

## **DESERT TORTOISE MONITOR AND BIOLOGIST RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

Below is a form that we suggest you complete which would provide necessary information that will allow us to review your qualifications to work with desert tortoise. Please submit this completed form to the requesting agency instead of your resume. The responsibilities and general skills required for *desert tortoise monitors* and *authorized biologists* are identified below.

**DESERT TORTOISE MONITOR** - Approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service or other agency as designated by the Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor project activities within desert tortoise habitat, ensure proper implementation of protective measures, and report incidents of non-compliance in accordance with biological opinions or permit. Monitors should have sufficient desert tortoise training and field experience to detect the presence of desert tortoises through observations of animals and sign including scat and burrows. A monitor is typically not authorized to handle desert tortoises, or determine presence/absence of desert tortoises or conduct clearance surveys.

**AUTHORIZED BIOLOGIST** - Approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service or other agency as designated by the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct activities that may result in “take” of the desert tortoise including locating tortoises and their sign, recording and reporting tortoise and sign observations in accordance with approved protocol, and ensuring that the effects of the project on the desert tortoise and its habitat are minimized in accordance with a biological opinion or permit. “Take” has been defined as actions which “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” An authorized biologist should have thorough knowledge of desert tortoise behavior, natural history, and ecology, and demonstrate substantial field experience and training to successfully:

- handle desert tortoises
- excavate burrows to locate desert tortoise or eggs
- relocate desert tortoises
- reconstruct desert tortoise burrows
- unearth and relocate desert tortoise eggs
- locate, identify, and record all forms of desert tortoise sign
- follow Service-approved protocols.

**DESERT TORTOISE BIOLOGIST QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT**

1. Name:	
Address:	
City, State, zip code:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	

2. Date of Statement:

3. States in which authorization is requested (check all that apply):  
California Nevada Utah Arizona

If authorization is sought for desert tortoise work under a Biological Opinion, provide the following:  
 Biological Opinion File No. (USFWS): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Proponent or Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Desert tortoise training:  
 Dates (dd/mm/year): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instructor/sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Education: Provide up to three:

Institution	1.	2.	3.
Dates attended			
Major/minor			
Degree			

6. Specify project and/or activities anticipated that require authorization (*e.g.*, capture/release, weigh, measure, attach and remove telemetry devices and other hardware, withdraw blood, etc.). Complete pages 4-5 of this form if you seek approval to attach/remove/insert any devices or equipment to/into tortoises, withdraw blood, or conduct other procedures on desert tortoises.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. If you hold, or have you held, any state or federal wildlife permits, provide the following:  
 Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Species: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State (specify) or Federal Permit and number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized activities: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Experience. Complete for each position held. Include **only** those positions that involved desert tortoise experience. Distinguish between Mojave and Sonoran desert tortoise experience. Include only **your** experience, not information for the project you worked on (*e.g.*, if 100 desert tortoises were handled on a project and you handled 5 of those desert tortoises, include only those 5).

a. General Field Experience:

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibilities and skills used or acquired:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dates (dd/mm/year): From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Total field experience: For all projects and activities provide the following information. Provide experience involving attachment/removal/insertion of any devices or equipment to/into tortoises, or withdrawal of blood from desert tortoises on pages 4-5 of this form.

- No. of hours \_\_\_\_\_ or 8-hr. days \_\_\_\_\_ conducting desert tortoise-related activities.
- \*No. of wild, free-ranging desert tortoises you encountered: <100 mm carapace length \_\_\_\_\_  
>100 mm carapace length \_\_\_\_\_
- \*No. of wild, free-ranging desert tortoises you personally handled: \_\_\_\_\_
- No. of transect miles/kilometers walked: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prior authorizations for desert tortoise under Biological Opinions (specify number, date, and project and location if known): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Do not include numbers of captive-held tortoises encountered or held.

<p>b. References that can verify your field qualifications and skills. Provide information on the right for up to 3.</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Employer/Position: _____</p> <p>Address/location: _____</p> <p>Phone no.: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Employer/Position: _____</p> <p>Address/location: _____</p> <p>Phone no.: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Employer/Position: _____</p> <p>Address/location: _____</p> <p>Phone no.: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>

9. Other Experience. Provide your experience with the following procedures involving desert tortoises.

You may include experience with other tortoises; if so, specify species.

<p>a. <u>Experience Attaching and removing of telemetry devices.</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of telemetry devices <u>observed</u> attached to, or removed (specify) from desert tortoise(s) and size class of desert tortoise, as part of a training effort by a qualified individual:                          Wild, free-ranging _____ Captive _____ Size class (see note below) _____</li> <li>• No. of telemetry devices you <u>assisted</u> in attaching to, or removing (specify) from and size class of desert tortoise(s), as part of a training effort by a qualified (supervising) individual:                          Wild, free-ranging _____ Captive _____ Size class (see note below) _____</li> <li>• No. of telemetry devices you attached to, or removed (specify) from desert tortoise(s) and size class of desert tortoise(s), <u>unsupervised</u> or not part of a training effort.                          Wild, free-ranging _____ Captive _____ Size class (see note below) _____</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Size classes based on mid-carapace length: A = &lt;100 mm; B = 100-180 mm; C = &gt;180 mm</p>	
<p>Dates (dd/mm/year): From: _____ To: _____</p>	
<p>Identify permit or Biological Opinion that authorized the above activities.</p>	
<p>Reference that can verify your experience and skills.                      Name:                      Employer/Position:                      Address/location:                      Phone no.:                      Email:</p>	<p>Reference that can verify your experience and skills.                      Name:                      Employer/Position:                      Address/location:                      Phone no.:                      Email:</p>

<p>b. <u>Experience Withdrawing Blood from Desert Tortoises.</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of observations of the blood-withdrawal process on desert tortoises and size class of desert tortoise(s), as part of a training effort by a qualified individual:                          Wild, free-ranging _____ Captive _____ Size class (see note below) _____</li> <li>• No. of blood-withdrawal processes during which you <u>assisted</u>, and size class of desert tortoise(s), as part of a training effort by a qualified (supervising) individual:                          Wild, free-ranging _____ Captive _____ Size class (see note below) _____</li> <li>• No. of blood-withdrawal events that you conducted, and size class of desert tortoise(s), <u>in an unsupervised</u> setting which was not part of a training effort.                          Wild, free-ranging _____ Captive _____ Size class (see note below) _____</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Size classes based on mid-carapace length: A = &lt;100 mm; B = 100-180 mm; C = &gt;180 mm</p>	
<p>Dates (dd/mm/year): From: _____ To: _____</p>	
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c. Experience Implanting Identification Tags into Tortoises.

- No. of observations of the tag-insertion process on desert tortoises and size class of desert tortoise(s), as part of a training effort by a qualified individual:  
Wild, free-ranging \_\_\_\_\_ Captive \_\_\_\_\_ Size class (see note below) \_\_\_\_\_
- No. of tag-insertion events during which you assisted, and size class of desert tortoise(s), as part of a training effort by a qualified (supervising) individual:  
Wild, free-ranging \_\_\_\_\_ Captive \_\_\_\_\_ Size class (see note below) \_\_\_\_\_
- No. of tag-insertion events that you conducted, and size class of tortoise(s), in an unsupervised setting which was not part of a training effort.  
Wild, free-ranging \_\_\_\_\_ Captive \_\_\_\_\_ Size class (see note below) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Size classes based on mid-carapace length: A = <100 mm; B = 100-180 mm; C = >180 mm

Dates (dd/mm/year): From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify permit that authorized the above activities.

Reference that can verify your experience and skills.

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Employer/Position:  
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Employer/Position:  
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Phone no.:  
Email:

d. Experience Conducting Other Procedures on Desert Tortoises. Specify the following:

- No. of observations of procedure and size class of desert tortoise(s), as part of a training effort by a qualified individual:  
Wild, free-ranging \_\_\_\_\_ Captive \_\_\_\_\_ Size class (see note below) \_\_\_\_\_
- No. of procedures in which you assisted, and size of desert tortoise(s), as part of a training effort by a qualified (supervising) individual:  
Wild, free-ranging \_\_\_\_\_ Captive \_\_\_\_\_ Size class (see note below) \_\_\_\_\_
- No. of procedures that you conducted, and size of desert tortoise(s), in an unsupervised setting which was not part of a training effort.  
Wild, free-ranging \_\_\_\_\_ Captive \_\_\_\_\_ Size class (see note below) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Size classes based on mid-carapace length: A = <100 mm; B = 100-180 mm; C = >180 mm

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I certify that the information submitted in this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_