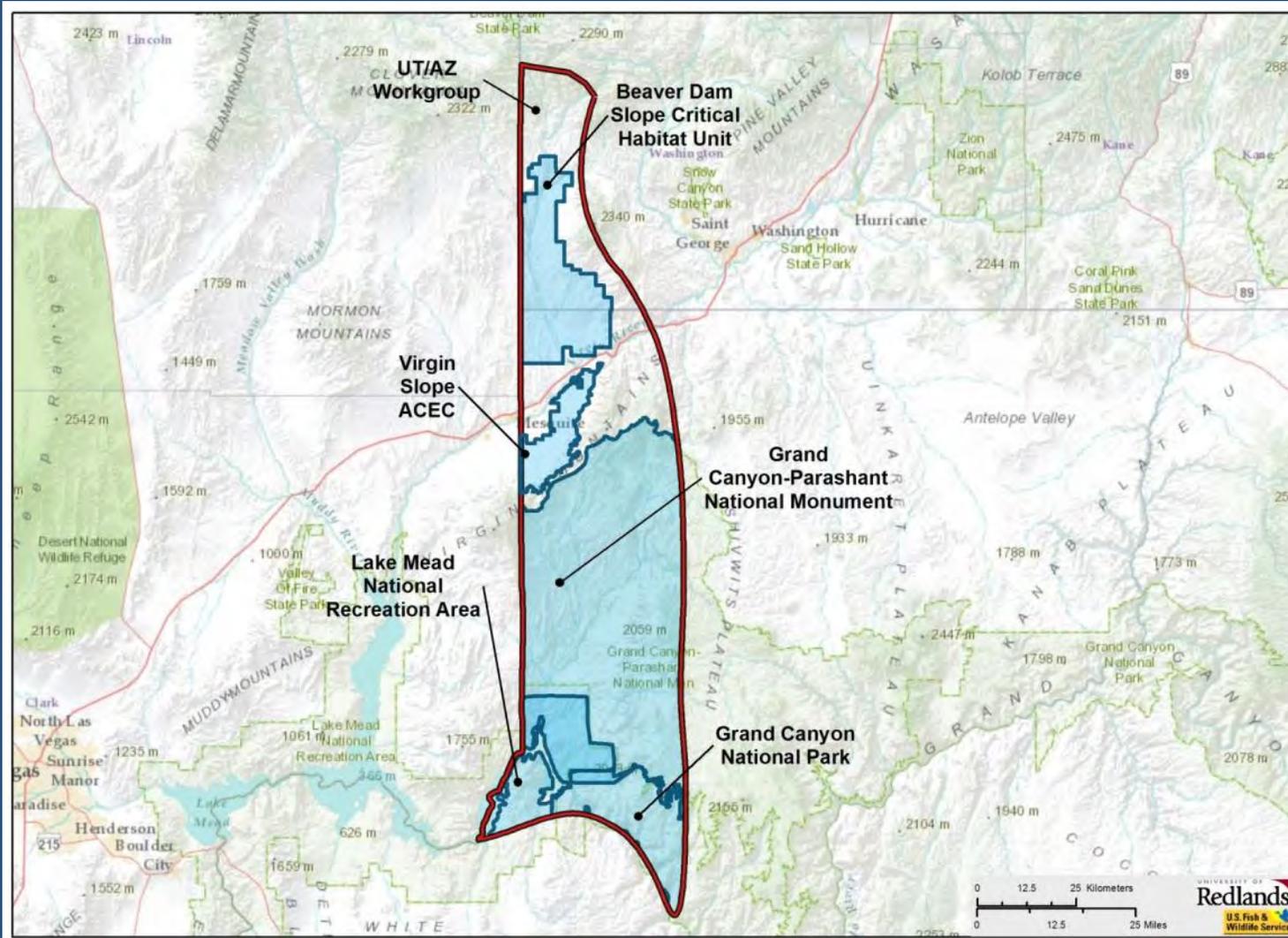
4. Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool

5. Next Steps



	Affiliation	Workgroup Members
Land Management	BLM, St. George	Dawna Ferris
Land Management	BLM, Arizona Strip	Jeff Young
Wildlife Management	Utah Division of Wildlife	Ann McLuckie
Wildlife Management	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Cristina Jones
Wildlife Management	USFWS	Nathan Brown & Brian Wooldridge
Tribe	Shivwits Paiute	Lawrence Snow
Tribe	Kaibab Band of the Paiute	vacant
County	Mohave County	Robin "Rob" Grumbles
County	Washington County	Robert Sandberg
Conservation Biology	USGS WERC	Lesley DeFalco
Conservation Organization	Desert Tortoise Council	Maggie Fusari
Resource Use	Cattle Ranchers Association	Ed Bowler
Recreation		Brent Jensen

UT/AZ Workgroup Study Area



UT/AZ 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

UT/AZ Workgroup Webinar



Questions?



UT/AZ 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

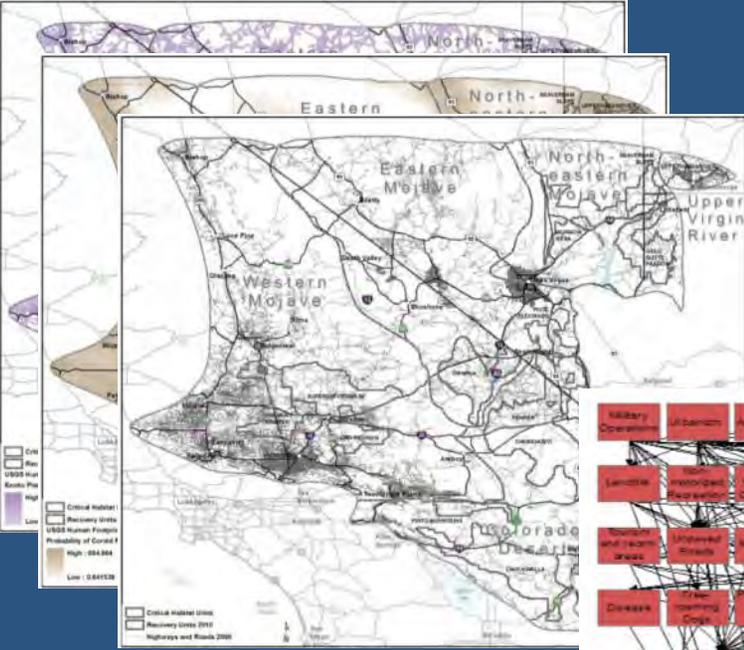
Spatial Threats

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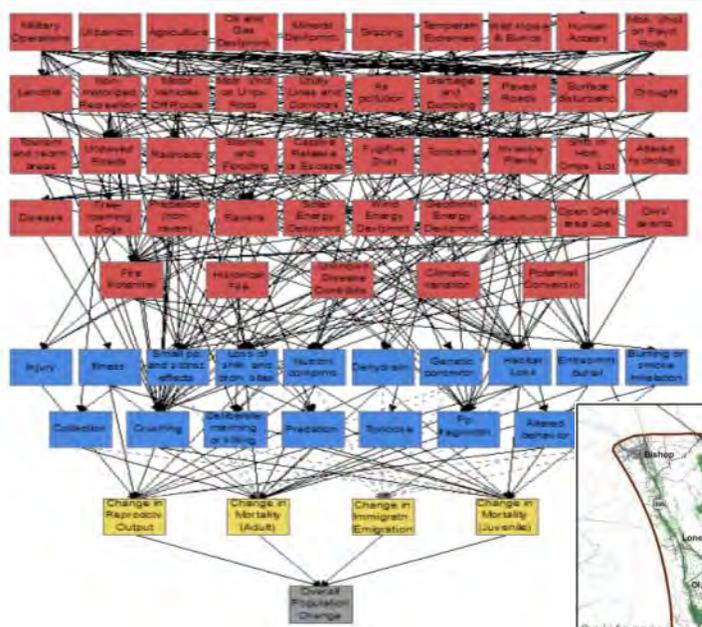
Impact of Threats

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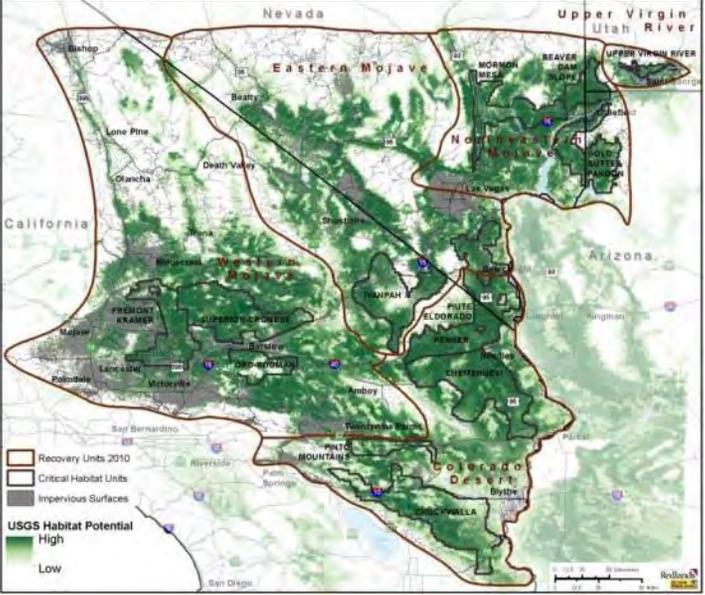
Risk to Population



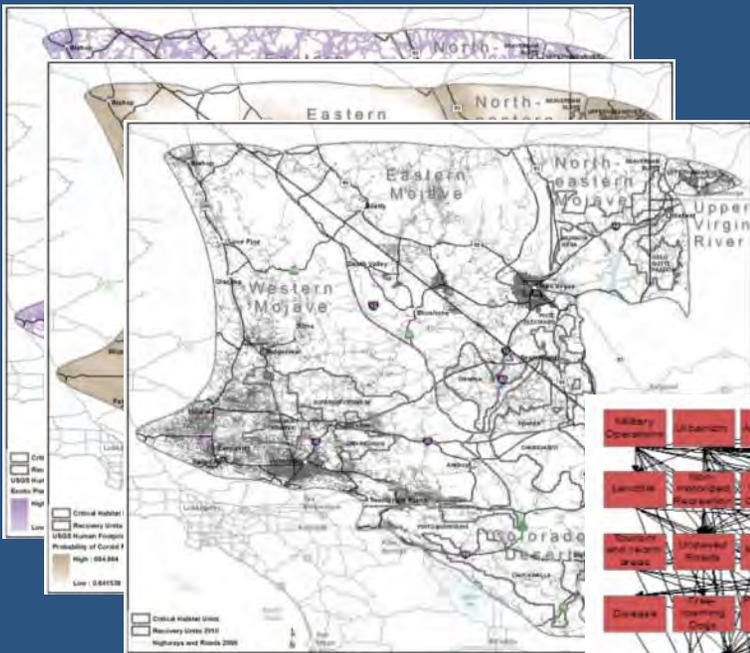
Spatial variation in threats



How threats effect tortoises



Where we expect tortoises to occur



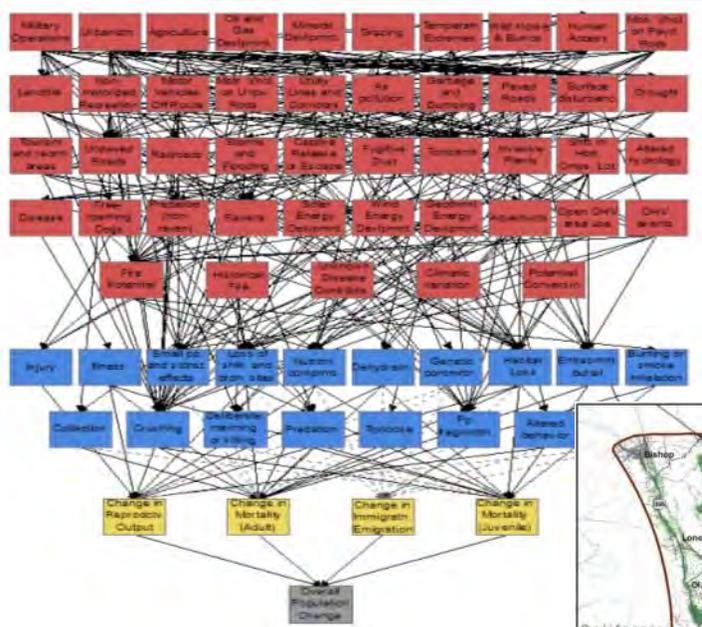
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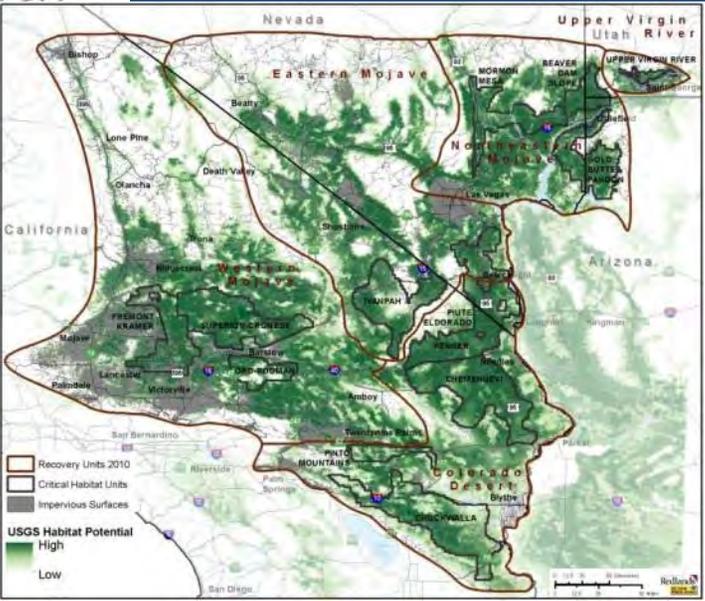
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Spatial variation in threats
Data Explorer

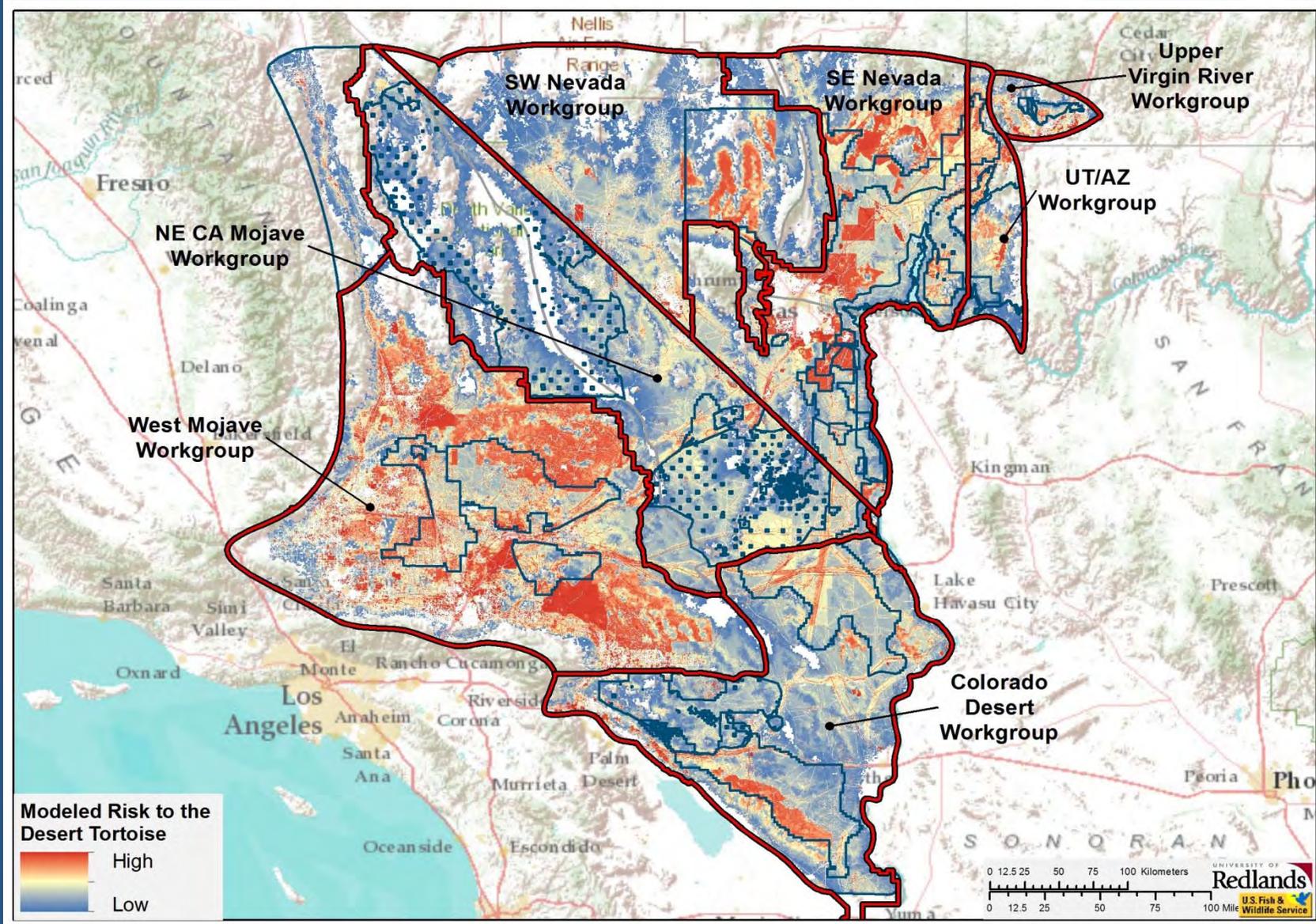
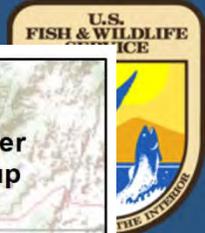
Revised based on RIT review!

How threats effect tortoises
Model Explorer



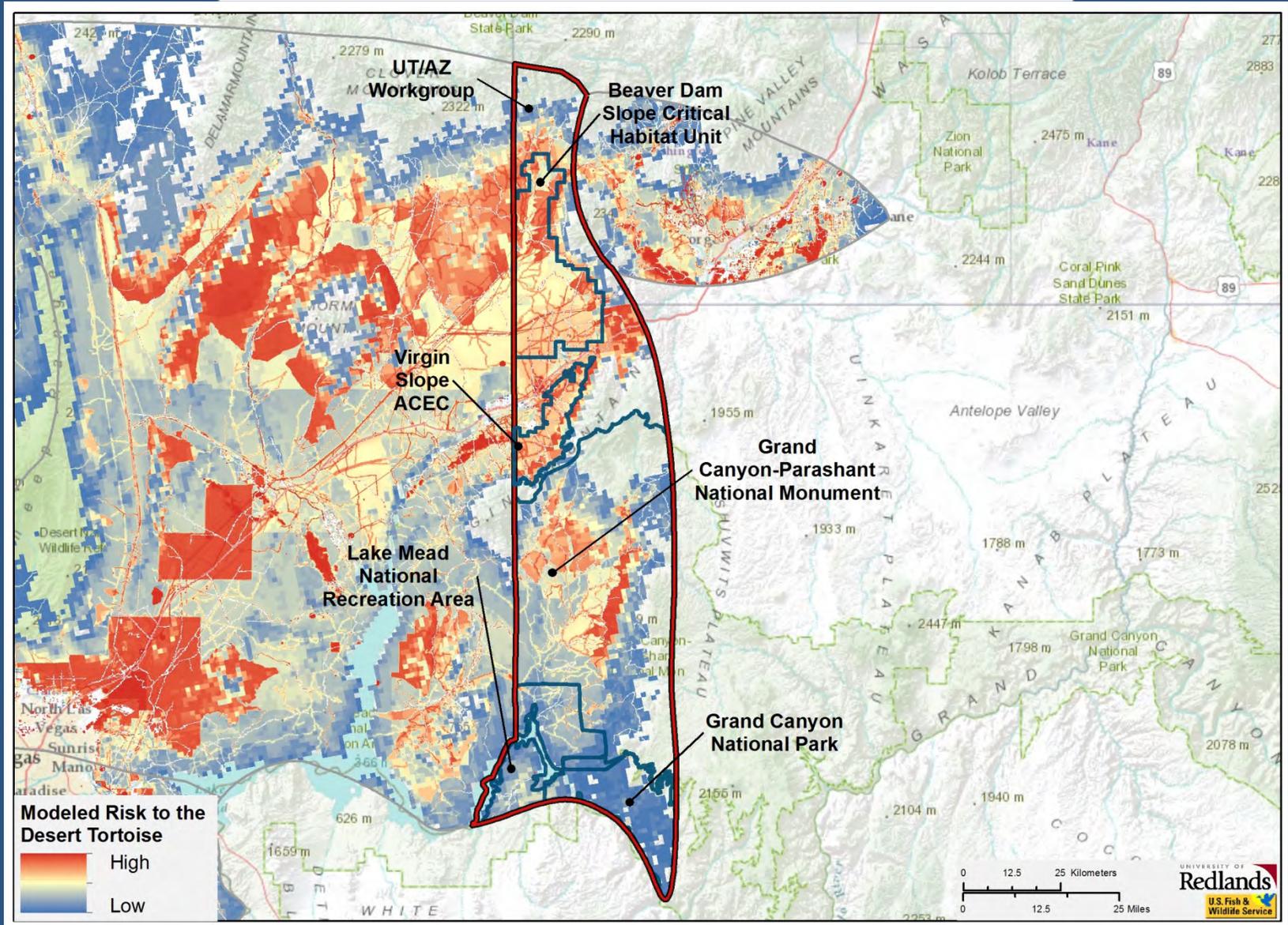
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Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises

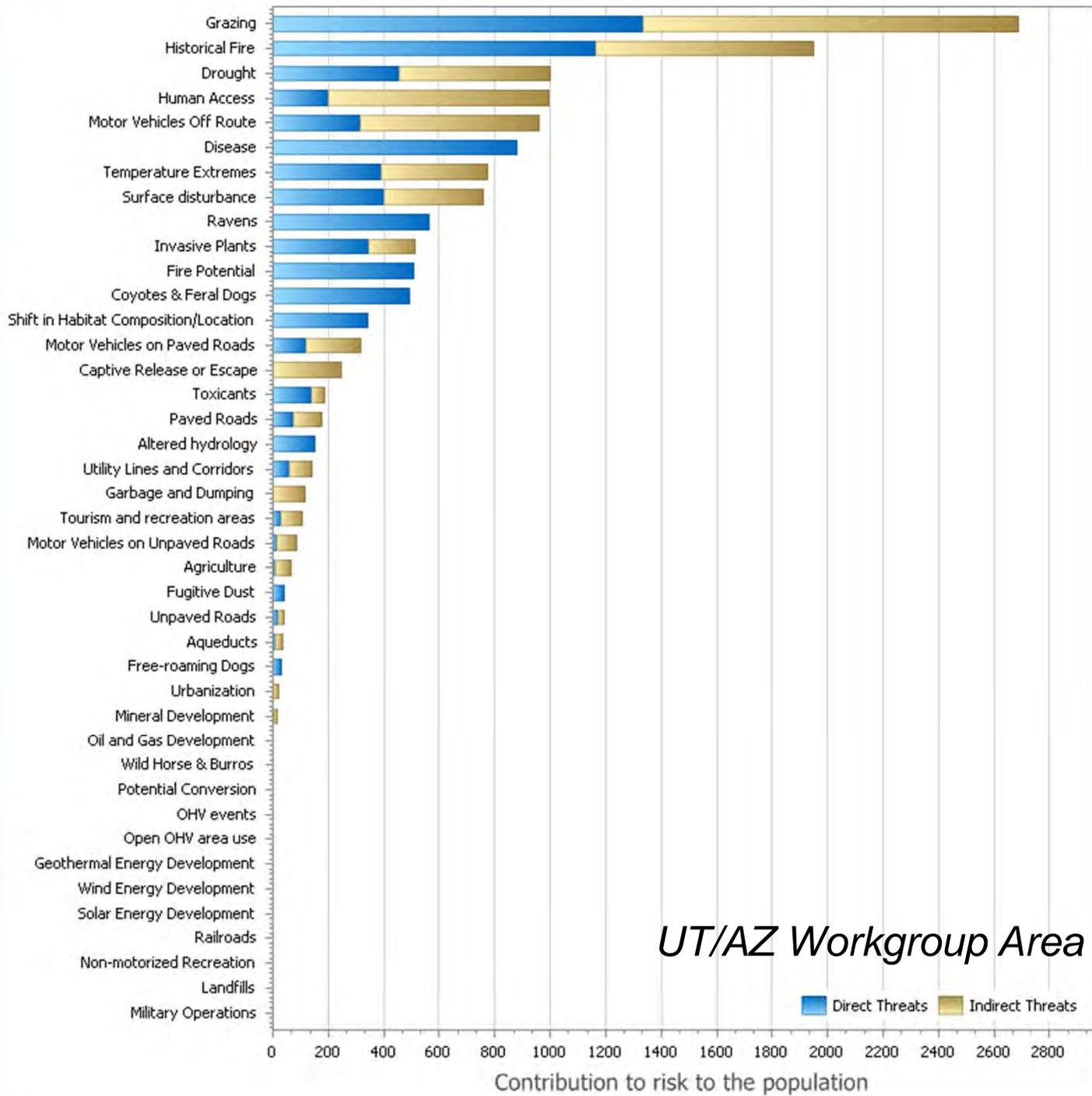


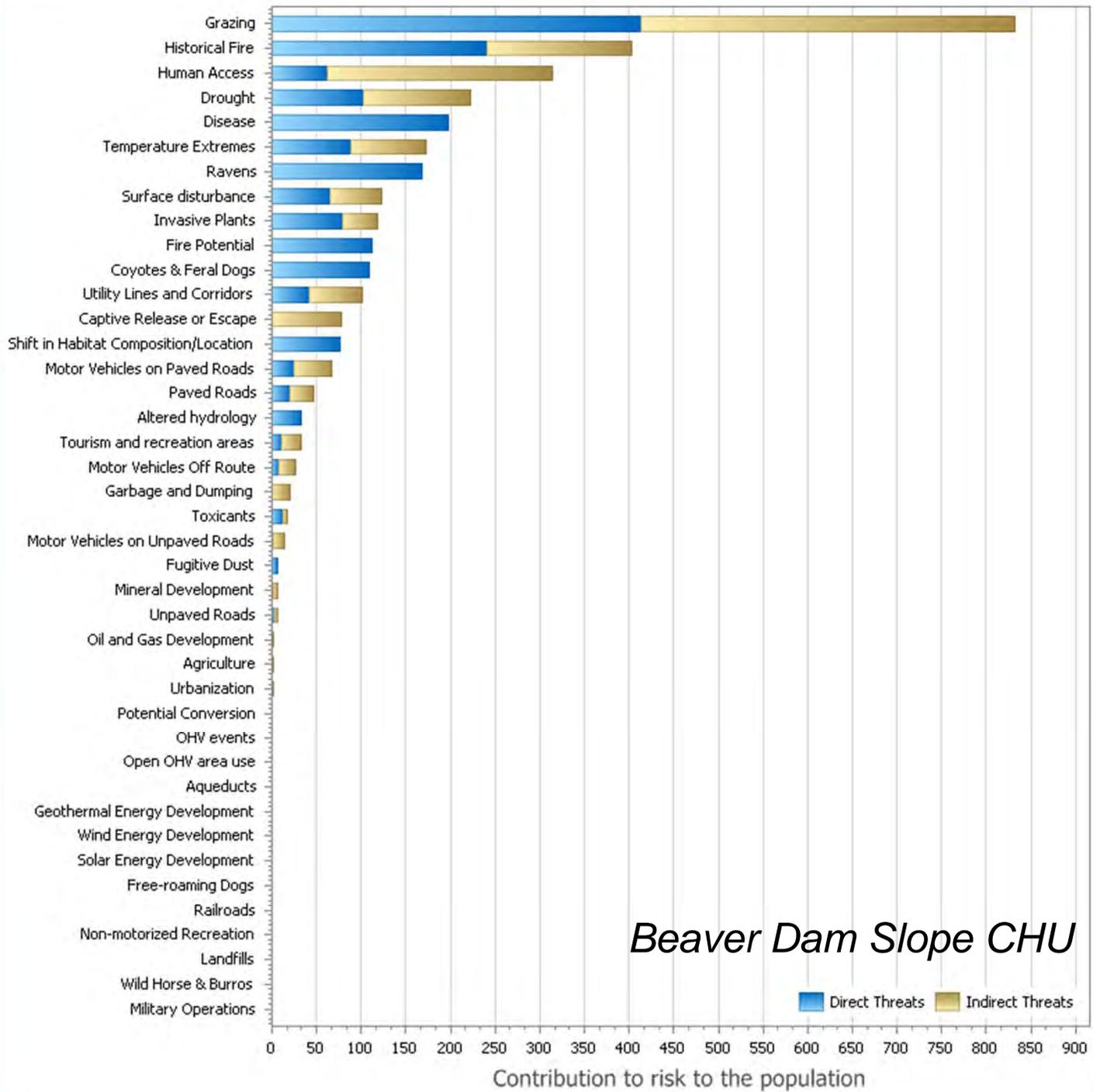
Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises



Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise





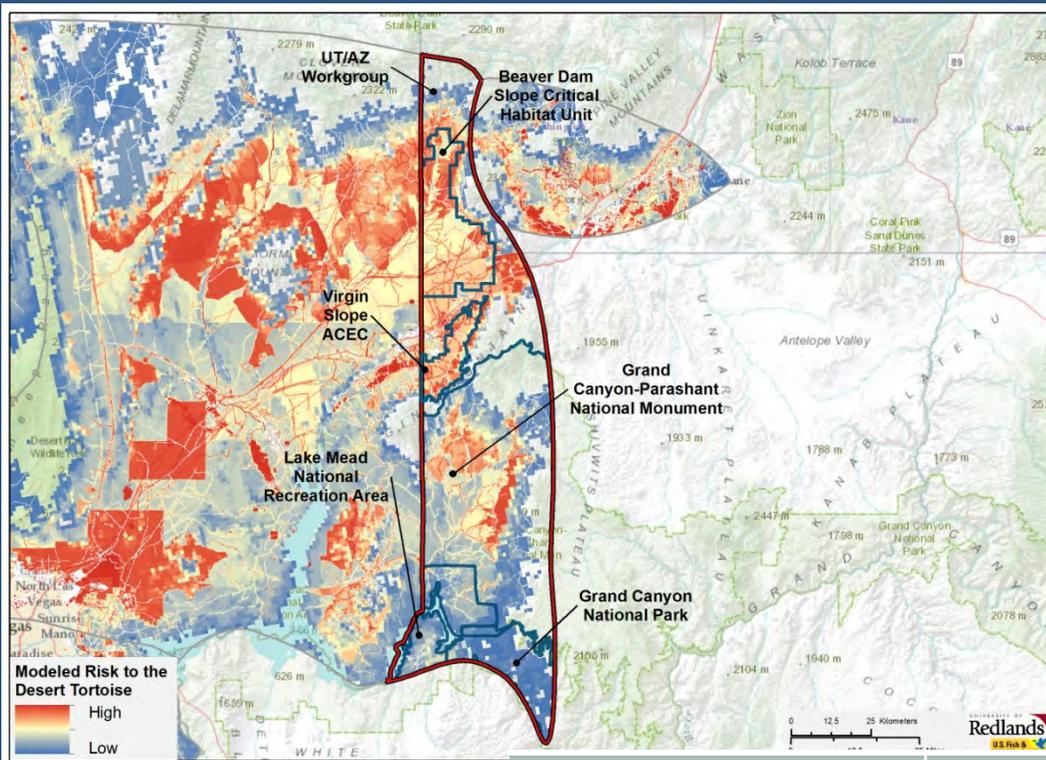
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2	Historical Fire	Historical Fire	Grazing	Disease	Grazing	Human Access
3	Drought	Human Access	Drought	Temperature Extremes	Disease	Historical Fire
4	Human Access	Drought	Disease	Grazing	Temperature Extremes	Surface disturbance
5	Motor Vehicles Off Route	Disease	Motor Vehicles Off Route	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Coyotes & Feral Dogs	Ravens
6	Disease	Temperature Extremes	Temperature Extremes	Fire Potential	Fire Potential	Drought
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Risk to Population

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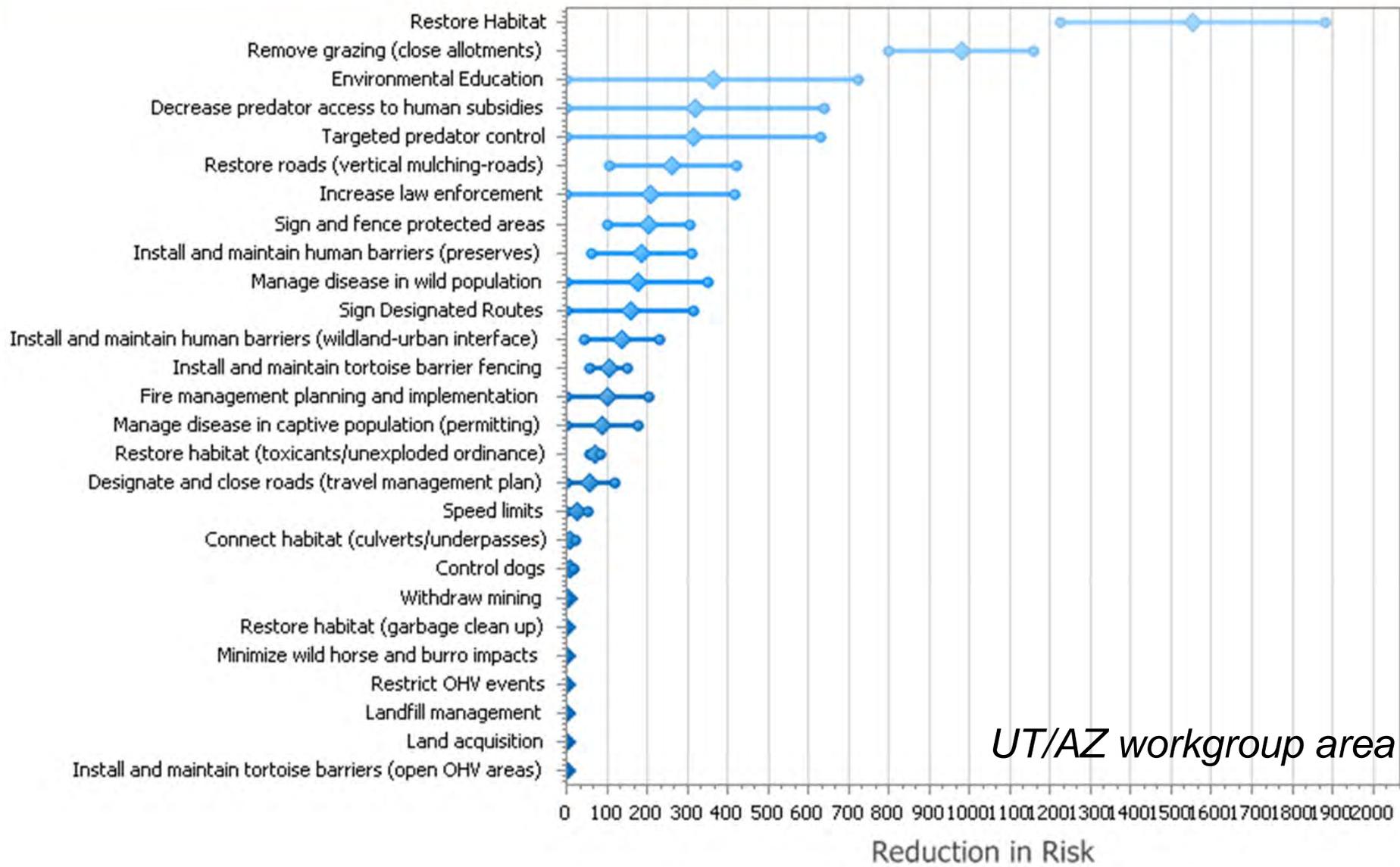


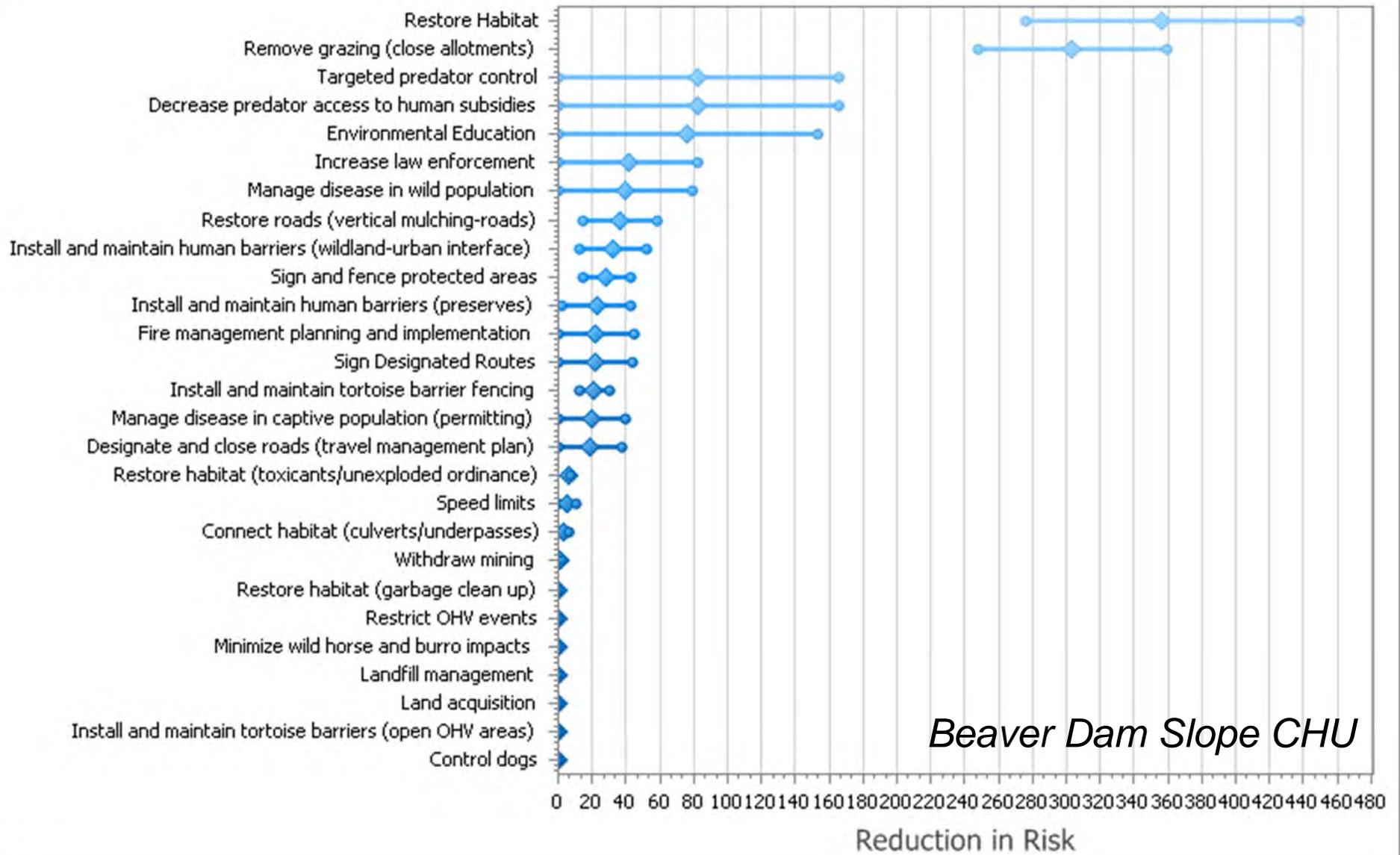
Action Effectiveness

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





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2	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Targeted predator control	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Remove grazing (close allotments)
3	Environmental Education	Decrease predator access to human subsidies	Environmental Education	Restore Habitat	Decrease predator access to human subsidies	Decrease predator access to human subsidies
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5	Targeted predator control	Environmental Education	Targeted predator control	Environmental Education	Environmental Education	Environmental Education
6	Restore roads (vertical mulching)	Increase law enforcement	Restore roads (vertical mulching)	Manage disease in wild population	Manage disease in wild population	Install and maintain human barriers (WUI)
7	Increase law enforcement	Manage disease in wild population	Increase law enforcement	Increase law enforcement	Increase law enforcement	Increase law enforcement
8	Sign and fence protected areas	Restore roads (vertical mulching)	Manage disease in wild population	Manage disease in captive population (permitting)	Fire management planning and implementation	Restore roads (vertical mulching)
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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=4

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: Utah/Arizona

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

Select an area:

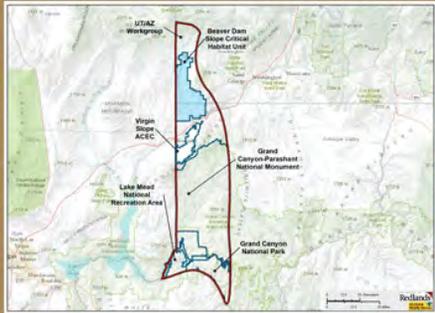
- ▶ **Beaver Dam Slope (Critical Habitat Unit)**
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
- Lake Mead Natl Recreation Area
- Virgin Slope (ACBC)
- Utah/Arizona

Ranked recovery action types for Beaver Dam Slope (Critical Habitat Unit)

Recovery action types below are ranked based on their expected ability to decrease risk to the tortoise in Beaver Dam Slope (Critical Habitat Unit). 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) Restore Habitat (no proposed actions)
- 2) Remove grazing (close allotments) (no proposed actions)
- 3) Targeted predator control (no proposed actions)

A map showing the geographic area covered by the Utah/Arizona workgroup. The map highlights the Beaver Dam Slope Critical Habitat Unit in red. Other labeled areas include the Virgin Slope ACBC, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, and Grand Canyon National Park. The map also shows the Utah/Arizona Workgroup boundary in blue.

<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.) **Restore Habitat:** Within burned habitat of the Beaver Dam Slope, 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

UT/AZ Workgroup Webinar



Questions?



UT/AZ Workgroup Webinar



Webinar Structure

1. Introductions
2. Updates & Timelines
3. Threats & Recovery Action Rankings
4. Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool
5. Next Steps



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!