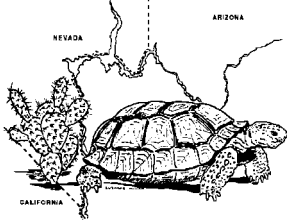


DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL



LATE FALL 2001

OUR 26TH YEAR

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

2002 SYMPOSIUM NEWS

The Desert Tortoise Council 27th Annual Symposium is scheduled to take place March 22-24, 2002, at the Palm Springs Ramada Resort Hotel.

The symposium is the premier opportunity to share information with those people who are involved in desert tortoise research and management.

Plans include a special session on Fort Irwin research, along with discussions on climate change, roads and fragmentation, and papers on distance sampling. Those wishing to present papers or posters should see the Call for Papers included in this issue.

Each year the DTC showcases student research and desert photography. There will be a banquet, with an awards ceremony, on Saturday night, and a mixer on Friday night. The annual DTC Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the symposium.

The Monday field trips provide great learning experiences and opportunities for networking. Field trips could include Coachella Valley Multi-species HCP, Chuckwalla Bench to look at g-sub-zero tortoises, Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree National Park, and The Living Desert.

A block of rooms has been reserved. Standard rooms are available for \$90/night through this block. **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW.** Non-smoking rooms are available.

Preregistration information will be available soon online at www.deserttortoise.org and in the next newsletter. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Rhys Evans, Ecologist at Twentynine Palms (evansrm@29palms.usmc.mil, 760 830-7396 x234), will serve as Host Chairperson.

Ramada Resort
1800 East Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs CA 92264

Phone: 760-323-1711
Number of Rooms: 255

Credit Cards: AX AM CB DC DS EC JC MC VI

The Ramada Hotel Resort is the only Ramada in the greater Palm Springs area. This full service hotel is located in the Smoke Tree area of Palm Springs just 10 minutes from the Airport, Downtown and Convention Center. Across the street is the Smoke Tree Shopping Center, restaurants and nightclubs. This courtyard hotel is built around a garden and pool. Each guest room offers a balcony or patio with a view. Facilities include a resort pool, hot therapy pools, saunas, fitness center, coffee shop, gift shop, Leon's Bar & Grill for lunch and dinner, and Tony's Cafe for breakfast and lunch. Free shuttle from the airport.

Standard guest rooms with one king bed, one queen bed, or two queen beds. Conversation area desks, phone. Coffeemakers, mini refrigerators, hairdryers, digital alarm clocks, voicemail/wake up call, climate control, balcony or patio, cable/pay TV and movies, soap, shampoos, etc.

One and two bedrooms with separate parlors are also available. Desk, phone, conversation area. Room features same as standard plus sofa bed and separate bedroom from parlor.

NOTE TO PRESENTERS: We've got a low ceiling in the meeting room. We're asking for PowerPoint presentations, and for two complete CDs per person. If a presenter has slides, we will ask for two complete sets. We realize that this increases costs, but the plan is to have two screens and two projectors, one in front and one in the middle of the room. We strongly suggest that there be no vertical slides (i.e. "portrait" format) because we will set the projectors to the very top of the screen.

BLM has issued its final grazing decisions and has imposed a seasonal closure on grazing on public lands in desert tortoise critical habitat. Below are the BLM, Department of Interior and Center for Biological Diversity press releases. Each offers quite different views of this historic event. The Desert Tortoise Council supports implementation of the FWS 1994 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan and supports the need to end cattle grazing in desert tortoise habitat to help recovery of the species.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
News Release CA 6100177
Friday, September 7, 2001

BLM Issues Final Grazing Decisions Effective Immediately to Protect Tortoise

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today issued decisions to eight ranchers restricting livestock grazing on public lands in certain parts of the California Desert because of an imminent likelihood of significant resource damage, specifically imminent harm to the desert tortoise, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

BLM District Manager Tim Salt said BLM's action is necessary to bring the agency into compliance with a settlement agreement and consent decree approved by a Federal District Court last March in response to a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club., and the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility regarding the Endangered Species Act.

Under that consent decree, BLM agreed to restrict livestock grazing in desert tortoise habitat during the spring (March 1 to June 15) and fall (September 7 to November 7) seasons when the tortoise is most active.

The affected ranchers were first issued decisions May 15, 2001, restricting livestock use on portions of their public land allotments, nearly all in San Bernardino County Pursuant to BLM regulations, the ranchers protested and appealed those decisions, resulting in a 13 day hearing in Barstow in August before a Department of the Interior Administrative Law Judge with delegated authority to make a final decision. On August 24, the judge ruled the decisions were in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the rest of BLM's grazing regulations, with the exception of the requirement for consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the ranchers. The decisions were remanded to BLM for further efforts at consultation.

The decisions are effective today (September 7) and the ranchers must immediately begin the process of removing their livestock from the affected areas pursuant to BLM's regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations 4110.33) which state that the agency "after a reasonable attempt to consult with affected permittees" may issue "final decisions effective upon issuance" if BLM determines "continued grazing use poses an imminent likelihood of significant resource damage."

Background information on the lawsuit is available online at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/cdd/lawsuit.html>.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
September 7, 2001

BLM Issues Decision Concerning Protecting Desert Tortoise and Allowing Family Farmers to Continue Their Way of Life - Previous administration made promises that were impossible to keep -

WASHINGTON The Bureau of Land Management today issued decisions to eight ranchers restricting grazing on public lands in certain portions of the California desert. Interior Department Press Secretary Mark Pfeifle issued the following statement:

"The previous administration made promises that were impossible to keep and have forced us into an unfortunate and unavoidable position," said Pfeifle. "We made a good faith effort to meet an impossible schedule and provide fairness to all parties. Our goal is to find common ground and consensus to both protect the desert tortoise and its habitat and allow family ranchers to provide for their families and continue their way of life.

"The previous Administration agreed to a settlement that requires BLM to remove grazing allotments from desert tortoise habitat starting on September 7. To comply with this requirement, the BLM is forced today to sign a closure order that will take effect immediately.

"The ranchers are entitled to full and meaningful consultation under BLM's regulations. Although we are forced by the consent decree to remove grazing allotments from desert tortoise habitat, we are committed to continuing the consultation process over the next weeks to try to address the ranchers legitimate concerns; while still ensuring that the desert tortoise is protected.

"it is unfortunate that it had to come to this. We had hoped that the plaintiffs in the litigation would agree to a very reasonable, limited extension of the September deadline so that we could complete the consultation process with the ranchers and hopefully reach a consensus solution. Plaintiffs unfortunately were not willing to give us that opportunity.

"This is not the long term solution to this problem. We are currently in the process of completing a comprehensive biological opinion governing activities in the California desert. That biological opinion will ultimately determine when and under what conditions grazing will be permitted," concluded Pfeifle.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Puts Mojave Grazing Restrictions in Full Effect to Benefit Tortoise, Conservation Groups Back BLM

MOJAVE DESERT, CA -- The U.S. Bureau of Land Management took decisive action this afternoon to protect the desert tortoise from harmful livestock grazing by putting grazing restriction decisions in to immediate full force and effect. Conservation groups applaud the decision.

On August 24, U.S. Interior Dept. Judge Harvey C. Sweitzer upheld BLM's science-based arguments for endangered species protection and recovery, by seasonally limiting damaging livestock grazing on nearly 500,000 acres of fragile public lands habitat within the 11.5 million acres administered by BLM in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). He also issued a very limited remand to BLM and required the agency to hold further consultations with the livestock industry over the tortoise conservation measures. On the advice of their attorney, Karen Budd-Falen, the eight affected ranchers failed to show up for BLM grazing cooperation and consultation sessions in Barstow yesterday and today - even though many live close by and were directly informed about these important meetings over a week in advance.

"Today, we salute California BLM for finally enacting long overdue livestock grazing changes to benefit the desert tortoise and critical habitat," said Daniel Patterson, the Center's Desert Ecologist. "Moving cattle to other parts of allotments in the fall and spring so tortoises can eat is not too much to ask of ranchers who are grazing the public lands for private gain." He adds, "BLM has tried and tried again, but since last December, the livestock industry has been avoiding communication and cooperation with BLM on these needed conservation changes. The fact that the ranchers failed to show-up for further talks highlights that they have never been open to reasonable discussions on how to help the threatened desert tortoise."

"We commend BLM for meeting the decision deadline and not rewarding, by further delays, the ranchers' stubborn refusal to discuss the grazing plans." said Karen Schambach, California Coordinator for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

The carefully negotiated CDCA grazing settlement helps BLM partially implement the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's 1994 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan recommendations for livestock reduction and removal from critical habitat.

It is scientifically shown that livestock mow down spring annual plants essential to tortoise health and reproduction. The hooved livestock also trample burrows, killing tortoises inside or wrecking their homes. The CDCA settlement was negotiated to aid desert tortoise recovery by preventing grazing on 285,381 acres of critical and 213,281 acres of essential tortoise habitat during the biologically critical spring and fall seasons. The agency further agreed to prohibit grazing year-round on an additional 11,079 acres of active allotments.

"BLM has finally admitted, through today's actions to protect the tortoise, that the grazing settlement agreement they agreed to, including the implementation schedule set by the Secretary of Interior, is reasonable and fair." said Jay Tutchton, Earthjustice

attorney representing the Center, PEER and Sierra Club.

If the livestock industry fails to comply by not moving their cattle during the Sept. 7-Nov. 7 tortoise protection period, they'll face trespass fines, extension of the grazing restrictions, impoundment of cattle and possible loss of public lands grazing privileges.

Conservation groups and BLM plan separate on-the-ground compliance monitoring efforts starting as soon as this weekend.

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE LAWSUIT

On September 11, 2001, several conservation groups filed notice of intent to sue the Department of the Interior under the Endangered Species Act. The notice cited violations of several sections of the Endangered Species Act related to the Biological Opinion for the Abbreviated Final General Management Plan adopted by the National Park Service (NPS) for the Mojave National Preserve. The sixty-day notice was filed on behalf of the Desert Tortoise Council, Citizens For Mojave National Park, Center for Biological Diversity, and the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

Mojave National Preserve contains noted populations of desert tortoise and encompasses approximately 772,000 acres of habitat designated as critical to the conservation of desert tortoise. Pursuant to the laws that govern the national park system and the CDPA, the NPS developed a draft general management plan ("GMP") for the Preserve in 1998.

On June 22, 2001, the NPS announced the release of its Abbreviated Final GMP for the Preserve (66 FR 33538). On July 6, 2001, the USFWS in Ventura, California issued Biological Opinion 1-8-00-F-36 (BO) concluding that the GMP's action, as proposed "...is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of..." listed species "...or adversely modify critical habitat of the desert tortoise."

Section 4(f) of the ESA requires that the Secretary both "...develop and implement plans (hereinafter...referred to as 'recovery plans') for the conservation and survival of endangered species and threatened species..." 16 U.S.C. 1533(f). The ESA mandates that the Secretary implement recovery plans as well as develop them. Plan development is not enough. The NPS' Final GMP for Mojave National Preserve did not implement the central site-specific management action of the Recovery Plan, the designation of at least one DWMA in each recovery unit. Nor did the Mojave GMP eliminate cattle grazing from any, albeit undesignated, DWMA's. **Continued**

Mojave NP continued

The BO did not evaluate the percentage of grazing on critical habitat that has been retired or that remains. We can only estimate, but it appears that grazing continues on 465,000 acres of critical habitat in four allotments (Valley View, Valley Wells, Colton Hills and Gold Valley). This amounts to 61% of critical habitat on which grazing continues. That is a less favorable picture, though more relevant to tortoise recovery, than speaking of retiring 65% of the AUMs throughout the Preserve.

The BO acknowledges that "...most mortality of desert tortoise in the Mojave National Preserve would occur as a result of vehicle use; mortality is likely to be higher on paved roads than on unpaved roads." BO 1-8-00-F-36, p. 50. This is so because vehicles proceed at higher speeds on paved roads. Despite this admission, the BO provides the NPS with "an exemption from the (section 9) prohibitions against take for the incidental take of desert tortoise that may result from any...vehicle use...within the Mojave National Preserve." Ibid. The NPS states that "approximately 144 miles of paved...roads...traverse designated critical tortoise habitat in the Mojave National Preserve. See Revised Draft GMP, p.222.

BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

The Desert Tortoise Council Awards Committee will present a Best Student Paper Award at the close of each Annual Symposium. The presenter must give notice to the Program Chair of his/her student status at the time the Abstract is received. The Best Student Paper Award notice will accompany the call for papers. To qualify as a student, the person must be enrolled at a college or university in a degree program. Student status must be affirmed by a note from the student's major professor or advisor and must accompany the Abstract.

The Award will be based on the following factors:

- 1) Value of content toward furthering knowledge of desert tortoise biology
- 2) Quality of content
- 3) Quality of oral presentation
- 4) Quality of visual presentation.

A minimum of three people, including the Student Award Chairperson, with a broad knowledge of desert tortoise biology and literature, will evaluate all student presentations. The Chairperson, with the assistance of the other evaluators will decide upon the winner and will make the award. The winner receives recognition from the Council and a cash award.

10TH ANNUAL TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

The workshop is scheduled for November 3 - 4, 2001, in Ridgecrest, California. The workshop is currently full. It will be held at the Carriage Inn this year.

The Desert Tortoise Council wishes to thank the following for their support:

Indian Wells Valley Water District
Chambers Group
Charis Corporation
AMEC
CH2M HILL
Circle Mountain Biological Consultants
Tom Dodson & Associates
Southwest Desert Environmental

The workshop is a success each year due to the great volunteer effort. Thanks to all who have helped.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Desert Tortoise Council is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization that depends on the efforts of many people. Members are encouraged to participate in Council activities, including events such as the Annual Symposium and Techniques Workshop.

There are a variety of responsibilities that we need help with, and we try to match volunteer assistance with the needs and desires of the individual.

If you are interested in doing more please contact any member of the Board of the Directors or email info@deserttortoise.org

We are also interested in your thoughts and ideas. Please pass along information/content for the newsletter.

NEVADA TORT GROUP

The Desert Tortoise Council wishes to extend their thanks to the Nevada Tortoise Group for their support over the years. The Tortoise Group has been one of the strongest voices for tortoises. Their information and education program has been exceptional.

Consider joining or supporting the Nevada Tortoise Group

email tortoisegroup@worldnet.att.net

www.tortoisegroup.org

Subject: Seri Care Package

Date: Thu, 27 Sep 2001 10:46:18 -0700

Dear Board,

I visited the storage facility yesterday, collected a bunch of DTC materials, boxed them up, and UPSed them to Dr. Nabhan yesterday.

I also sent the t-shirts and posters provided by M. Connor from the DTPC. The letter that accompanied the package is attached and the unformatted version cut-and-pasted below:

26 September 2001
Dr. Gary Nabhan
Center For Sustainable Environments
Northern Arizona University
Hanley Hall - Knowles Center, "Box" 5765
Flagstaff, Arizona 86011-5765

Dear Dr. Nabhan,

The Desert Tortoise Council is pleased to provide this care package to the Seri people as a gesture of our good wishes for their successful work with tortoises on Tiburon Island. Many of us were first made aware of the tortoises on Tiburon at your recent banquet presentation in Tucson at our 26th annual symposium. It was shocking to see that tortoises there may have similar problems as those in the Mojave Desert, where animals also show signs of "weeping sickness."

I understand from Mercy Vaughn and Steve Boland that there are 10 Seri and one Mexican biologist participating in the research next month. As such, I have tried to provide you with materials in multiples of 12, leaving you discretion in your use of the 12th item. As you can see, I am also providing a full set of the Proceedings of the Desert Tortoise Council Symposia, which is intended to provide some background information on tortoises in the southwestern United States. I am not sure if there will be a "language problem," in that these volumes are in English, but I trust that they will be placed in an appropriate place for the Seri and that from time to time someone will assist them in translating the information.

On behalf of the Desert Tortoise Council, I extend our best wishes to the Seri for a meaningful field season and to the tortoise, for continued health there on Tiburon.

Sincerely,

Desert Tortoise Council

Corresponding Secretary

Edward L. LaRue, Jr.

Thanks for your support in this effort.

EXHIBITS AND VENDOR BOOTHS

Booths for exhibits and vendors at the DTC Symposium are available. Please contact the Council for rules and define your needs for space and equipment. Availability will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Register at least 30 days prior to the Symposium.

SANDPIPER TECHNOLOGIES GRANTS PROGRAM

Sandpiper Technologies, Inc. is now accepting Equipment Grant applications for the 2002 field season. The company specializes in electronics for wildlife research and offers free use of its video equipment rental equipment to undergraduate and post graduate students. Implemented in 1997, this program has been used throughout the U.S. and Canada. During the 2001 field season, over 10 students received free use of equipment for a complete field season, and 12 students received \$200 cash grants. Equipment discounts to universities are also available.

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT

* TreeTop Peeper Video System - Monitor and b/w camera on a 16, 35 or 50-foot pole

* Basic Sentinel Video System - Time-lapse VCR, b/w or color camera, 25m cable and camera set-up kit

* Burrow Video Probe with head mounted video display and one of two video camera probe options: - 2.3-inch dia., 3-meter gooseneck (Peeper Video Probe)- 1.0-inch dia., 3-meter gooseneck (Peep-A-Roo)

Equipment specifications can be found at:
<http://www.Sandpipertech.com>

HOW TO APPLY Applications are accepted year-round, but students needing equipment for the spring/summer season should apply by December 1, 2001.

Applicants must 1) Describe their project and how they plan to use the equipment. 2) Describe the size of the critter to be studied and the habitat. 3) Specify the length of the field season, and the preferred equipment schedule.

DEADLINE: December 1, 2001 for the 2002 field season. Decisions are based on the proposal, field survey schedules and equipment availability.

Contact Ann Christensen
Sandpiper Technologies, Inc.
535 W. Yosemite Ave.
Manteca, CA 95337
(209) 239-7460
e-mail: Ann@Sandpipertech.com
<http://sandpipertech.com>

Specializing in wildlife research equipment and video surveillance systems.

ADDRESSES

Please help us keep our mailing list and membership database current. If you move, if your name or address do not appear correct on the label, or if you fail to receive your newsletter please contact us at: Desert Tortoise Council, P.O. Box 3141, Wrightwood, California 92397, or email us at info@deserttortoise.org

AUTHOR GUIDELINES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

Submit one copy of the manuscript (laser printer quality if possible) to: Ann McLuckie, 2242 E. 50 South, St. George, UT 84790. The copy of the manuscript should be complete, including tables, figures, etc. Also include one copy of the manuscript on computer disk and E-mail to: nrdwr.amclucki@state.ut.us The disk copy should contain text and tables if possible. WordPerfect 6.1 and Microsoft Word 6.0 or older are accepted software programs.

STYLE AND FORMATTING: Title Page: Should include the title, author(s), author(s) address, including e-mail address if available. Abstract: An abstract is required for all major papers. It should represent a concise statement of the objectives and results of the paper. Statistical results are not needed.

Main Body: Manuscripts should consist of the following six sections: Introduction (no heading), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, Literature Cited, Tables (each on a separate page), Figure Legends (grouped together), Figures, Appendix. Submissions formatted as Shorter Communications should follow the same sequence but should not use section headings (except for Acknowledgments and Literature Cited).

In-text References: Cite references in the text in chronological order, using a semicolon to separate citations. Use "et al. For three or more authors (e.g., Smith 1975, Jones and Jones 1987, Brown et al 1990). Papers accepted for publication should be cited as Smith (in press). Unpublished manuscripts (including manuscripts submitted for publication) should be cited as Smith (unpubl. Data), and should not be placed in the Literature Cited. Be very careful that all references cited in the text (including tables and figure legends) are included in the Literature Cited.

Literature Cited Format: The Literature Cited is one of the largest sources of errors. Please be sure that all entries in the Literature Cited are all also in the text (and vice versa), and that the format instructions below are adhered to carefully:

Article in a Journal:

Smith A.T. 1992. Ecology of rattlesnakes in Florida. *J. Herp.* 26: 100-105.

Book:

Smith, A.T. and J. Jones. 1995. *Physiology of Amphibians and Reptiles*. McGraw-Hill Inc., New York (page numbers not needed). Note that book titles are capitalized.

Chapter in a Book:

Smith, A.T. 1994. Systematics of frogs and toads. In J. Black and M. Lee (eds.), *Systematics of Amphibians and Reptiles*, pp. 52-65. Univ of Kansas Press, Lawrence.

Dissertation or Thesis Smith, A.T. 1991. Behavioral ecology of turtles. Unpubl. Ph.D. Diss (or Thesis), Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence. (Identify state if not obvious from the university name). Multiple citations for the same author should be organized as follows: single citations first, two-author citations second (in alphabetical order), three or more authors third (in chronological order).

Smith, A.T., and B. Black. 1991. Systematics and morphology of snakes. *J. Herp.* 25:100-105.

Smith, A.T., and J. Jones. 1989. Diamondback terrapins in Louisiana. *J. Herp.* 23:234-236.

Smith, A.T., W. White, and J. Jones. 1989. Mating behavior in Gila Monsters. *J. Herp.* 23:230-234.

Smith, A.T., A. Black, and J. Jones. 1995. Temperature relationships in garter snakes. *J. Herp.* 29:30-34.

Tables: Tables should be double-spaced and each table should be numbered consecutively and placed on its own page. Do not use vertical lines. The legend of the table should be concise but sufficiently detailed so the table can be understood without reference to the text. Avoid footnotes whenever possible.

Figures: Figures should be original drawings, laser prints, or high contrast photos. Black and white figures are recommended. Colored figures will be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Do not submit figures printed on dot matrix or inkjet printers. Be sure that lettering will stand reduction to the final size (try reducing the figure on a copy machine prior to submission). The figure headings should be placed on a single page and numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text.

Abbreviations: The following common abbreviations should be used: sec min h d wk mo yr km ml L (for liter) g N x P SD SE CV df. Please note that all measurements should be in metric units.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS – 2002
27th ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

The Desert Tortoise Council will host its Twenty-seventh Annual Symposium on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, **March 22-24, 2002, at The Ramada Resort, located in Palm Springs California.** Titles and Abstracts for Sessions or Contributed Papers and Posters are Hereby Invited. Our principal topics of interest conservation and scientific research efforts, the current situation regarding tortoise populations and habitats, and the future of this species. Papers are also being accepted on the biology, ecology, and physiology of desert tortoises, as well as issues related to the understanding and management of the desert habitats.

We welcome pertinent papers on turtle and tortoise biology and conservation in general and will include them if time permits.

Please return the attached form with a Proposed Title by November 15, 2001. Abstracts must follow by December 15, 2001. 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. Underline all scientific names and statistical notations. **SEND ONE COPY of the abstract** on 8 x 11.5 inch paper or virus-free 3.5 inch disk (WordPerfect or Word for Windows) or via electronic mail (kristin_berry@usgs.gov) to **Dr. Kristin Berry**, Program Chair, and a second copy to **Ann McLuckie** (nwdwr.amcluckie@state.ut.us, 2242 East 50 South, St. George, UT 84790, who will be preparing the abstracts). All email transmissions must include all the information presented below, including author's address, phone, email address and fax numbers. Email transmissions **must include the Abstract as an Attachment in WordPerfect or Word, 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, 3 minutes for questions), unless other arrangements are made. Authors planning to publish in the *Desert Tortoise Council Proceedings* need to follow the *Guidelines for Authors* printed in this newsletter. 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 meetings. 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 U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, Box Springs Field Station, via voice mail (909-697-5361 or FAX 909-697-5299 with cover sheet). Information should be exact, because the program copy will be prepared from this sheet. If your title and the speaker list is tentative, say so.

PAPER _____ STUDENT PAPER _____ POSTER _____
Author(s) and Affiliation(s). Indicate speaker with an asterisk.

Title of Paper. _____

Address of Speaker. _____

Phone (work) _____ Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

Mail to: Dr. Kristin Berry, Symposium Chair, Desert Tortoise Council, 7006 Westport Street, Riverside, CA 92506

Desert Tortoise Council
PO BOX 3141
Wrightwood CA 92397

Check one: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DATE: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
(Please Print) *(Include Area Code)*

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

- Regular (\$12.00 per year) Organization (\$55.00 per year)
 Contributing (\$50.00 per year) Lifetime (\$300 or more)
 Student (\$8.00 per year - Requires endorsement of student's advisor or Major Professor)

Make check or money order payable to the Desert Tortoise Council and send with this application
to: Desert Tortoise Council, P.O. Box 3141, Wrightwood, California 92397