



Upper Virgin River Recovery Implementation Team

Workgroup-specific Webinar

Desert Tortoise Recovery Office

June 25, 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

Upper Virgin River RIT Webinar



Webinar Structure

1. Introductions

2. Updates & Timelines

3. Threats & Recovery Action Rankings

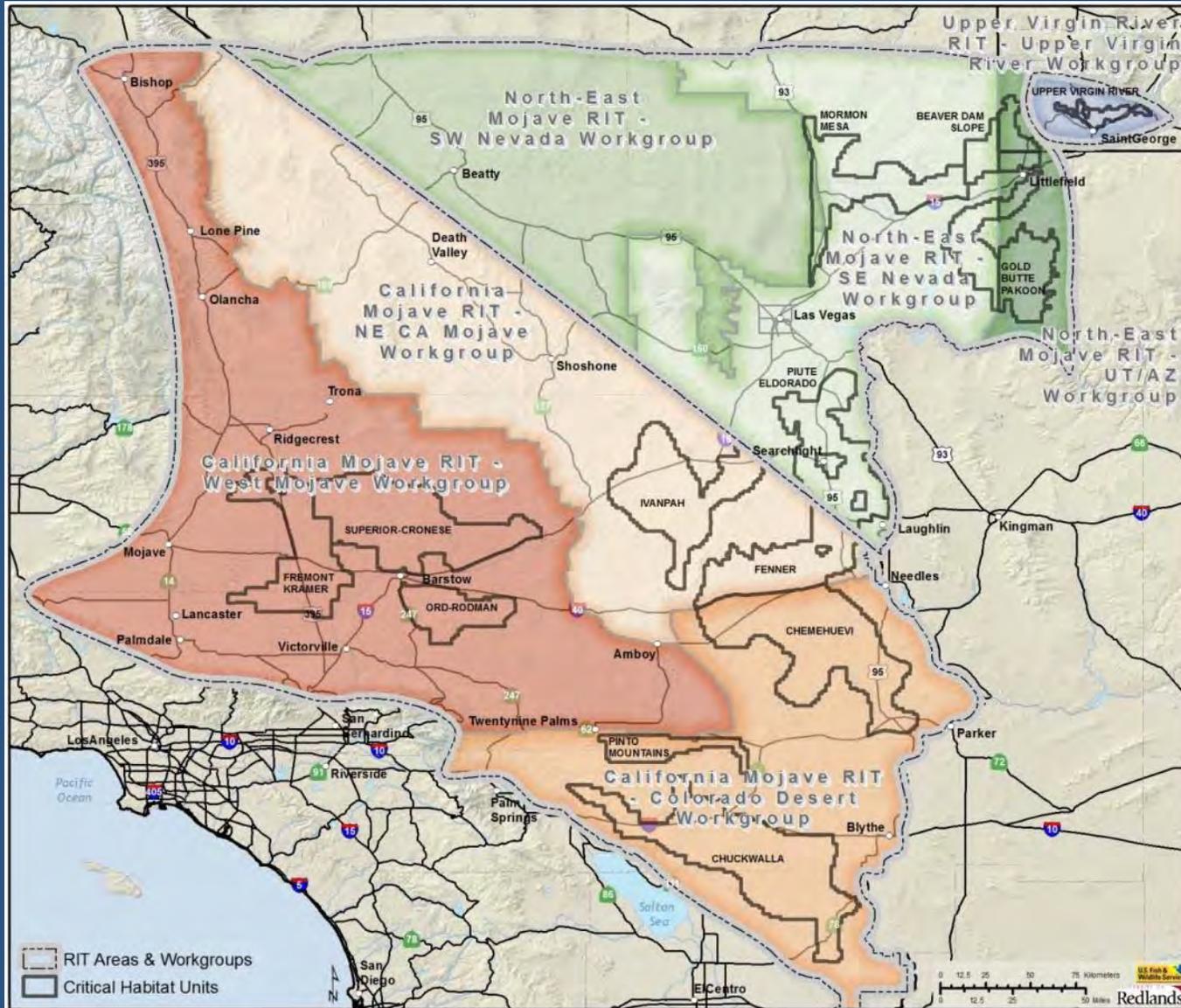
4. Online Recovery Action Proposal Tool

5. Next Steps

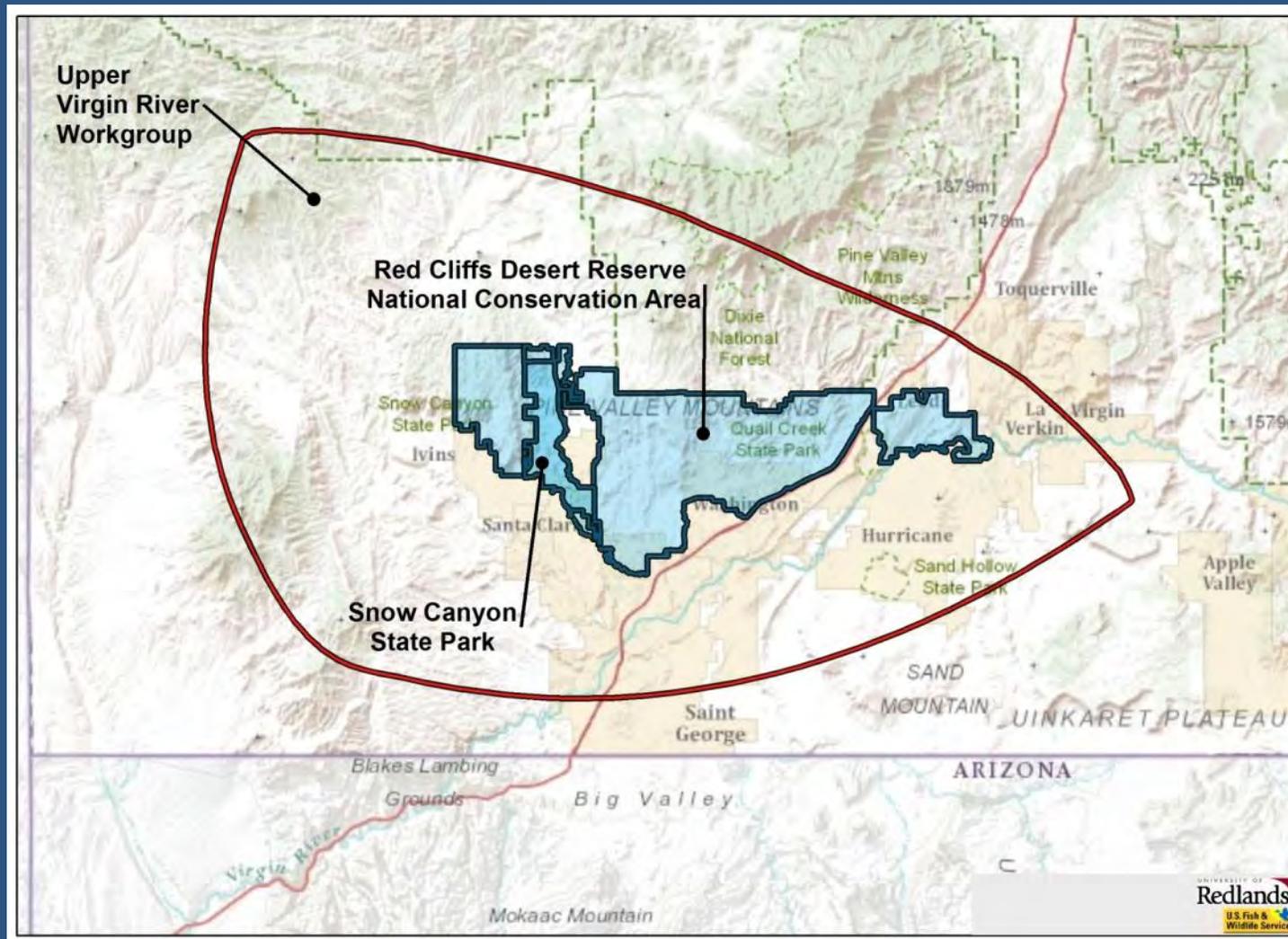


	Affiliation	Workgroup Members
Land Management	BLM, Red Cliffs	Tim Croissant
Land Management	Utah Parks and Recreation	Kristen Comella
Wildlife Management	Utah Division of Wildlife	Ann McLuckie
Wildlife Management	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Renee Chi
County	Washington County	Cameron Rognan
County	Washington County	Bob Sandberg
County	Washington County	Gary Mckell

Recovery Implementation Teams



Upper Virgin River RIT Area



Upper Virgin River RIT 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: December 12 & 13 to develop 5-Year Action Plans

UVR RIT: St. George

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

Upper Virgin River RIT Webinar



Questions?



Upper Virgin River RIT 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

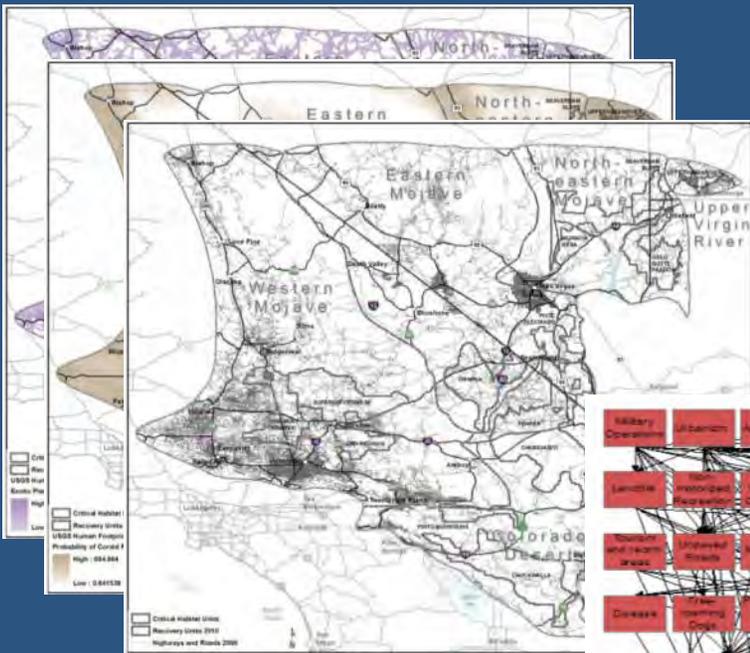
PRIORITIZED ACTION PLAN

- 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



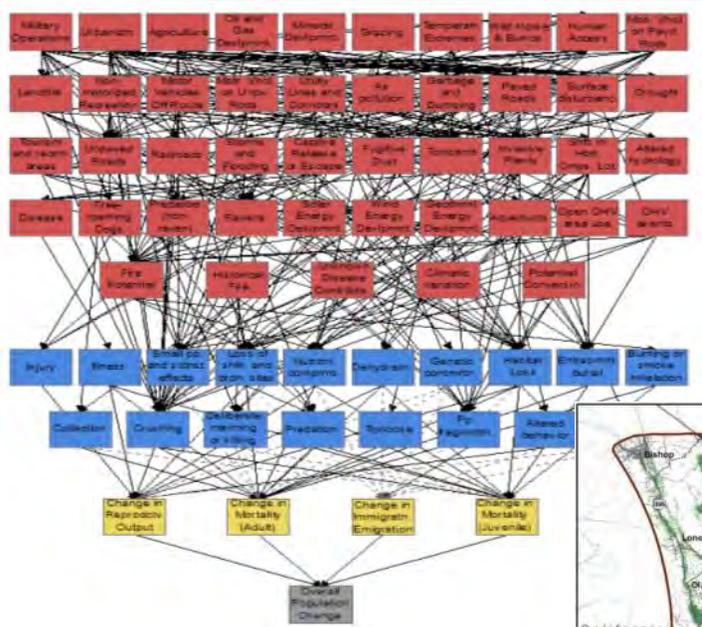
Spatial Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

Impact of Threats

$$\int \Sigma x$$

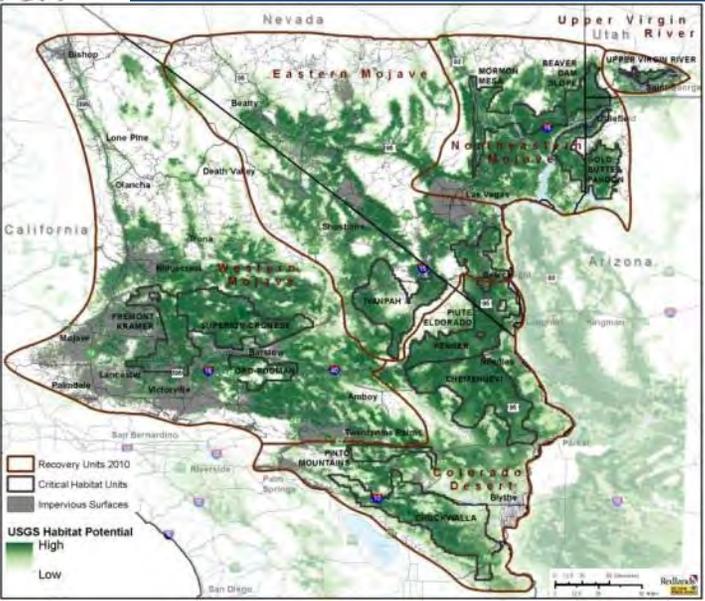
Risk to Population



Spatial variation in threats
Data Explorer

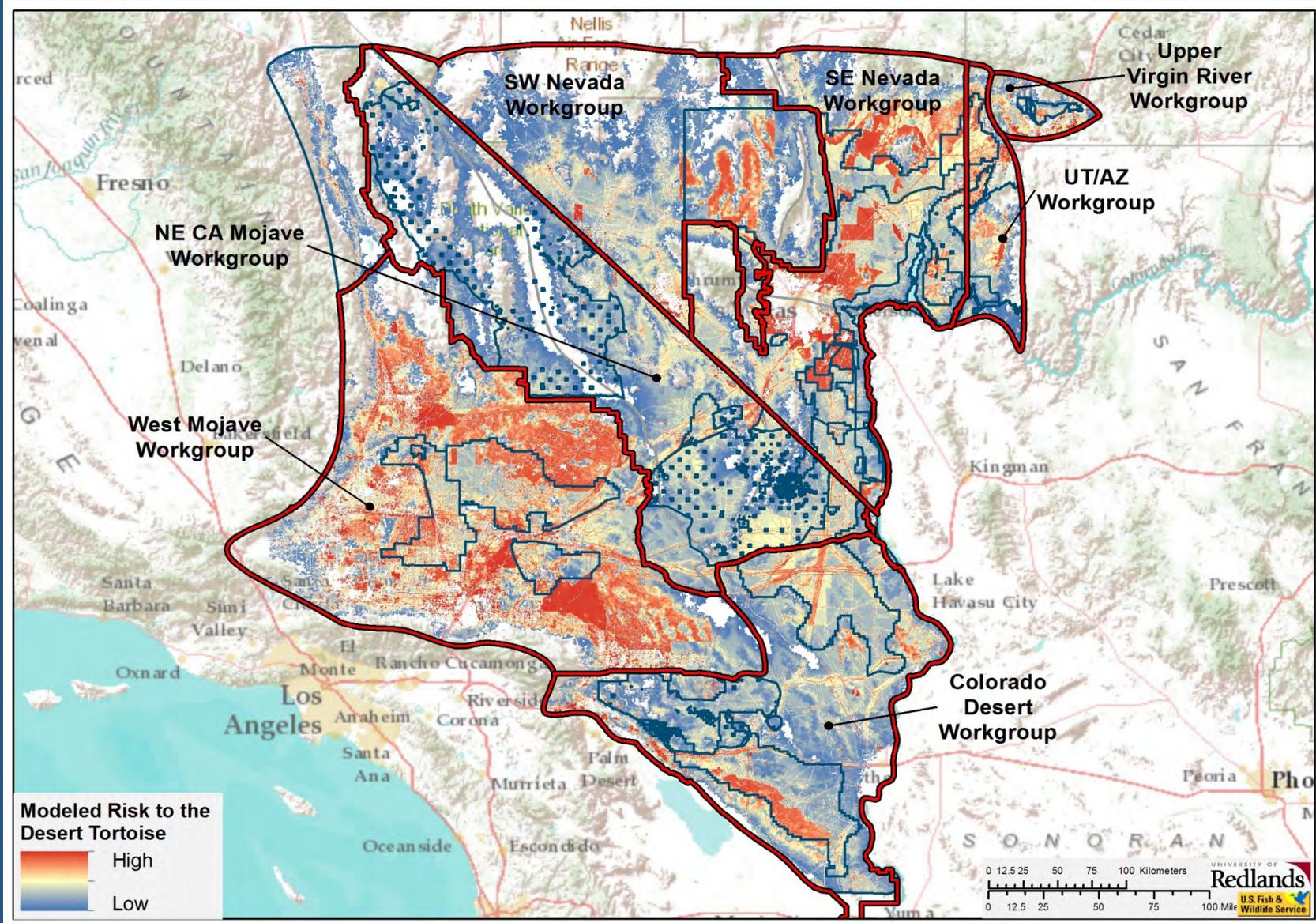
Revised based on RIT review!

How threats effect tortoises
Model Explorer



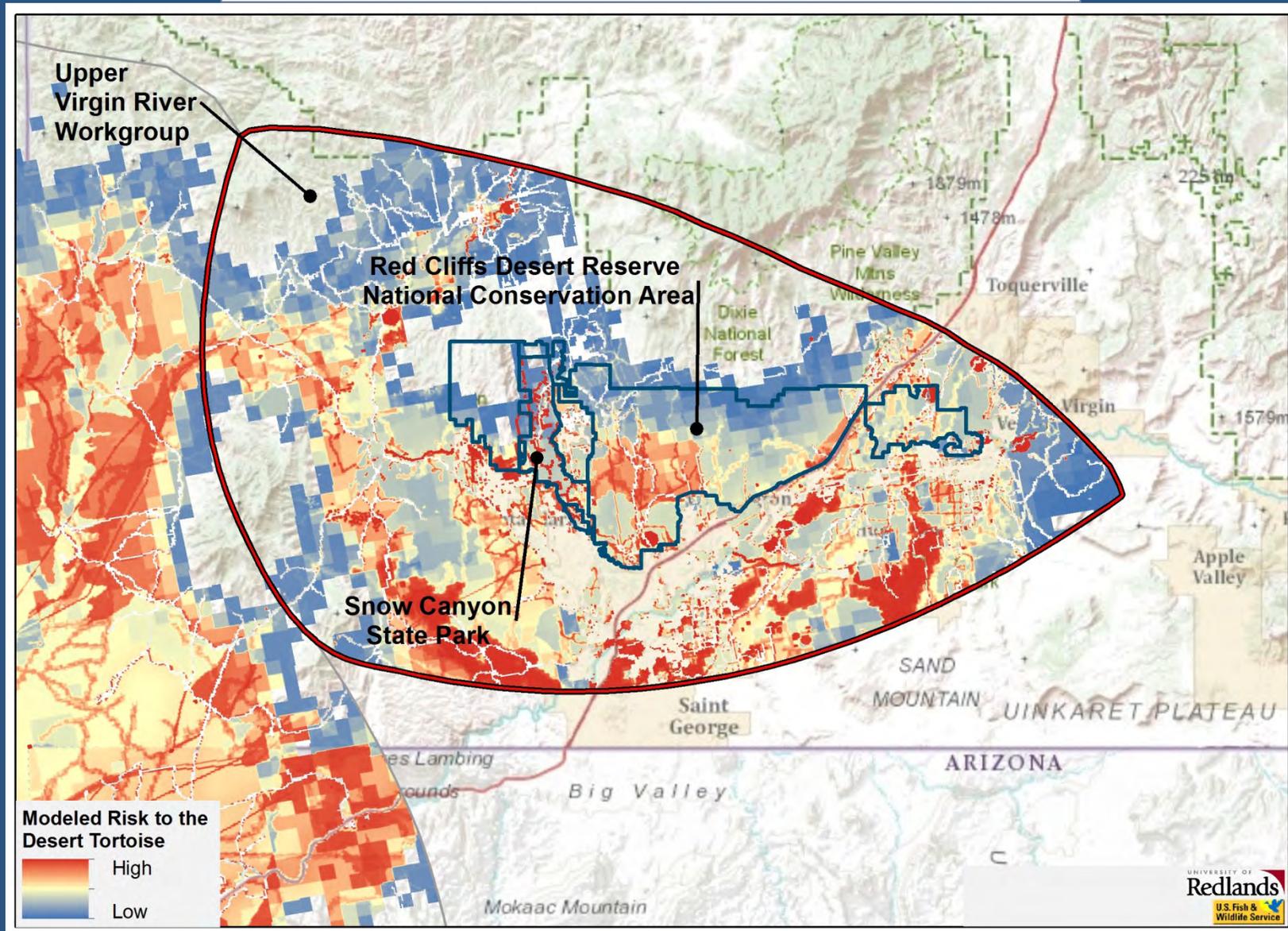
Where we expect tortoises to occur

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises

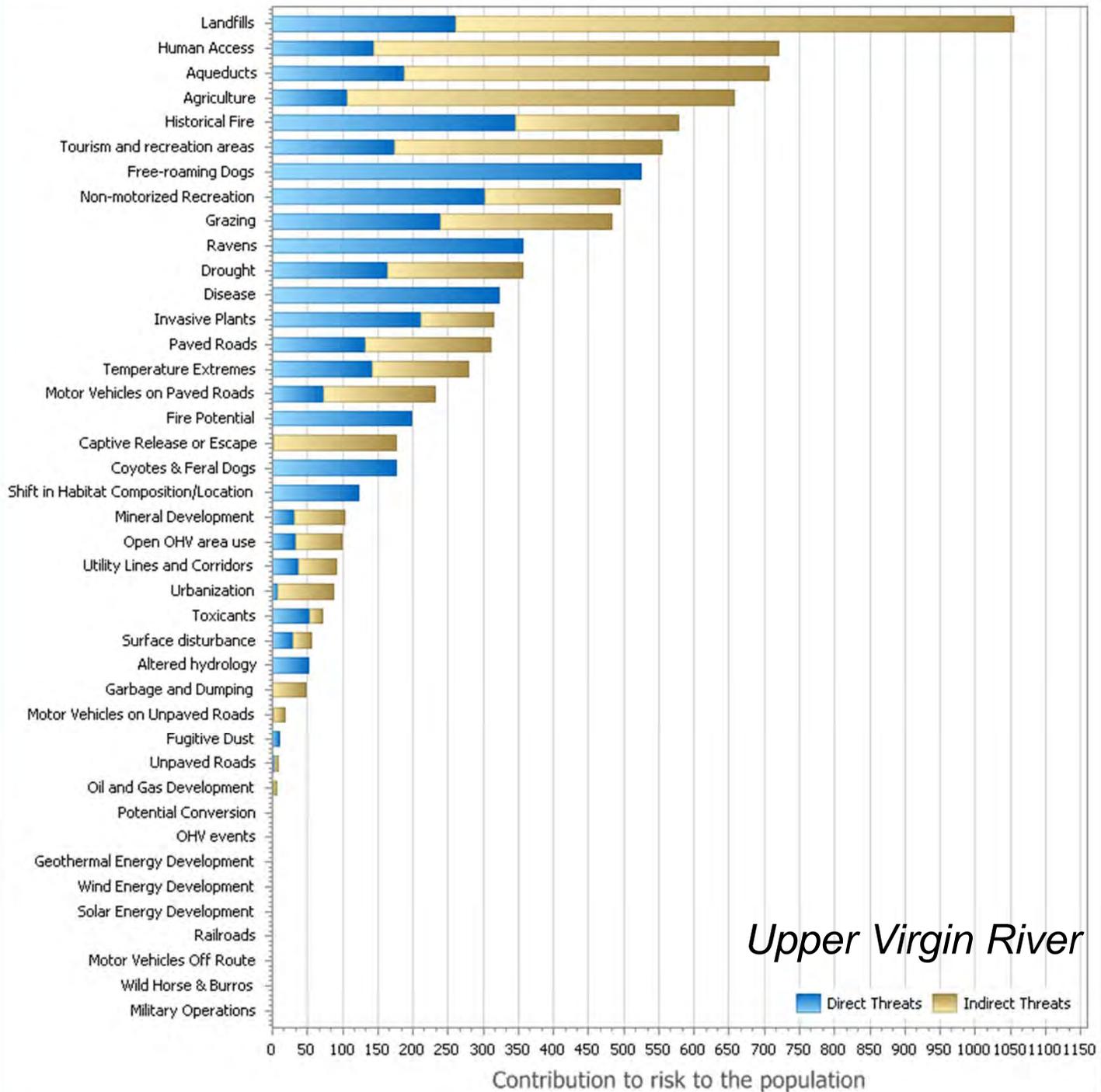


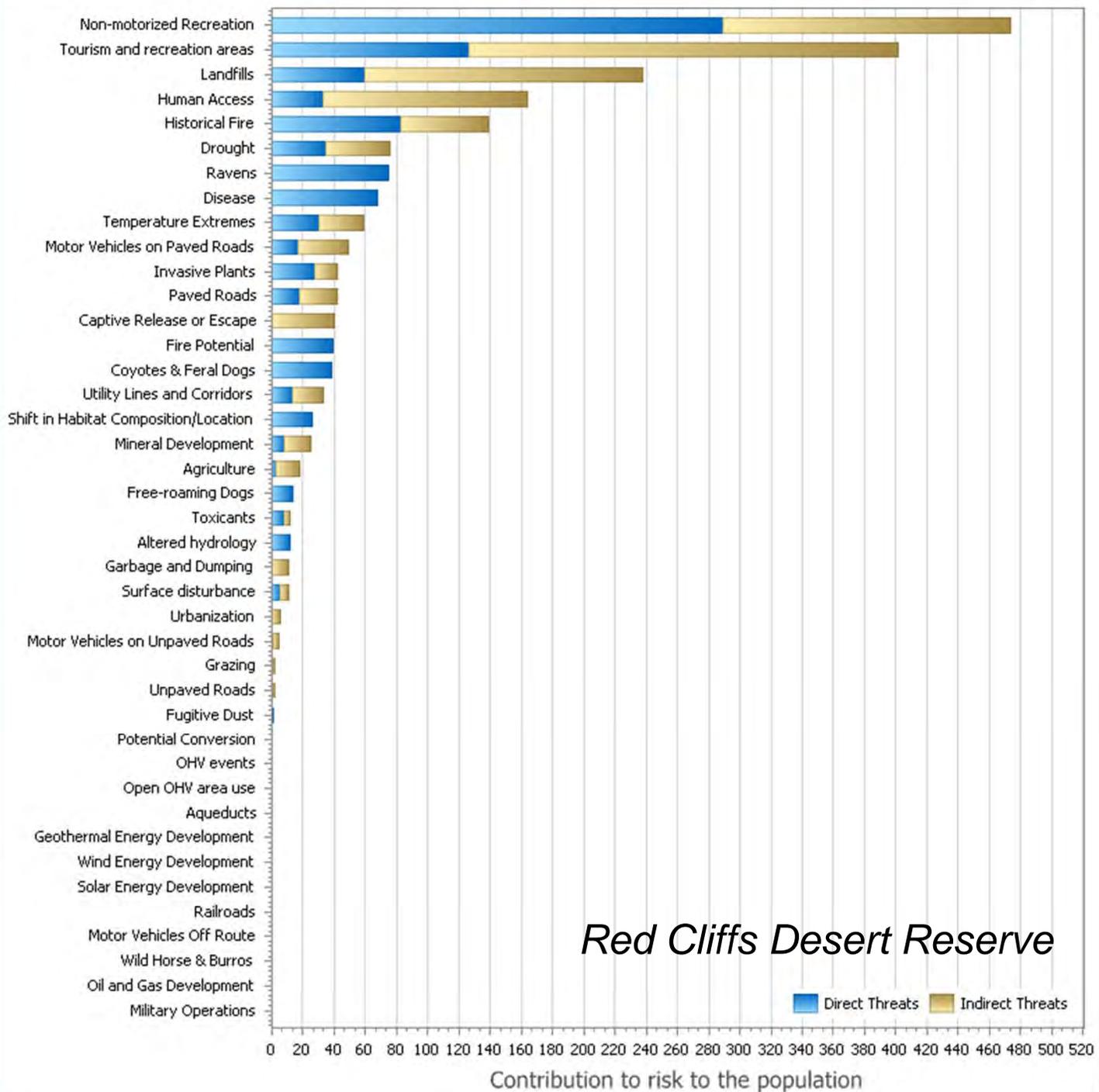
Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise

Aggregate Population Risk to Tortoises



Aggregate contribution from all threats to risk to the tortoise

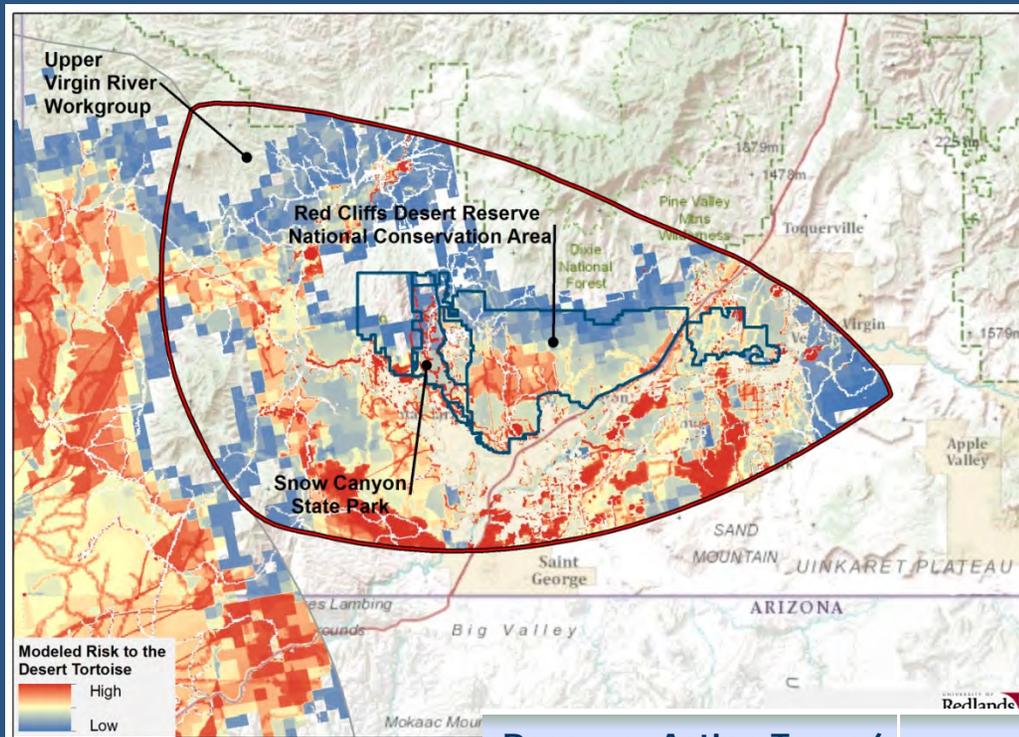




Rank	Upper Virgin River	Red Cliffs Desert Reserve
1	Landfills	Non-motorized Recreation
2	Human Access	Tourism and recreation areas
3	Aqueducts	Landfills
4	Agriculture	Human Access
5	Historical Fire	Historical Fire
6	Tourism and recreation areas	Drought
7	Free-roaming Dogs	Ravens
8	Non-motorized Recreation	Disease
9	Grazing	Temperature Extremes
10	Ravens	Motor Vehicles on Paved Roads

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Risk to Population

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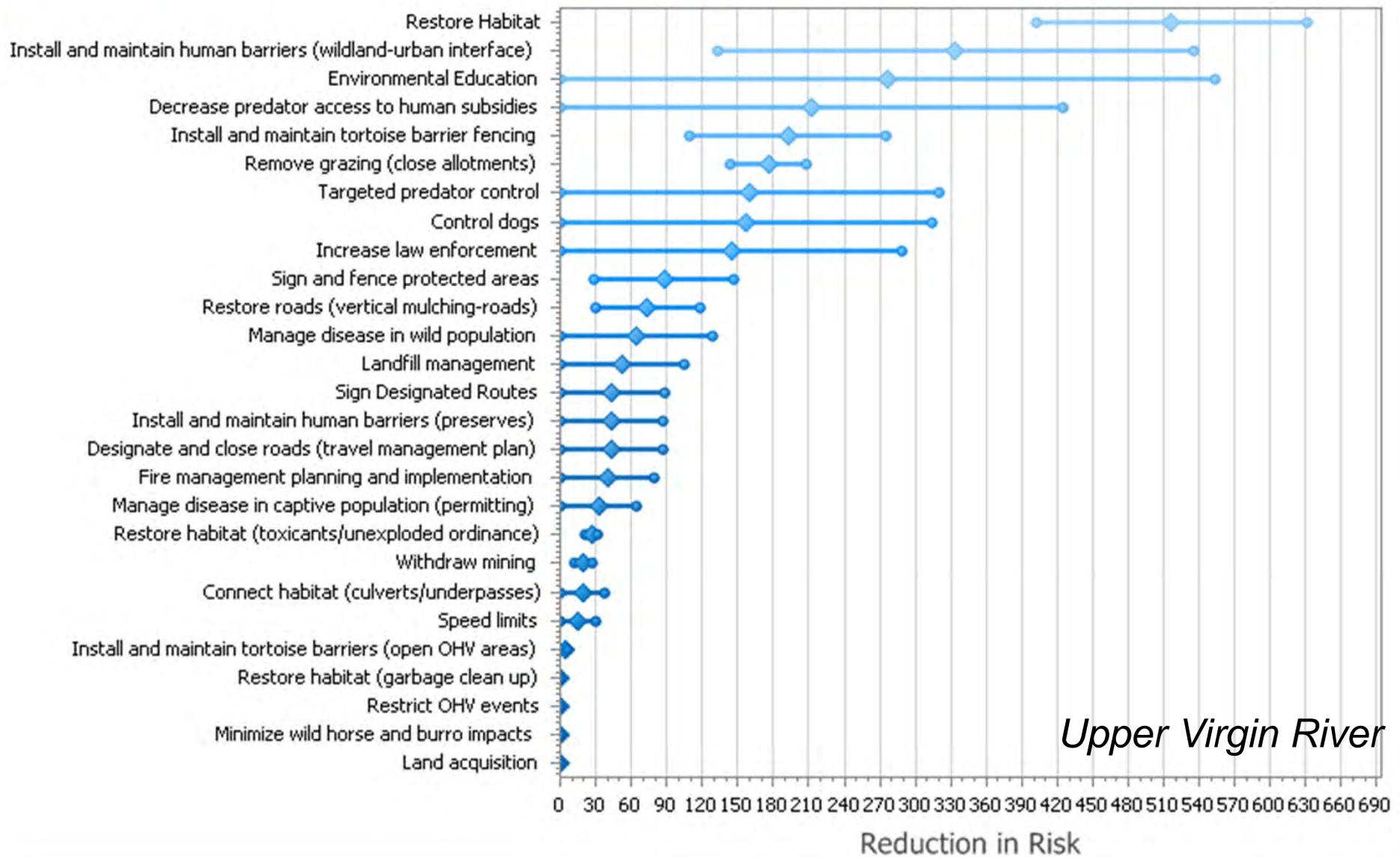


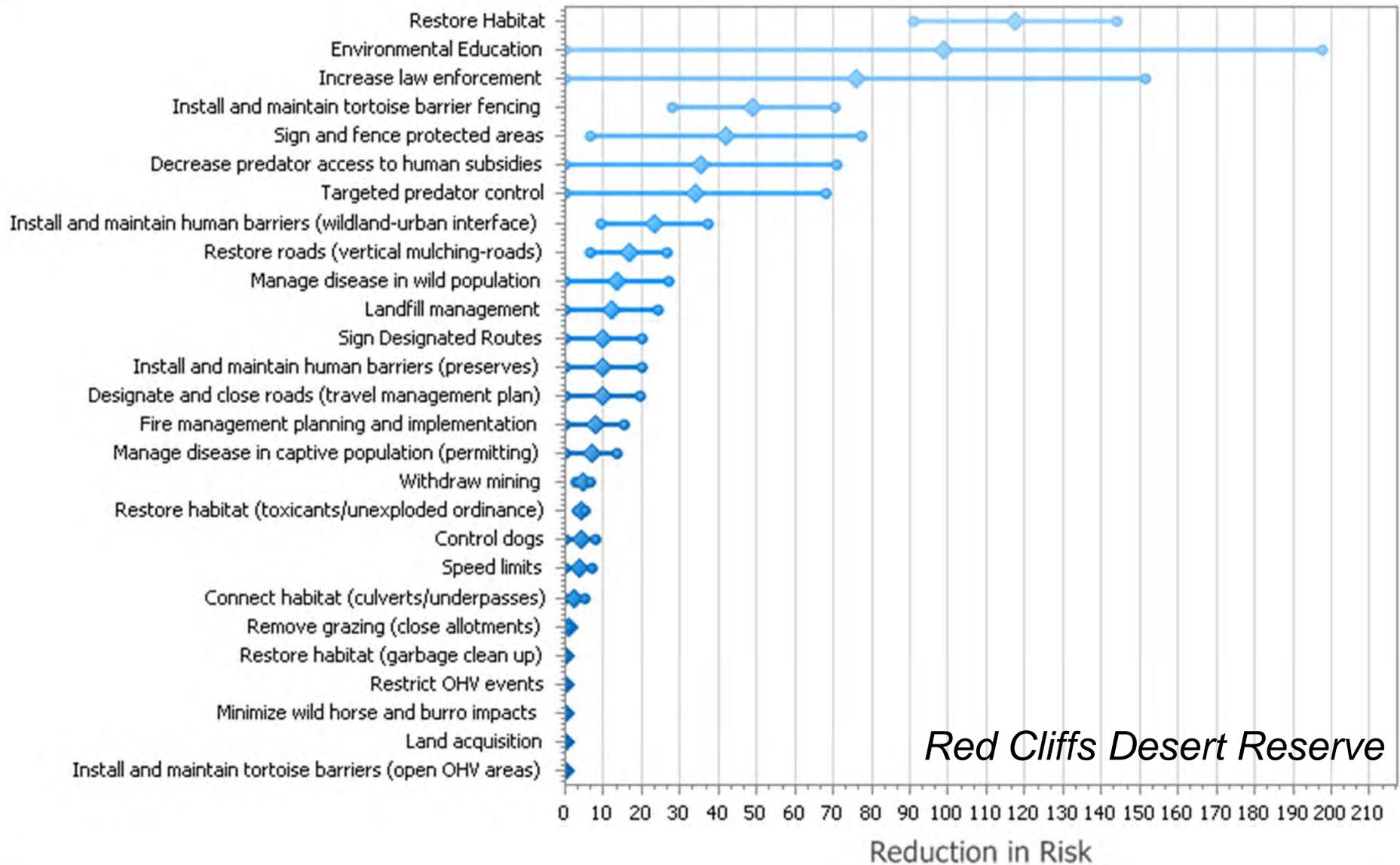
Action Effectiveness

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	Upper Virgin River	Red Cliffs Desert Reserve
1	Restore Habitat	Restore Habitat
2	Install and maintain human barriers (wildland-urban interface)	Environmental Education
3	Environmental Education	Increase law enforcement
4	Decrease predator access to human subsidies	Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing
5	Install and maintain tortoise barrier fencing	Sign and fence protected areas
6	Remove grazing (close allotments)	Decrease predator access to human subsidies
7	Targeted predator control	Targeted predator control
8	Control dogs	Install and maintain human barriers (wildland-urban interface)
9	Increase law enforcement	Restore roads (vertical mulching)
10	Sign and fence protected areas	Manage disease in wild population

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Development of 5-Year Action Plan for your Workgroup



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Upper Virgin River RIT Webinar



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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

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:

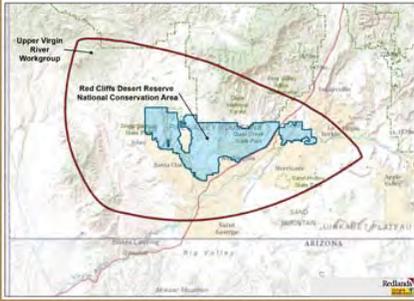
West Mojave **Upper Virgin River** Northeast California Mojave Utah/Arizona Southwest Nevada Colorado Desert Southeast Nevada

Workgroup: Upper Virgin River

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

Select an area:

- ▶ **Red Cliffs Desert Reserve**
- Upper Virgin River



Ranked recovery action types for Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

Recovery action types below are ranked based on their expected ability to decrease risk to the tortoise in Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. 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) Decrease predator access to human subsidies (no proposed actions)
- 3) Targeted predator control (no proposed actions)
- 4) Environmental Education (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:** Within burned tortoise habitat of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, 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: December 12 & 13