

Summary of Levels of Take that Necessitate Re-initiation of Formal Consultation

The following table summarizes the incidental take that we anticipate for the ISEGS project and identifies re-initiation thresholds for capture, harassment, injury, and mortality as defined in the body of the incidental take statement or in the terms and conditions of this biological opinion.

Source of Take	Age Class	Anticipated Take		Re-initiation Thresholds based on Incidental Take Statement or Terms and Conditions	
		Captured and/or Harassed	Killed or Injured	Captured and/or Harassed ₁	Killed or Injured
Translocation and Disease Testing of Project Site Desert Tortoises	Subadult/Adult	~32	few, if any	38 ₂	9 desert tortoises over the life of the project or 3 in any given year ₅
	Juveniles	few, if any	few, if any	35 ₂	
	Eggs	few, if any	few, if any	139 ₂	
Movement of desert tortoises off of the fiber-optic line and Interstate 15 fence alignment	Subadult/Adult	few, if any	few, if any	None established ₃	
	Juveniles	few, if any	few, if any	None established ₃	
	Eggs	few, if any	few, if any	NA	
Survey and Disease Testing of Control and Resident Population	Subadult/Adult	130 ₄	few, if any	130	
	Juveniles	0	0	NA	
	Eggs	0	0	NA	
Construction of ISEGS Facility	Subadult/Adult	few, if any	few, if any ₆	38 ₂	
	Juveniles	few, if any	Most ₆	35 ₂	
	Eggs	few, if any	Most ₆	13 ₂	
Operation and Maintenance	Subadult/Adult	few, if any	few, if any	None established ₇	
	Juveniles	few, if any	few, if any	None established ₇	
	Eggs	few, if any	few, if any	None established ₇	
Post-translocation Monitoring	Subadult/Adult	96 ₈	few, if any	None established ₃	
	Juveniles	0	0	NA	
	Eggs	0	0	NA	
Effects of Translocation itself on Residents and Translocated desert tortoises	NA	NA	NA	NA	A statistically significant difference in mortality between the control and resident or translocated populations ₁₀
	NA	NA	NA	NA	
	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Decommissioning	Subadult/Adult	few, if any	few, if any	None established ₂	9 desert tortoises over the life of the project or 3 in any given year ₅
	Juveniles	few, if any	few, if any	None established ₂	
	Eggs	few, if any	few, if any	NA	

Table Notes:

1. By 'capture,' we mean the act, by authorized biologists (and monitors working under their supervision), of removing desert tortoises from their home ranges to be placed in a quarantine facility, translocated, or moved a short distance from harm's way. By 'harassment,' we mean the act, by authorized biologists, of collecting blood or conducting other invasive health assessments that may result in the likelihood of injury or mortality; see the regulatory definition of harassment in the Incidental Take Statement section of this biological opinion.
2. The re-initiation thresholds identified are the totals for both sources of take and do not represent separate take thresholds for each activity. For example, although we anticipate that 32 subadult and adult desert tortoises are likely to be captured for translocation at the project site, we have established a re-initiation trigger of 38 because we have determined this is the maximum number of subadult and adult desert tortoises that the recipient site is likely to be able to hold. If 38 or more subadult and adult desert tortoises are found onsite, re-initiation of formal consultation would be warranted.
3. No re-initiation trigger is set because this movement not likely to result in injury or mortality, given that these animals will remain within their home ranges. Also, a very small number of desert tortoises may need to be moved more than once to remove them from unfenced work areas and constraining the number of times the animal can be captured and moved would reduce the effectiveness of biological monitoring as a take minimization measure on these actions.
4. The 130 subadults and adults include 98 resident individuals and 32 control individuals.
5. Does not apply to post-translocation mortality that is not directly associated with an action required to carry out the translocation (e.g., handling, disease testing, accessing the translocation areas by vehicle, etc.).
6. We anticipate that any desert tortoises and eggs that are not translocated will be killed or injured by construction. We anticipate that few, if any, subadults and adults will be killed or injured because most will have been translocated. Because of their small size, juveniles and eggs are difficult to detect, so we anticipate that most will be killed or injured.
7. No re-initiation trigger because we only anticipate the capture of desert tortoises during operation and maintenance in instances where desert tortoise exclusion fencing has been washed out. In such rare situation, the biologically preferable option is to move the desert tortoises out of harm's way rather than leave them in place and in danger, while awaiting re-initiation of consultation.
8. Includes all control and translocated individuals identified above for capture and harassment associated with disease testing and translocation and a subset (32 individuals) of the resident population identified above. These individuals would be captured multiple times over the course of the post-translocation monitoring period, but we do not anticipate that these individuals would suffer harassment.
9. No re-initiation threshold set because multiple captures of the same individuals will be required to facilitate post-translocation monitoring.
10. For post-translocation monitoring only.