



# Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.



Since its inception in 1974, the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee continues to be supported by thousands of individuals, several conservation organizations, wildlife groups, scientists, and government agencies.

We invite you or your organization to support our work by making a tax-deductible donation, becoming an active or contributing member. Membership includes the quarterly newsletter "TORTOISE TRACKS."

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS ARE:

\$ 25.00	Individual
\$ 40.00	Family
\$ 75.00	Sponsor
\$100.00	Benefactor
\$200.00	Patron/Corporate
\$1,000.00	Life

Please make checks payable to DTPC and mail to:



### Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.

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CFC# 71985

Membership/Donor Form

DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMMITTEE, INC.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership	\$ 25 annually	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Dues	\$ _____
Family Membership	\$ 40 annually	<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional Donation	\$ _____
Sponsor Membership	\$ 75 annually	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Enclosed	\$ _____
Benefactor Membership	\$100 annually	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Patron/Corporate Membership	\$200 annually	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DONATION ONLY</b>	
Life Membership	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enclosed is my donation of	\$ _____

The DTPC is an IRS recognized tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation (tax ID 23-7413415). All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

## OUR HISTORY

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. was founded in 1974 to protect the desert tortoise by acquiring and protecting its habitat and by educating the public.

The Committee's first goal was to protect the habitat in the Natural Area and to define the boundaries with a fence. This goal was achieved in 1979 when the Bureau of Land Management installed a hogwire fence around most of the perimeter.

When the Desert Tortoise Natural Area was established in 1974, 14 of the 39.5 square miles of habitat were in private ownership and had to be acquired. Since that time, the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Fish and Game have acquired about 12 square miles, leaving about 20 small, private parcels to be acquired. Acquisition of these private parcels is a high priority and, when accomplished, will complete land acquisition for the first Desert Tortoise Reserve Natural Area in the Southwestern United States. The Committee has also acquired significant holdings of critical habitat for the desert tortoise and other species occurring within tortoise habitats in the central and eastern Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert.



## WHAT WE DO

### Land Acquisition

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee acquires land for tortoise preserves in areas of prime habitat using funds raised from the public, from conservation mitigation efforts, and through the operation of a land bank.

### Management

Once land is acquired, the Committee then develops and implements a management plan for long-term stewardship and conservation. Where appropriate, a fence will be constructed around large parcels of land and boundary signs will be posted to discourage shooting, livestock grazing, and vehicle trespass. With the help of volunteers, the Committee removes trash, repairs fences and signs. Some parcels of land are co-managed with federal agencies or conservation groups.

### Collaboration

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. works with our supporters, fellow conservation organizations, Federal and State government agencies, and community stakeholders, to collaboratively achieve the goals of protecting the desert tortoise and its ecosystem.



## EDUCATION & RESEARCH

The Committee is active in conservation education and in facilitating research that helps protect tortoise preserve lands. In 1980, the BLM built an Interpretive Center at the entrance to the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area after extensive work on its design and content by Committee members. Each spring, the Committee and the Bureau of Land Management jointly staffs the Interpretive Center with a naturalist to educate visitors about the tortoise, other wildlife and plants, and conservation efforts. Committee members and volunteers also maintain the nature area's self-guiding nature trails, and conduct guided tours for schools, museums and other groups.

Numerous research projects have been conducted within the protective confines of the Natural Area on desert tortoise health, diseases, physiology, genetics, reproduction, food habits and population trends. Students and scientists also have studied use of different habitats by Mohave ground squirrel and ground squirrel genetics, as well as the value of the boundary fence in protecting habitat for birds, lizards, mammals, and plants. The Committee has directly supported some of this work with personnel and through grants and contracts.

