



Piute-Eldorado Valley

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

In 1998 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designated portions of the Piute and Eldorado Valleys as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect and preserve critical habitat for the desert tortoise. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) oversees the list of Endangered Species and has listed the tortoise as a threatened species. The BLM is responsible for managing desert tortoise habitat on those lands it administers to achieve the recovery criteria defined in the USFWS *Tortoise Recovery Plan (1994)* and ultimately to achieve delisting of the tortoise. The BLM is beginning the process to develop an ACEC management plan.



What will the Piute-Eldorado ACEC management plan do?

1. The plan will prioritize and guide restoration activities inside the boundaries of the ACEC;
2. The plan will develop a range of management alternatives based on input from the public and all stakeholders;
3. The Environmental Assessment (EA) will analyze the impacts from all the activities proposed in the plan.

What won't the Piute-Eldorado ACEC management plan do?

1. The plan will not remove the ACEC designation; reduce or expand the size of the ACEC; or modify the boundaries of the ACEC. Only a BLM land use plan known as a Resource Management Plan (RMP) can do these things;
2. The plan will not change existing travel management designations in the ACEC;
3. The plan will not remove the desert tortoise from the list of Endangered Species. Only the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can do that;
4. The plan will not have any effect on land uses or proposed land uses outside the current ACEC boundary;
5. The plan will not analyze any projects proposed for locations outside the boundaries of the ACEC;
6. The plan will not add to, remove, or modify any of the management directions that were specified in the 1998 RMP.