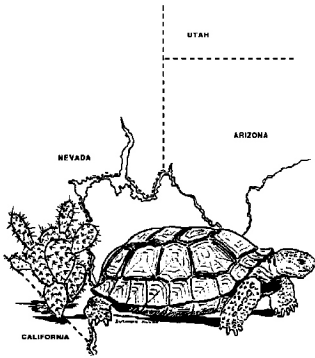


THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2007
OUR 32nd YEAR

Our Goal: To assure the continued survival of viable populations of the desert tortoise throughout its range.

16th ANNUAL SURVEYING, MONITORING, AND HANDLING TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

November 3-4, 2007, Ridgecrest, California

The 16th Annual Surveying, Monitoring, and Handling Techniques Workshop is scheduled for November 3 and 4, 2007 at the Carriage Inn in Ridgecrest, California. **The workshop is full!** We will be sending out registration material August 5th via e-mail, with the cost of the workshop being \$275.00. If you are on the list to attend and do not receive the registration link by August 6, please contact us. You will have three weeks to send in your registration and full payment. After that, we will be contacting people on the waiting list. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please contact Tracy or Mike Bailey at tracy.bailey@mchsi.com.

The DTC Tortoise Handling Workshops are recognized by the USFWS and CDFG, but a certificate of attendance and participation **does**

not guarantee a USFWS or CDFG permit. However, completion of the Workshop should assist with obtaining the permits.

The Desert Tortoise Council's two-day workshops are structured to provide information on the handling, monitoring, surveying, and biology of desert tortoises. Instructors include: Desert Tortoise Council officers, public and private sector biologists, and personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Arizona Game and Fish Department. Last minute registrations at Ridgecrest will not be accepted, as we are a nonprofit organization trying to make the registration process fair and easy for everyone involved.

2008 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM LAS VEGAS

The Desert Tortoise Council Symposium will be held in Las Vegas in 2008. Sam's Town will be hosting the event from February 22 to 25, 2008. We will make available many of the details on this upcoming symposium in the fall and winter newsletters. We look forward to sharing this information with you then.

Registration fee structure has changed. The fee structure makes it even more attractive to members, and to register early. A choice for spouse registration includes breakfasts, socials, and one session. A registration form is below.

Sam's Town has reserved a block of rooms from February 21 to 25, 2008. The room rate is \$45 for Thursday and Sunday, and \$99.99 a night for Friday and Saturday. Reservation information will be posted on our web page when we receive it and in future newsletters. Refer to the Sam's Town web page for additional information:

<http://www.samstownlv.com/main.cfm>

and information on Las Vegas can be found at:

<http://www.visitlasvegas.com/vegas/>

Both individual or group donations for the symposium are greatly appreciated and can be made by contacting Bob Turner, local host chair, at KKBK@cox.net.

Hold the Date

The Desert Tortoise Council is evaluating the possibility of holding a mini-workshop in conjunction with the upcoming Symposium at Sam's Town in Las Vegas. **This workshop would be a one day event tentatively**

scheduled for February 21, 2008 at Sam's Town in Las Vegas. While still in the design stage, the workshop will be structured to augment the material covered at the annual training workshop that the Council holds in Ridgecrest. Details concerning this workshop will be forthcoming and will be distributed in the next issue of the Newsletter and on the DTC web site. Stay tuned for more information.

Prices

The Desert Tortoise Council is raising its prices for the Symposium and for membership to bring fees and costs in line. The Council has strived to keep costs to members and Symposium participants as low as possible; however, income must be balanced against expenses. Symposium costs have risen for food, travel, and expenses of speakers, as well as conservation and education efforts (e.g., bringing speakers from Mexico). Symposium costs may continue to rise.

Our main membership cost is producing the newsletter. You can help by receiving the newsletter electronically, either as a Pdf file via electronic mail, or by receiving an electronic mail notice that the newsletter is posted on our web page. If all newsletters were delivered electronically, newsletter size would be less of an issue.

Future Annual Symposia

The symposium's location for 2009 will be the Dixie Center in St. George, Utah.

<http://www.dixiecenter.com/index.html>

Suggestions or bids for future symposia locations and venues will be gratefully accepted.

Registration and Call for Papers Inside this Issue

You must register to attend. Preregistration as a member is the best value. The deadline for early registration is January 15, 2008.

CONSERVATION NEWS

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Timber Industry Uses Draft Endangered Species Act Regulations

On March 27, 2007, the media published draft regulations that radically change the Endangered Species Act. In response, the Department of Interior asserted that it did not intend to implement the draft as written.

In legal papers filed recently however, environmental groups show that Mark Rutzick, a former administration official now representing the timber industry, has filed a lawsuit based on the draft regulations.

The timber lawsuit was filed on March 7, 2007, three weeks before the draft regulations surfaced. Industry lawyers are trying to force the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove the marbled murrelet from the federal threatened list under a provision of the draft regulations. Current regulations contain no such requirement.

“The Bush administration’s draft regulations gutting the Endangered Species Act haven’t even been publicly proposed yet, but the timber industry is already trying to strip the nation’s wildlife of protection,” said Kristen Boyles, an attorney with Earthjustice. “Once again, the Bush administration is undermining protection of our nation’s endangered species to benefit

their friends and campaign contributors in the timber industry.”

Supporting materials may found at www.earthjustice.org.

Federal Judge Blocks BLM’s Grazing Rules

A federal judge enjoined the implementation of BLM’s new grazing regulations. U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill ruled that the BLM violated the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in creating the rules. A final judgement has not yet been ordered.

"Past BLM regulations imposed restrictions on grazing and increased the opportunities for public input to reverse decades of grazing damage to public lands. Without any showing of improvement, the new BLM regulations loosen restrictions on grazing."

"According to the federal agency charged with protecting endangered species – the Fish and Wildlife Service – the new regulations fundamentally change the way BLM lands are managed, and could have profound impacts on wildlife resources.

<http://www.greatfallsribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070609/NEWS01/706090304/1002/NEWS17>

Ruling

http://www.westernwatersheds.org/legal/SJ_BLMgrazeregs_07/SJDecision.pdf

Opposing viewpoint

<http://www.agweekly.com/articles/2007/06/19/news/opinion/opin65.txt>

REGISTRATION FORM

Desert Tortoise Council 33rd Annual Meeting and Symposium February 22-25, 2008

Return to
Desert Tortoise Council
P.O. Box 331
Tucson, AZ 85702-331

Please complete a SEPARATE form for each attendee.
Please print or type

Name: _____ **Organization:** _____
(First, Last) (Name to be used on ID badge)

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Fax:** _____

SYMPOSIUM FEES

		ENTER AMOUNT
Member Registration	\$150.00 (\$200.00 if postmarked after 1/21/2008)	_____
Student Member Registration	\$60.00 (verification required) (\$85.00 if postmarked after 1/21/2008)	_____
Non-member Registration	\$200.00 (\$250.00 if postmarked after 1/21/2008)	_____
One-day Registration	\$100 (\$140 if postmarked after 1/21/2008)	_____
Spouse (inc. breakfasts/socials)	\$50	_____
Regular Membership Dues	\$30.00 (see dues schedule in newsletter)	_____
Vendors	\$100.00 goods, minimum	_____
Raffle Ticket(s)	@ \$1.00 each	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make check payable to **Desert Tortoise Council**
Only checks or fully executed purchase orders are accepted

Monday Field Trip
I would like to attend one of several Monday, February 25, 2008, field trips
Yes: _____ No: _____

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS
33rd ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, February 22-25, 2008

The Desert Tortoise Council will host its Thirty-third Annual Symposium on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, February 22 to 25, 2008 at Sam's Town, Las Vegas, Nevada. **Titles and abstracts for sessions or contributed papers and posters are hereby invited.** The Council welcomes pertinent papers on turtle and tortoise biology and conservation.

Please return the form below with abstract by **December 1, 2007** (The form below must be submitted by December 1, 2007).

Abstracts

Content: They should be substantive, focused on findings and implications of findings (not methods). Abstracts for 15 minute papers should be limited to 250 words (body, not title and addresses) and double-spaced. Capitalize and center the title; underneath the title, list and center all authors (include first names) with affiliations and addresses. Italicize all scientific names and statistical notations. Authors need to follow the [Guidelines for Authors](#).

Submission: Send a virus-free file by e-mail or on a 3.5 inch disk (WordPerfect 9.0 or Word 2000 for Windows, or more recent versions) by surface mail. ALL e-mail transmissions must include all the information requested below, including author's address, phone, e-mail address, and fax numbers. E-mail transmissions must include the abstract as an attachment in WordPerfect 9.0 or Word 2000 (or more recent versions), not in the body of the text. The Program Chair must be informed immediately if a cancellation or substitution is necessary.

Papers

Speakers: should be prepared to give professional papers. Most papers will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals (12 minutes for presentation, three minutes for questions), unless other arrangements are made. Featured Speakers: The Keynote and Invited or Featured Speakers will be allotted additional time, to be arranged with the Program Chair.

Posters

Posters will be displayed throughout the meeting. Poster presentations may be offered at specific times. If you have questions about your paper or need assistance, please contact the Program Chair, Dr. Kristin Berry, at the address below.

Information should be exact, because the program copy will be prepared from this sheet. If your title and the speaker list are tentative, say so.

Paper _____ Student Paper _____ Poster _____
Author(s) and Affiliations(s). Indicate speaker with an asterisk _____

Title of Paper _____

Address of Speaker _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____ E-mail _____

Special needs (e.g., AV equipment): _____ Time: _____

Submission

Mail to: Dr. Kristin H. Berry, Program Chair; USGS; 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. E-mail to: kristin_berry@usgs.gov and to fldhcky@cox.net (send copies to both).

Embattled Interior Official Resigns in Wake of Inspector General Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. - According to the Endangered Species and Wetlands Report, a high-level Bush appointee has resigned in the aftermath of an Inspector General investigation, just days before a House congressional oversight committee was to hold a public hearing on her violations of the Endangered Species Act, censorship of science, and harassment of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff.

Julie MacDonald tendered her resignation on April 30, 2007. She was the Department of Interior's Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, a position that oversees the entire U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species program. As revealed in numerous media exposés and a recent Department of Interior Inspector General investigation, MacDonald used her position to aggressively squelch protection of endangered species. She rewrote scientific reports, and browbeat U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

MacDonald's specialty was blocking agency efforts to place imperiled species on the endangered species list, stripping tens of millions of acres from agency proposals to designate "critical habitat" and working with industry groups to remove species from the endangered list and thus from federal protection.

"Julie MacDonald's reign of terror over the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is finally over," said Kieran Suckling, policy director with the Center for Biological Diversity. "Endangered species and scientists everywhere are breathing a sigh of relief. But MacDonald was the administration's attack dog, not its general. The contempt for science and law that she came to symbolize goes much deeper than a single Department of Interior employee."

MacDonald's recently hired counterpart, Todd Willens, appears equally dedicated to

undermining endangered species conservation. Willens spearheaded Richard Pombo's (formerly R-CA) anti-endangered species agenda as lead staffer of the House Resources Committee, then was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in 2006. He has since been directly involved in developing sweeping anti-endangered species regulations and efforts to remove various species from the endangered species list.

This administration has listed fewer species under the Endangered Species Act than any other administration since the law was enacted in 1973, to date only listing 57 species compared to 512 under the Clinton administration and 234 under the first Bush administration. The Bush government has listed so few species in part because it has been denying species protection at record rates — in many cases with the direct involvement of MacDonald. A review of information on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's web page shows that no species have been listed in the last year.

Of all the endangered species listing decisions made under the Bush administration, 52 percent denied protection as compared to only 13 percent during the last six years of the Clinton Administration. Meanwhile, 279 species languish on the candidate list without protection.

Department of the Interior Unveils Cooperative Conservation Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett unveiled the Department's new Cooperative Conservation legislation. Titled the "Cooperative Conservation Enhancement Act," removes barriers to fostering cooperation among federal agencies, local and state governments, and the private sector and gives the Department greater opportunities to enter into partnerships with private individuals, companies, organizations and government entities to achieve conservation goals on a landscape scale.

“This hallmark legislation advances the Department’s vision of conservation partnerships,” Scarlett said. “Nature itself is unbounded. Cooperative conservation enables us to enhance, protect, and restore coasts, forests, wetlands, and prairies across a mosaic of lands through shared stewardship. With this Cooperative Conservation Enhancement Act, we will be able to remove the barriers and roadblocks that hinder conservation and deter citizen and community conservation,” said Scarlett.

“As a result of this legislation, conservation efforts will move beyond isolated projects, without connection or coordination,” Scarlett continued. “The Cooperative Conservation Enhancement Act makes everybody a partner and enhances the incentives for landowners and others to conserve lands, water and wildlife and to coordinate conservation activities across jurisdictions.”“As a package, the Cooperative Conservation Enhancement Act will advance the ability of land management agencies to provide compatible services to the American people across Federal lands,” said Mark Rey, Under Secretary of Agriculture. “The USDA is delighted to join the Department of the Interior in this effort to improve collaborative working relationships toward the conservation of our nation’s natural resources.”

The legislation, submitted to Congress, addresses comments and concerns brought from the 2005 White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation and numerous listening sessions across the country. To address much of the bureaucratic red tape that has hampered federal agencies from working closely with each another and even private citizens from trying to undertake conservation efforts on their own land, the legislation addresses four primary areas:

- * Clarifying jurisdiction where previous legislation was vague or unclear, such as allowing for the Department to promote the existence of friends groups;

- * Strengthening the Department’s authority in areas where that authority had previously been ad hoc, such as funding grant programs like Water 2025, which allows the Department to fund up to 50 percent of water conservation and efficiency projects;

- * Codifying successful cooperative conservation methods, such as the joint Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture Service First program and formally authorizing conservation grant programs; and

- * Removing barriers to cooperative conservation, such as modifications to the tax code so Department grants for conservation are not treated as income and allowing for closer partnership among conservation agencies.

BLM Releases Final EIS on Vegetation Treatment/Fuels Reduction on Western Public Lands for Comment

As part of ongoing efforts to combat the spread of invasive and noxious weeds and reduce fire-prone fuels on public lands, the Bureau of Land Management today released its Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) comprehensively analyzing the environmental effects of various methods for treating and managing vegetation. The Final PEIS is available for public review and comment through July 30, 2007.

The PEIS presents detailed, national-level analysis of the risks of herbicide use to humans and sensitive species, as well as to other resources and activities. A programmatic environmental report (PER) evaluates additional treatment methods to reduce the risk of wildland fire by reducing highly flammable vegetation such as pinyon, juniper, and dead or downed woody materials. The two reports will guide field-level planning and projects using mechanical, manual, and biological techniques to meet fuel-reduction

goals under the National Fire Plan. Both documents are national in scope and contain supporting analysis and data.

“Noxious weeds and other invasive vegetation threaten the health and economic productivity of millions of acres of public land across the West,” said BLM Acting Director Jim Hughes. “Recent experience in New Mexico shows that the carefully planned use of herbicides combined with prescribed fire and mechanical treatments can restore land health in as little as one or two years.”

The documents are available at:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/veg_eis.html

and in printed form and on CD-ROM from BLM field offices. A project overview with success stories is also available at:

www.blm.gov/wo/en/prog/more/veg_eis/0.html

Comments on the Final PEIS and PER will be accepted only in writing and should be mailed to the following address, postmarked on or before July 31, 2007: Mr. Brian Amme, Project Manager, BLM, P.O. Box 12000, Reno NV 89520-0006. Substantive comments will be used to develop the final decision action to implement the PEIS, as expressed in the Record of Decision (ROD) to be signed later this summer.

Rangers Call Off-road Vehicles Biggest Threat to Public Lands

Tucson, AZ — Reckless off-roading has become an acute law enforcement problem and is now the single greatest threat to American landscapes, according to a new coalition of rangers and public land managers assembled by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). Rangers say tough new policies, such as suspending hunting and fishing licenses and, in

extreme cases, confiscating vehicles, are needed to stem irresponsible off-road vehicle use.

The coalition, called Rangers for Responsible Recreation, consists of more than a dozen of America’s most seasoned law enforcement and natural resource management specialists from every major public lands agency covering several different administrations. The coalition contends off-road abuse is creating chaos on our public lands and ruining the outdoors for everyone while overburdening an already strapped ranger force. As Don Hoffman, a retired Forest Service wilderness ranger in Arizona states:

“Rapid population growth, accelerating off-road vehicle sales and ineffectual regulation have combined to make the indiscriminate use of off-road vehicles the greatest threat to Arizona’s quiet, wild places.”

Ron Kearns, a retired biologist and law enforcement officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona, adds:

“I have observed a dramatic increase in the use and misuse of off-road vehicles on the Kofa since I began my law enforcement duties there in 1982. The abuse involves driving off the 300 miles of designated roads on Kofa resulting in irreparable damage to desert pavement and pristine lands. The Fish and Wildlife Service must increase law enforcement efforts.”

From a national perspective, Jim Baca, former Director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management now serving as New Mexico’s Natural Resource Trustee, contends:

“There is no greater threat to our country’s public land treasure than off-road vehicles. Additionally, they are killing and injuring too many young people because of improper training, operation and inherent safety deficiencies.”

The Rangers for Responsible Recreation are also urging a congressional inquiry that accounts for the real costs to taxpayers from off-road abuses on our public lands, as well as augmented law enforcement funding dedicated to coping with the avalanche of problems occasioned by reckless off-roading.

“Off-roading is becoming the most widely destructive, problematic and demanding use of public lands,” states Southwest PEER Director Daniel Patterson and ecologist, noting that off-road abuse has morphed motorized access into a destructive “wreck-reaction.” “America needs a new national approach to what has become a plague on our legacy of conservation. No one has a right to abuse our public lands.”

Counties Can't Seize National Rights-of-way, Judge Says

Salt Lake City, UT - Two Utah counties can't unravel protections limiting off-road vehicle use on the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, by claiming without proof that they have historic rights-of-way, a federal court judge ruled in June.

In a ruling that blocks the counties' broad seizure of wash bottoms and seldom-used jeep tracks as "highways" under a repealed 19th Century law known as R.S. 2477, United States District Court Judge Bruce Jenkins ensured that off-road highway development could not run amok in these unique national lands.

The judge largely dismissed the lawsuit filed by Kane and Garfield Counties, seeking to overturn limits to off-road vehicle use within the 1.8 million acre Monument. The counties have claimed hundreds of seldom-used jeep tracks and canyon bottoms as "highways" under the old law. The suit demanded that their claims be settled by the federal Bureau of Land Management, and in the meantime that any provisions protecting the

desert environment from dirt bikes, ATV, and other off-road vehicles be overturned.

Judge Jenkins held that it is up to the courts -- not the BLM -- to determine R.S. 2477 rights-of-way, and dismissed the counties' challenge to Monument plan restrictions on off-highway vehicle use and road development.

"It's a great day for the Grand Staircase," said Ted Zukoski, one of the Earthjustice attorneys on the case. "The Monument plan protects wildlife, water quality, wilderness, and archeological wonders while providing nearly 1,000 miles of roads and off-road trails. The counties wanted to eliminate all protections limiting dirt-bikes, ATVs, and other off-road vehicles based on the counties' word that somewhere out there were a bunch of roads."

"The court ruled that you can't just take a scattershot approach to the Management plan in making claims. You have to prove them case by case," Zukoski said.

<http://www.earthjustice.org/news/press/007/counties-cant-seize-national-rights-of-way-judge-says.html>

PUBLICATIONS

USGS Office of Communications Science Picks

Tortoise Shells Tell Arsenic Tales: USGS scientists have found that the outer layer of a tortoise's shell, which has growth scales, provides a chronology of elemental uptake from a tortoise's environment. Desert tortoises are long-lived plant-eaters that spend much of their lives in contact with dust, soil and sediments, including potentially toxic elements. A survey of 66 elements in soil, stream sediment, and plant samples from six tortoise study areas in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts have revealed

arsenic in anomalous concentrations region-wide. Arsenic has been linked to both shell and respiratory diseases in desert tortoises. The highest concentrations occurred in soils and plants in or near areas contaminated by mining of arsenic-rich ores. For more information, contact Kristin Berry at 951-697-5361 or kristin_berry@usgs.gov; Maurice Chaffee at 303-236-1855 or mchaffee@usgs.gov or Andrea Foster at 650-329-5437 or afoster@usgs.gov.

Desert Tortoise Hibernation: According to a recent study in the journal *Copeia* by USGS and University of Nevada, Reno, scientists, the transition in and out of hibernation by Mojave desert tortoises extends over much longer periods than was previously thought. The scientists examined the onset, duration, and termination of hibernation in Mojave desert tortoises over several years at multiple sites in the northeastern part of their geographic range, and recorded the temperatures experienced by tortoises during winter hibernation. The timing of hibernation by desert tortoises differed among sites and years. Different individual tortoises entered hibernation over as many as 44 days in the fall and emerged from hibernation over as many as 49 days in the spring. Environmental cues did not appear to influence the timing of the hibernation period; however, regionally, hibernation tended to begin earlier and continue longer at sites that were higher in elevation and generally cooler. The average temperatures experienced by tortoises while hibernating differed by only about five degrees from the coldest site to the warmest site. The variability in timing of hibernation and kinds of subterranean burrows (hibernacula) used at different sites are important considerations for management decisions that allow activities to occur during winter months in desert tortoise habitat. See:

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/pubbriefs/nussearpbjun2007.html>

(Ken Nussear, Henderson, NV, 702-564-4515, knussear@usgs.gov)

Citation: Nussear, K. E., T. C. Esque, D. F. Haines, and C. R. Tracy. 2007. Desert tortoise hibernation: temperatures, timing, and environment. *Copeia* 2007:378–386.

Competitive Interactions Between an Exotic Annual Grass and Mojave Desert Perennials:

Competition between native and nonindigenous species can change the composition and structure of plant communities, but in deserts, the highly variable timing of winter and spring rainfall also influences nonindigenous plant establishment, thus modulating their effects on native species. Much research has focused on the dramatic impact that the exotic annual grass red brome (*Bromus madritensis* spp. *rubens*) has on desert plant communities by fueling wildfires that injure and kill native plants. A study by scientists of the USGS, Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station, and University of Nevada, Reno, recently published in *Biological Invasions*, highlights red brome's impact on perennial species in undisturbed habitat even before wildfire becomes a problem. Among findings from the field experiment, the growth of perennials declined when red brome established early in winter because the nonindigenous grass had 2 to 3 months of growth and extracted soil moisture before perennials became active. See:

<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/pubbriefs/defalcofbmay2007.html>

(Lesley DeFalco, Henderson, NV, 702-564-4507, lesley_defalco@usgs.gov)

Citation: DeFalco, L. A., G. C. J. Fernandez, and R. S. Nowak. 2007. Variation in the establishment of a non-native annual grass influences competitive interactions with Mojave Desert perennials. *Biological Invasions* 9:293–307.

Herpetological Conservation and Biology

The newest issue of Herpetological Conservation and Biology has been posted online at:

<http://www.herpconbio.org>

A new journal published in partnership with Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and the World Congress of Herpetology.

THE CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL

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FUNDING

Patagonia's Environmental Grants Program

Patagonia (www.patagonia.com), the outdoor clothing and gear company, provides support for environmental work through grants to nonprofit organizations.

Patagonia funds only environmental work, and makes grants to organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and that approach issues with a commitment to long-term change. The company funds work that is action-oriented; builds public involvement and support; is strategic in its targeting and goals; focuses on root causes; accomplishes specific goals and objectives that can be effectively measured; and takes place in countries where Patagonia has retail stores or an international office.

The company does not fund organizations without 501(c)(3) status or a comparable fiscal sponsor; general environmental education efforts; land acquisition, land trusts, or conservation easements; research (unless it is in direct support of a developed plan for specific action to alleviate an environmental problem); endowment funds; environmental conferences; or political campaigns.

Most grants are in the range of \$3,000 to \$8,000. Patagonia accepts proposals for programs that fit its grant guidelines during the months of April or August. Only one proposal from an organization will be considered per year.

Please note that organizations based in a community in which Patagonia has a retail store or an international office should submit their request to the store. Retail store applications are accepted year-round.

Visit the Patagonia Web site for complete information and grant application procedures. Application deadline is: August 31, 2007.

<http://www.patagonia.com/web/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>

Captain Planet Foundation

The Captain Planet Foundation will fund as many projects as its annual resources allow. Please read the following guidelines thoroughly. To

maximize the impact of Foundation funds, the Board of Trustees limits their grant awards to those applications which comply with the guidelines.

All applicant organizations or sponsoring agencies must be exempt from federal taxation under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501. To be considered for funding, proposals must:

- Promote understanding of environmental issues;
- Focus on hands-on involvement;
- Involve children and young adults 6-18;
- Promote interaction and cooperation within the group;
- Help young people develop planning and problem solving skills;
- Include adult supervision; and
- Commit to follow-up communication with the Foundation.

The Captain Planet Foundation reserves the right to earmark funding for specific budget items, and decline funding for budget items not consistent with Grant Guidelines. The range of grants awarded by the Foundation is \$250 to \$2,500.

The Captain Planet Foundation does not make grants for:

- The purchase of real estate;
- Endowments;
- General operations expenses;
- Capital or building campaigns;
- T-shirts and other promotional items;
- Scholarships to attend summer camps;
- Field trips that are not supplemented by a semester long (minimum) lesson plan;
- Expensive equipment used by only a small number of children;
- Salaries;
- Transportation costs;
- Organic gardens generally no more than \$500; and
- Adopt-a-stream no more than \$400.

Deadlines for submitting grant applications are June 30, September 30, and December 31. Grant proposals are reviewed for three months from the date of the submission deadline. All applicants will be informed of their proposal's status within four months of the application deadline.

<http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/>

Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund

The Wildlife Conservation Society's North America Program is pleased to announce the second round of grants through its Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund - a program for implementing State Wildlife Action Plans.

The fund provides competitive grants to conservation organizations that are focused on implementing priority conservation actions and strategies identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. The Fund will provide \$2 million in 2007. This Request for Proposals, is for 2007 awards only. More information on State Wildlife Action Plans is available at both wildlifeactionplans.org and the Teaming with Wildlife website <http://www.teaming.com>.

Grants are limited to nonprofit conservation organizations with approved IRS 501(c)3 status for projects in the 50 U.S. states or six U.S. territories with Wildlife Action Plans. The Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund **cannot** be used to support projects that propose to undertake: land acquisition or conservation easements, building construction, political lobbying, organizational capacity building, captive breeding, or the gathering of additional data for a State Wildlife Action Plan through biological inventory, monitoring, or research (unless the proposed data gathering is a minor component of a project addressing one of the funding priorities outlined in the next section). Proposals that are primarily focused on research or data collection will not be considered.

How do you get more information on this process? The WCS website www.wcs.org/wildlifeopportunity provides more information on the grant program. If you have further questions, please contact Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund Program Officer Darren Long at (406) 522-7203 or email dlong@wcs.org.

Contacts: Darren Long or Craig Groves: Wildlife Conservation Society, 2023 Stadium Drive, Suite 1A, Bozeman, MT 59715; 406-556-7203, 406-522-9333 x 109, fax 406-522-9377, fax 406-522-9377; dlong@wcs.org, cgroves@wcs.org.

<http://www.wcs.org/wildlifeopportunity>

DAVID J. MORAFKA MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD

In honor and memory of Dr. David J. Morafka, distinguished herpetologist and authority on North American gopher tortoises, the Desert Tortoise Council, with the aid of several donors, has established a monetary award to help support research that contributes to the understanding, management and conservation of tortoises of the genus *Gopherus* in the southwestern United States and Mexico: *G. agassizii*, *G. berlandieri* and *G. flavomarginatus*.

Award Amount: \$2,000 to be awarded at the Desert Tortoise Council's Annual Symposium, depending on the availability of funding and an appropriate recipient.

Eligibility: Applicants must be associated with a recognized institution (e.g., university, museum, government agency, non-governmental organization) and may be graduate students, post-doctoral students, or other researchers. They must agree to present a report on the results of the research in which award funds were used at a future symposium of the Desert Tortoise Council.

Evaluation Criteria: Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the potential of the research to contribute to the biological knowledge of one or more of the above gopher tortoise species, and to their management and conservation. Important considerations are the significance and originality of the research problem, design of sampling and analysis, preliminary data supporting the feasibility of the research, and the likelihood of successful completion and publication.

Application Procedure:

1. Obtain an application form from the Desert Tortoise Council's website (www.deserttortoise.org) or print out the form from an e-mail notification.
2. Provide all information requested on the application, including a description of the research project in no more than 1,200 words.
3. Applications must be accompanied by three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the applicant's research advisor, supervisor, or a knowledgeable colleague. The letters must be in sealed envelopes addressed to the "Morafka Research Award Selection Committee" with the recommenders' signatures across the flaps.
4. Completed application materials must be submitted by **December 1, 2007** to the **Desert Tortoise Council, P. O. Box 3273, Beaumont, CA 92223**.
5. A research award recipient will be selected by a committee of gopher tortoise biologists appointed by the Desert Tortoise Council Board of Directors.
6. The research award recipient will be notified of their selection by **February 1, 2008** and the award will be presented at the 2008 Desert Tortoise Council Symposium.

**DAVID J. MORAFKA MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD
2008 APPLICATION FORM**

(APPLICATION DUE DECEMBER 1, 2007)

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide all specific information requested below within the spaces allotted. Type font should be no smaller than 10 point. Applications not adhering to these guidelines may be rejected. Award will be announced by February 1, 2008.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Home Mailing Address:

E-mail Address:

Institution or Organization:

Department (if applicable):

Name of Research Advisor, Supervisor or Colleague:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

RESEARCH INFORMATION

Title of research project:

Location(s) where research will be conducted:

Permits held or expected to be obtained for the research:

If selected to receive the award, would you agree to report on the research at a Desert Tortoise Council Symposium?

Enclose three letters of recommendation, as per instructions in the announcement, and mail application to the **Desert Tortoise Council, P. O. Box 3273, Beaumont, CA 92223.**

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

In no more than 1,200 words, describe the objectives and/or hypotheses, methods, and experimental design, and any preliminary data supporting the feasibility of the project. Also, describe how the award would benefit the project, and clearly indicate how the research would contribute to the biological knowledge, management, and conservation of one or more gopher tortoise species in the southwestern United States and Mexico. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

**NO
TRIANGULATION
REQUIRED!**

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RESEARCH

692 Sumas Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8T 4S6 Tel: 250-381-9425
Toll Free: 1-866-863-5155 info@habitresearch.com www.habitresearch.com

Desert Tortoise Council
c/o Doug Duncan
P.O. Box 331
Tucson, AZ 85702

_____ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION _____ RENEWAL _____ CHANGE OF ADDRESS
DATE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
(Please Print) *(Include Area Code)*
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

_____ Regular (\$30.00 per year) _____ Organization (\$125 per year)
_____ Contributing (≥\$100.00 per year) _____ Lifetime (\$500 or more)
_____ Student (\$20.00 per year- Requires endorsement of advisor or major professor)

NEWSLETTER FORMAT:

_____ Pdf file via e-mail _____ E-mail notice for web page viewing _____ Mailed paper copy

Make check or money order payable to the Desert Tortoise Council
and **send** with this application
to: **Desert Tortoise Council, P.O. Box 3273**
Beaumont, CA 92223

The Desert Tortoise Council does not release its membership list

www.deserttortoise.org