









Background:

- 2000 Congress approves land expansion
- 2004 USFWS gives land expansion Biological Opinion
- 2006 USFWS gives translocation Biological Opinion
- 2007 Army began initial translocation efforts

The translocation is being conducted as a scientifically-based research and monitoring program, guided by a peer-reviewed translocation plan developed by the U.S. Geological Survey.





Current Status: SOUTHERN EXPANSION AREA

Spring 2008 -- 556 desert tortoises translocated to date



Future plans:



- 1. Approximately 100 tortoises remain in the SEA—plans to relocate early fall 2008
- 2. Desert tortoise fence damage





Current Status: WESTERN EXPANSION AREA

- Spring 2008 -- initial desert tortoise surveys begun
- Researchers found many more tortoises than original estimate **Future plans:**
- 1. Fall 2008 massive survey efforts in the WEA
- 2. Desert tortoise fencing
- 3. USGS will write translocation plan amendment for the WEA
 - ➤ Translocation site selection
 - ➤ Survey methodology
 - ➤ Translocation procedures



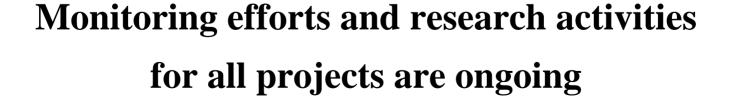




Translocation Research and Monitoring:

400 translocated and 350 resident and "control" tortoises from the SEA have been allocated to an intensive monitoring program and several research projects:

- Physiological stresses due to translocation
- Health of translocated tortoises over time
- Various aspects of the translocation process itself







Measures of success:

The ultimate measure of success

DNA profiling to identify the recruitment of translocated

tortoises into the host population.



An immediate measure of success

- Reproductive activity
- Researchers have found HIGH reproductive activity in translocated tortoises





Current Status:

COYOTE PREDATION

Pre-translocation depredations – 48 tortoises

Post-translocation depredations – 93 tortoises



- •Resident/control 40 dead / 360 resident tortoises (11.1%)
- •Translocated 53 dead / 411 translocated tortoises (12.9%)

Future Plans:

USDA Wildlife Services will attempt to remove coyotes

Most prudent scientific methods will be used to control predation



ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

WATION SEAL SCENTER

Questions??



