



Western Mojave Desert Desert Tortoise Field Training

Natural Resources Group, Inc. (NRG) is a conservation and mitigation banking company headquartered in central California. Our staff members have a broad biological and conservation background that includes entitlement of the first desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel conservation bank, and protection and management of over 20,000 acres of desert tortoise habitat in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts.

NRG manages multiple conservation projects including the Coso Preserve, which protects habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise and other sensitive species. As part of ongoing management, desert tortoise presence/absence surveys are conducted every 3 years.

Description

NRG seeks to assemble a crew of volunteers to join us at the Coso Preserve in Olancho, California, to conduct United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) protocol level 10-meter surveys for desert tortoise (linked [here](#)). Desert safety and desert tortoise survey training will be provided onsite. Prior experience with desert tortoise surveys and desert field work is welcome but not required. Note that handling desert tortoises is not part of the USFWS survey protocols, so training and experience will only include the identification of desert tortoises and tortoise sign.

Details

Start Date: June 6th

End Date: June 8th (subject to change)

Compensation: \$190 per diem, plus reimbursement for up to 400 miles roundtrip (reimbursed at the federal rate).

Experience required: No prior experience is required, but you should expect (and be prepared for) long days hiking in rugged desert terrain.

Lodging: Free dry camping onsite will be available from the evening before surveys begin until the morning after the last survey day. Be advised that evenings are often windy, and may potentially be too windy for comfortable tent camping. Additional lodging is located approximately 4 miles away at the Olancho RV Park and Motel. There is also lodging in Lone Pine, approximately 30 miles north of the Preserve.

Location: The preserve entrance is located within roughly 15 minutes of the Olancho RV Park and Motel, and is accessed via Cactus Flats Road off Highway 395.

If interested please contact Abby Dziegiel by **Thursday, June 1** at adziediel@natural-resources-group.com. Please provide a short paragraph describing any experience you have with desert field work and/or desert tortoise experience, and why you are interested in joining the crew. This will help us gauge the experience level of the crew as a whole and prepare accordingly.