

Desert Tortoise Section 7 Compensation Account Project Ranking Criteria				
Project Objective	Criteria	Point Value		
		5	3	1
1) Protect, maintain, and/or strategically restore desert tortoise habitat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High priority projects protect or maintain functioning habitat to promote healthy, self-sustaining communities. Moderate priority projects enhance at-risk habitat to promote healthy, self-sustaining communities. Projects that restore habitat lacking key components needed to sustain desired conditions are lower priority due to cost of intensive restoration. 	Project protects or maintains functioning habitat to promote healthy, self-sustaining communities	X		
	Project enhances at-risk habitat to promote healthy, self-sustaining communities		X	
	Project restores habitat lacking key components needed to sustain desired conditions			X
2) Protect, maintain, and/or strategically restore priority desert tortoise habitat	Project is within an ACEC or other designated priority area		X	
3) Project Urgency (the level of threat to a habitat or population, and/or the consequence to the habitat or population if the project is not implemented)	Low			X
	Medium		X	
	High	X		
4) Scale or Scope of Project Impacts (consider cost of project relative to the size of the treatment)	Project has direct recovery unit-wide (or greater) benefits.	X		
	Project benefits are limited to a particular local management area.		X	
	Project benefits are limited to site-specific treatment area.			X
5) Project relates to goal(s) of related management plans (RMP, ACEC Management Plan, etc)	Project would work toward achieving two or more goals (two or more within the same plan, or one or more in multiple plans)		X	
	Project would work toward achieving one goal identified in one plan			X
6) Project directly relates to goal(s) identified in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan	Project would work toward achieving two or more goals	X		
	Project would work toward achieving one goal			X
7) Cumulative benefit of the project to desert tortoise populations and/or habitats	Project relates to the collective influence of other on-going or planned activities benefiting desert tortoise population or habitat (<i>score only if yes</i>)		X	
8) Complements projects implemented on adjacent lands	Project is connected to other projects directly adjacent to it	X		
	Project is connected to other projects generally in the same area		X	

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9) Project promotes cooperative conservation	Project addresses the need of more than one agency (<i>score only if yes</i>)		X	
10) Leverage funding or in-kind contribution by partners	0 match (no points)			
	Up to 1:1 match			X
	2:1 match		X	
	3:1 match	X		
11) Project provides an opportunity to involve, inform, and/or educate the public about desert tortoise	Project provides for utilization of volunteers, incorporates education about the desert tortoise, etc. (<i>score only if yes</i>)			X
12) Monitoring/Management plan provides sound scientific basis to document results	Project includes a sound monitoring/management plan and will continue to provide useful information after the project is complete	X		
	Project includes an incomplete or insufficient monitoring/management plan requiring revision			X
13) Compliance and authorizations necessary for project implementation can be obtained in a timely manner to begin project implementation and make notable progress on the project before the end of the first year	NEPA, Section 7 Consultation, and other permits/authorizations that may be required are completed. Projects that require crossing private land have acquired land owner approval.	X		
	All compliance and authorizations necessary for project implementation have been identified and substantial progress has been made in completing all processes. Completion of all permits and authorizations would occur within a reasonable amount of time to complete notable project work before the end of the first year		X	
	Compliance and authorizations are at the beginning stages. Completing the permitting process will take most of the first year of the project, leaving little or no time for project work to be completed before the end of the year			X

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14) Project products are useful and have practical application without further funding	Results of project can be used to improve management of desert tortoise without requiring additional funding (<i>score only if yes</i>)		X	
15) Probability of success of the project	High – project is well designed and realistic	X		
	Moderate – project is well designed but has social, political, or environmental challenges to overcome		X	
	Unknown, but project is likely to at least achieve moderate level of success; project is designed to test new methods, and therefore no past projects are available for comparison to estimate success			X