



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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December 5, 2014

Dr. Howard Snell
Curator of Herpetology
Museum of Southwestern Biology
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Dr. Snell,

This letter documents the transfer of 36 tortoise carcasses from the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) to the Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico. This transfer of Sonoran and Mojave desert tortoise carcasses is authorized under Title 17 of Arizona State Revised Statutes and the Department's federal Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit (attached), specifically in regards to the exception for take of dead specimens:

- S. (d) Any employee or agent of the AGFD who is designated by that Agency for such purposes, may, when acting in the course of his official duties, take federally listed endangered or threatened fish or wildlife without a permit if such action is necessary to:
- (1) aid a sick, injured, or orphaned specimen; or
 - (2) dispose of a dead specimen; or
 - (3) salvage a dead specimen which may be useful for scientific study;

and:

BB. Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mohave population: AGFD is authorized for take of no more than 50 wild specimens collectively, on an annual basis, for contaminants, disease, and/or genetic analysis. ...Any AGFD designated agent is authorized to remove/salvage unlimited numbers of carcasses for the wild for necropsy and retention purposes...

These tortoise carcasses were collected between 1997 and 2014 during official Department activities and as authorized by the Department. These carcasses have further research value and are being given to the Museum of Southwestern Biology for non-commercial scientific study and/or long-term preservation. This document also serves as a chain-of-custody notice for the official transfer and shipping of these remains under the Department's authority. The number of carcasses transferred is also enumerated on a separate packing list.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to accession these specimens into the Museum of Southwestern Biology, where we are confident they will be carefully curated and made available to the greater scientific community.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Jones, Ph.D.
Amphibians and Reptiles Program Manager

TRJ:caj

- cc: Mike Rabe, Nongame Branch Chief, AGFD
- Tim Wade, Wildlife Contracts Branch Chief, AGFD
- Tim Hughes, Endangered Species Coordinator, BLM
- Brian Wooldridge, Mohave Desert Tortoise Lead, Arizona Ecological Services, FWS
- Jeff Servoss, Sonoran Desert Tortoise Lead, Arizona Ecological Services, FWS
- Roy Averill-Murray, Desert Tortoise Recovery Coordinator, FWS

Enclosures

MSWB Representative (Recipient):  _____

Date: 2/9/15

Please forward a signed copy of this document to 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000, attention: Cristina Jones, WMNG. Thank you.