

Reduce Common Raven Predation on the Desert Tortoise in the California Desert

Status of the Project

Status of EA

- Public comment period closed May 7
- Received 31 comments
 - 7 agencies, 1 Tribe, 4 organizations, 19 private citizens

Public Comments

- Comment identified
 - Use whatever methods are needed to reduce raven predation
 - Prefer non-lethal to lethal methods
 - Don't use poison; inhumane
 - Believe EIS is needed
 - Want to help with shooting/removing ravens
 - Ravens keep the rat and mice population down
 - Report observations of bird and small mammal predation by ravens in their yards
 - Want methods of disposing of eggs and young identified

Public Comments

- Make decisions based on data, not on politics
- Removal rate under Alternative B would likely maintain raven population at status quo and do little to alleviate depredation pressure
- Broaden preferred alternative to provide for options in case Alternative B is not adequate

Activities Completed

- Drafted responses to public comments
- Completed internal section 7 consultation under ESA
- Prepared draft decision document
 - Preferred alternative has changed
 - Phased implementation of Alternative D

Next Steps

- Add Appendix on public comments and responses to EA
- Make minor adjustments to EA
- Sign decision document
- Distribute EA and decision document to the public