



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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8340 (P)  
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To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the restoration project submitted by the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (DTPC). The project location is in the expansion area of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTRNA), which was created, and is managed through a longstanding partnership and agreement between the DTPC and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The DTPC seeks restoration funds to prevent continued habitat degradation related to unauthorized off-highway vehicle activity on approximately 4,400 acres of their conservation lands, and to begin restoration of the disturbed areas to their natural state. These lands abut and are surrounded by public lands with various levels of use restrictions. If funded, the DTPC will accomplish many activities such as installing wildlife-friendly fencing around areas of contiguous conservation lands, which will help recreational users of the public lands identify where ownership boundaries exist.

These activities are critical to the long-term viability of the DTRNA, which provides not only protected habitat for the threatened desert tortoise and other species, but also opportunities for ecological research, contemplative recreation, and educational outreach. These efforts will aid in the BLM's overall goal to manage the public lands for multiple use; while insuring the highest level of user safety and environmental protection.

Respectfully,

Carl Symons  
Field Office Manager