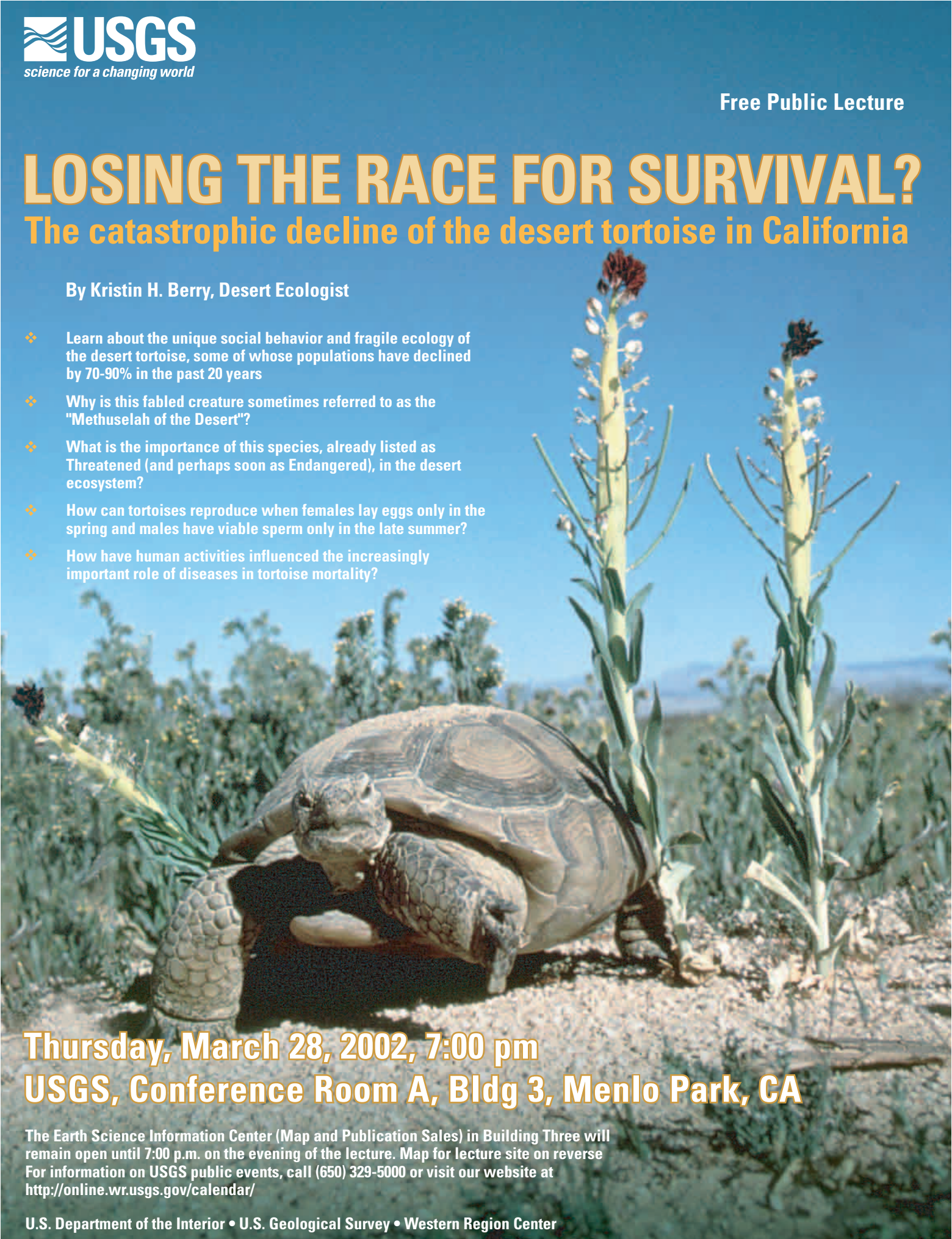


LOSING THE RACE FOR SURVIVAL?

The catastrophic decline of the desert tortoise in California

By Kristin H. Berry, Desert Ecologist

- ❖ Learn about the unique social behavior and fragile ecology of the desert tortoise, some of whose populations have declined by 70-90% in the past 20 years
- ❖ Why is this fabled creature sometimes referred to as the "Methuselah of the Desert"?
- ❖ What is the importance of this species, already listed as Threatened (and perhaps soon as Endangered), in the desert ecosystem?
- ❖ How can tortoises reproduce when females lay eggs only in the spring and males have viable sperm only in the late summer?
- ❖ How have human activities influenced the increasingly important role of diseases in tortoise mortality?



Thursday, March 28, 2002, 7:00 pm
USGS, Conference Room A, Bldg 3, Menlo Park, CA

The Earth Science Information Center (Map and Publication Sales) in Building Three will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the lecture. Map for lecture site on reverse
For information on USGS public events, call (650) 329-5000 or visit our website at <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/>