

# **Environmental Assessment**

**Reduce Common Raven  
Predation on the Desert  
Tortoise in the California Desert**

**Status of the Project**

# Raven EA Project

- Status of the EA
- Coordination with Migratory Birds Office
- EA Implementation Planning Status
- Education and Outreach

# Status of the EA

- ▶ Lead for FWS is Robert McMorran  
805-644-1766, ext. 232  
[robert\\_mcmorran@fws.gov](mailto:robert_mcmorran@fws.gov)
- ▶ Temporary lead for FWS is  
Judy Hohman, 805-644-1766, ext. 304  
[judy\\_hohman@fws.gov](mailto:judy_hohman@fws.gov)

## Working Group meeting in February

- Developed a schedule
  - early April - provide draft EA to working group
  - early May - receive comments from group
  - early June - incorporate comments
  - early July - send draft EA to FWS RO (MBO and NEPA) for review

- Modified the schedule
  - early May – provide draft to working group and FWS (OMB and NEPA)
  - late May – receive comments from groups
  - early June – incorporate comments and send to Office of Solicitor for review
  - ASAP - incorporate comments and distribute Draft EA to public

- Assessed remaining work to finish draft EA
  - reviewed scoping letters
    - public identified additional concerns (implement non-lethal methods first; ensure lethal methods target appropriate individuals)

- researched past efforts for raven management and legal challenges that halted efforts
- coordinated with federal agencies in similar situations
- result = added information to the draft EA

- received sections of EA from working group members
- compiling references for EA
- developed mailing list
- letter of invitation cooperating agency

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# FWS Migratory Bird Office Coordination

- ▶ submit draft EA to MB Office and NEPA coordinator
- ▶ MB Office does not anticipate major concerns issuing a take permit
  - small number of ravens on a regional scale
  - permit issuance time 30 days to 6 weeks

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# EA Implementation Planning Status

- ▶ No accomplishments to report
- ▶ Combining this with education and outreach efforts

# Education and Outreach

- ▶ Major electrical utility companies in California desert - meeting
  - identify locations of facilities
  - identify raven issues
  - discuss possible solutions
  - develop next steps