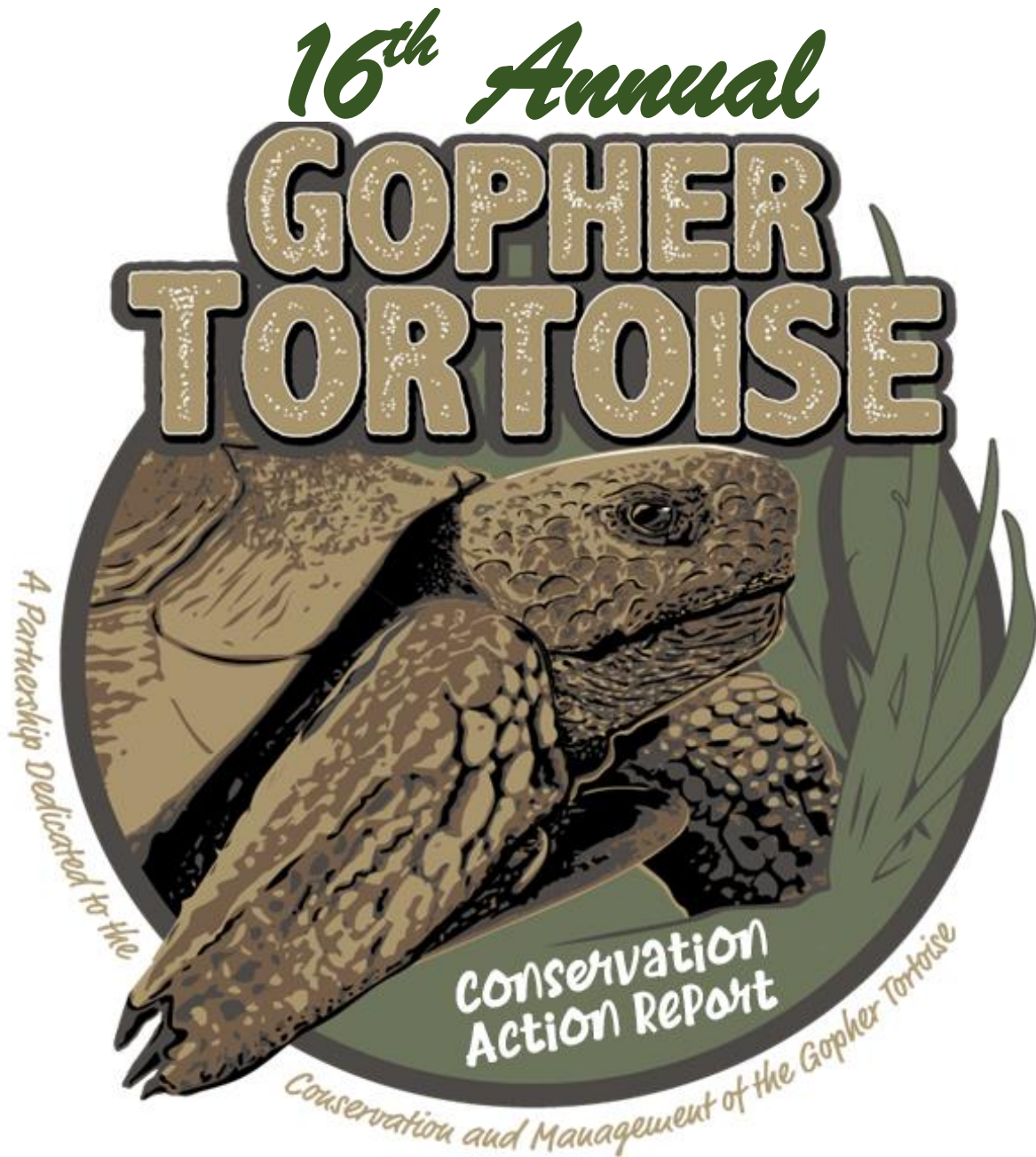


**Gopher Tortoise  
Conservation Action Report  
For October 1, 2023- September 30, 2024**



**Submitted to:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
April 2025**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	2
INTRODUCTION.....	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	6
RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR A (THE PRESENT OR THREATENED DESTRUCTION, MODIFICATION, OR CURTAILMENT OF THE SPECIES HABITAT OR RANGE).....	20
LAND CONSERVATION.....	73
GOPHER TORTOISE POPULATION MONITORING.....	109
RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR B (OVERUTILIZATION FOR COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES).....	153
RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR C (DISEASE OR PREDATION).....	159
RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR D (INADEQUACY OF EXISTING REGULATORY MECHANISMS).....	164
RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR E (OTHER NATURAL OF MANMADE FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES' CONTINUED EXISTENCE).....	168
ALL OTHER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NOT MENTIONED IN ABOVE SECTIONS.....	187
RESEARCH STUDIES CONDUCTED BY OR SUPPORTED BY AGENCY/ORGANIZATION.....	192
CCA AGENCY/ORGANIZATION CONSERVATION STRATEGY.....	195
APPENDIX I: GOPHER TORTOISE CCA REPORT FORMAT.....	197
APPENDIX II: DEFINITIONS.....	207

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>ADCNR</b>	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
<b>AFB</b>	Air Force Base
<b>AFC</b>	Alabama Forestry Commission
<b>APC</b>	Alabama Power Company
<b>AFF</b>	American Forest Foundation
<b>AFR</b>	Air Force Range
<b>AGTHP</b>	Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve
<b>APAFR</b>	Avon Park Air Force Range
<b>BMP</b>	Best Management Practices
<b>CCA</b>	Candidate Conservation Agreement
<b>CCAA</b>	Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances
<b>CCAFS</b>	Cape Canaveral Air Force Station
<b>DWFF</b>	Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
<b>ESA</b>	Endangered Species Act
<b>FFS</b>	Florida Forest Service
<b>FNAI</b>	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
<b>FWC</b>	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
<b>FWRI</b>	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal year
<b>GDNR</b>	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
<b>GDOT</b>	Georgia Department of Transportation
<b>GPC</b>	Georgia Power Company
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GSF</b>	Geneva State Forest
<b>GT</b>	Gopher Tortoise
<b>GTHAP</b>	Gopher Tortoise Habitat Assistance Program
<b>GTMP</b>	Gopher Tortoise Management Plan
<b>GTT</b>	Gopher Tortoise Team
<b>HMU</b>	Habitat Management Unit
<b>INRMP</b>	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
<b>ITP</b>	Incidental Take Permit
<b>JDMTA</b>	Jonathan Dickinson Missile Tracking Annex
<b>LAP</b>	Landowner Assistance Program
<b>LEEF</b>	League of Environmental Educators in Florida
<b>LIP</b>	Landowner Incentive Program
<b>LLP</b>	Longleaf Pine
<b>LRSF</b>	Little River State Forest
<b>LTDS</b>	Line Transect Distance Sampling
<b>MGGTAI</b>	Management Guidelines for Gopher Tortoises on Army Installations
<b>MOA</b>	Memorandum of Agreement
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MTA</b>	Malabar Transmitter Annex
<b>MVP</b>	Minimum Viable Population
<b>NAS</b>	Naval Air Station
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act

<b>NF</b>	National Forest
<b>NPS</b>	National Park Service
<b>NS</b>	Naval Station
<b>NSA</b>	Naval Support Activity
<b>NSB</b>	Naval Submarine Base
<b>NWR</b>	National Wildlife Refuge
<b>PSA</b>	Public Service Announcement
<b>OBVM</b>	Objective-based Vegetation Management
<b>OLF</b>	Outlying Landing Field
<b>PAFB</b>	Patrick Air Force Base
<b>PFW</b>	Partners for Fish and Wildlife
<b>POC</b>	Point of Contact
<b>REPI</b>	Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration
<b>ROW</b>	Right of Way
<b>SCDNR</b>	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
<b>SLD</b>	State Lands Division
<b>SMR</b>	State Management Recommendations
<b>SP</b>	State Park
<b>SREL</b>	Savannah River Ecology Laboratory
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
<b>SW</b>	Space Wing
<b>SWG</b>	State Wildlife Grant
<b>TES</b>	Threatened and Endangered Species
<b>TPA</b>	Trees Per Acre
<b>TSRHP</b>	Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve
<b>TYCC</b>	Tribal Youth Conservation Corps
<b>URTD</b>	Upper Respiratory Tract Disease
<b>U.S.</b>	United States
<b>USAF</b>	United States Air Force
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USFS</b>	United States Forest Service
<b>USFWS</b>	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>WEA</b>	Wildlife and Environmental Area
<b>WMA</b>	Wildlife Management Area
<b>WRD</b>	Wildlife Resources Division

## INTRODUCTION

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> annual report compiling data and information from signatory agencies of the Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement (GTCCA). The gopher tortoise is no longer a candidate species due to the listing decision made in October, 2022. GTCCA partners gathered virtually after the listing decision to discuss the future of the GTCCA. Some partners thought the GTCCA Report would be important information to compile annually for the USFWS due to the pending lawsuit over the 2022 listing decision. As a result of the listing decision, this report is now entitled “Gopher Tortoise Conservation Action Report.” Most, but not all, of the GTCCA reporting agencies provided data for this report.

The Alabama Forestry Commission agreed to compile the 2024 report. The signatories continue to work together to gather information pertinent to the conservation of the Gopher Tortoise.

A standardized report format helps support an organized conservation approach and encourages uniform actions and reporting, integration of monitoring and research efforts with management, and support partnership formation. In 2014, the GTT did a minor clean-up to improve consistency in data reported by the signatories. The format is organized to specifically address the 5-factor analysis used by the USFWS when evaluating a species for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. The addition of tables was included to help streamline the data reported and ensure consistency among parties. It is also intended to help compile and build upon data each year, preventing the USFWS from losing or having to shuffle through older reports to assess the species status. The goal of the reorganized reporting structure is to ensure the information compiled by the CCA parties will be useful to the USFWS when re-evaluating the species as a candidate each year.

The parties contributing to this report collectively own and/or manage more than 1.45 million acres of gopher tortoise habitat in the eastern portion of the species’ range. Of those acres, more than 602,616 acres of gopher tortoise habitat was managed using a variety of tools, most commonly with prescribed fire with a large percentage occurring during the growing season. Some habitat was lost due to conversion to non-compatible uses such as development activities and coastal erosion. Gopher tortoises are commonly relocated when at risk or as a result of impending habitat alteration. The U.S. Air Force reported receiving 1,914 tortoises at Eglin AFB from FWC processes. These tortoises were released into temporary enclosures for a minimum of 6 months. Many of the other parties also relocated tortoises (total of 260) onto protected lands, however, soft release using temporary enclosures is not yet a standardized practice among all parties. Florida Wildlife Commission reported relocating 10,439 gopher tortoises from development sites, with most of those tortoises relocated to lands under permanent conservation easements. With the demand for recipient sites being high, 1,258 new acres were brought in under 4 newly permitted, privately-owned recipient sites.

Improvements to avoid/minimize the use of hard release is an important conservation practice to implement that, based on scientific studies, results in a greater conservation benefit for the tortoises. Implementation of the standard population survey methodology, Line Transect Distance Sampling (LTDS), is occurring across the species’ range. Significant population data is included in this report and shows many viable populations in both Georgia and Florida occurring mainly on public conservation lands. Some data provided still represents presence/absence as a means to avoid impacts from projects rather than for monitoring populations, however, most if not all parties have implemented LTDS on some level or have plans to do so in the near future.

Comprehensive reports were submitted by each CCA party in February-April 2025 with the last report received on April 20 for the period covering October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024. Reports were not received from the U. S. Marine Corps, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, American Forest Foundation, The Longleaf Alliance and the National Park Service. A draft of this report was emailed for review to the points of contacts for each party, and all corrections have been incorporated into this final draft.

*It is important to note that not every section of the report is applicable to every party. Parties with no information appropriate to a particular section have indicated this with “not provided,” “not applicable,” “none,” or “none provided this reporting period.” Reports were submitted by each party’s point of contact and compiled by the Chair with minimal edits.*

*Thank you to all the parties for compiling this information on behalf of their agency and on behalf of gopher tortoise conservation. This annual report continues to be vital for range-wide conservation of this keystone species.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### UNITED STATES ARMY

**Fort Novosel, AL** - Forest and wildlife management and activities beneficial to gopher tortoises such as thinning, timber stand improvement, and invasive species control continued in FY 24. The NEPA project review process continued to formally look at proposed projects for impacts to gopher tortoise habitats and to existing tortoise populations. Construction projects which resulted in loss of gopher tortoise habitat were evaluated and surveyed for existing gopher tortoises and gopher tortoises captured and relocated as necessary.

**Fort Eisenhower, GA** - GPS new burrows, measure/mark captured tortoises, population survey, prescribed fire, native grass planting, mechanical treatment, and herbicide treatment.

**Fort Stewart, GA** - Gopher tortoise population surveys were completed on Zone 3 of 5. 377 acres of habitat improvement activities were performed (85 heavy-duty mulching, 292 heavy-duty mulching plus herbicide application. 49 acres of longleaf pine planted within GT habitat.

**Fort Benning, GA** - Surveyed HMU B that has a population estimate of 511 tortoises. The density, population estimate, and size distribution of HMU 2 does not meet the requirements of a minimum viable population. Habitat restoration, management, and monitoring will continue in this area. Through the NEPA process, reviewed & surveyed all training & construction requests within GT habitat.

**Camp Blanding, FL** - Upchurch Restocking Site and the remainder were relocated under the station's CATEX (GTM-13-00001D) permit. Working with project proponents to avoid tortoise relocations when feasible is optimal to avoid stress to the tortoises themselves and to ensure that projects are not held up due to permitting delays. Circumventing relocations can be accomplished by staking, mapping, or flagging burrow locations, as well as modifying the project area itself. Camp Blanding has been successful in mitigating tortoise impacts due to Environmental's ability to work closely with proponents and determine their exact needs.

### UNITED STATES NAVY

**NAS Pensacola, FL, POC: Michael Hardy, michael.j.hardy24.civ@us.navy.mil; (850) 452-2070**

NAS Pensacola has gopher tortoise populations at the main installation, Bronson Field, and Saufley Field. A comprehensive Gopher Tortoise survey report by the University of Georgia's Savannah River lab was submitted in the summer of 2018. Natural Resources staff have continued to conduct Gopher Tortoise surveys in priority areas on an as needed basis. This year a survey was conducted in a priority area around the bulk fuel storage area in preparation for upcoming projects. An Invasive Species survey was conducted on 625 acres in and around gopher tortoise habitat. Cogon grass was treated on 12.07 acres. Prescribed burning was completed on 183 acres at NAS Pensacola and Bronson Field to promote and establish new gopher tortoise habitat. In FY 24, four Gopher Tortoises were relocated within the base boundary to protect them from vehicular traffic.

**NAS Jacksonville, FL, POC: Sarah Monroy , Sarah.E.Monroy.civ@us.navy.mil; (904) 859-8044**

Gopher tortoises are present on all four properties of the NAS Jacksonville Complex, which includes NAS Jacksonville main station, Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse, Rodman Range, and Yellow Water. In addition to the NAS Jacksonville Complex, gopher tortoise populations are found at the Navy's Pinecastle Range, which sits on land that is leased from the U.S. Forest Service. In 2023 composite plastic meshing project covering earthen covered bunkers to prevent burrowing into the sides and blast wall opened approximately 230 acres of relocation area if gopher tortoise need to be relocated from mission-sensitive areas. Outreach that focuses on awareness and conservation of several subjects, including gopher tortoises and their burrows is provided during briefings throughout the installation, to classes that visit NAS Jacksonville's Nature Center and visits to the child care center on base. Gopher tortoise surveys and monitoring through the use of game cams are ongoing actions across the NAS Jax Complex, both are completed by the Student Conservation Association intern. Invasive plants were removed prior to native plant species that are high value foraging food for gopher tortoises were planted in several areas around the base that the tortoise is within an 18 acre area.

**NAS Whiting Field, FL, POC: Christina Malitz, christina.malitz@navy.mil; (850) 623-7602**

NAS Whiting Field has a wide-ranging and significant gopher tortoise population across 2 states, 5 counties and 8 of 13 airfields. This year we conducted our first ever growing season burn at OLF Harold, burning 277 acres in May of 2024 to control emergent hardwoods. OLF Harold has been on a strict 2 year burn rotation for decades and has a healthy longleaf pine overstory and a wiregrass understory. It is hoped that the recent relocation of gopher tortoises (3 this year), will in time see a natural increase in population. The 18-acre improved wildlife relocation area had its first 4 acres planted to provide enhanced food sources with the planting of blue berry and black berry shrubs. A survey of the area shows 6 volunteer gopher tortoises in the area.

**NS Mayport, FL, POC: John Arnett, john.e.arnett.civ@us.navy.mil; (904)-270-3188**

Most of NS Mayport's Gopher Tortoises (GT) occur in the dune adjacent to the beach (Atlantic Ocean). Multiple storms and high tides have eroded the one-mile long dune, putting the tortoise habitat at risk of flooding. During FY24, the entire dune was reconstructed. The dune reconstruction required a new survey of the GT population near the dune. A contractor conducted Gopher Tortoises (GT) surveys and found 79 burrows (44 Active, 33 Inactive and 2 Abandoned). The Contractor determined that several GT burrows were in jeopardy of being impacted during the dune construction; the Contractor trapped and moved five (5) GT to the dredge/spoil mound at the western side of NS Mayport where about 3 GT burrows had been found during previous surveys. The dune construction project temporarily reduced the amount of GT habitat at the beach but will provide a long-term benefit by adding GT habitat and by protecting the GT population from future ocean flooding. Environmental awareness briefings given to new personnel and Contractors provide information about Mayport's GT population, including avoidance practices. Silt screens are erected to protect tortoises from construction vehicles, and tortoise monitors are required for certain projects. The Environmental office works with the base and regional Public Affairs Office to promote gopher tortoise awareness. Two GTs on the base – 1 at the Beacon community center and 1 (named "Turbo") at the Child Development Center - are local celebrities.

**SUBASE Kings Bay, GA, POC: Brian Hinton, brian.d.hinton.civ@us.navy.mil; (912) 573-4678**

NSB Kings Bay continued to manage approximately 5000 acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat. Surveyed EOD range and counted more than 50 active burrows. The USACE performed a relocation effort on the installation, by setting up a fenced area and moving GT to the area. 90 acres of Invasive Species were treated. Prescribed burns are planned for FY24. Prescribed Burns completed in March. They prescribed burn provided great enhancement of GT habitat.



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The US Air Force (USAF) continued its commitment to excellent gopher tortoise management in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) on more than 485,018 acres. The USAF has six installations within the eastern range of the gopher tortoise (GT). There was an increase of 207 in the aggressive feral hog removal programs, that resulted in 1,433 feral hogs removed from USAF properties in FY24 as compared to 1,226 in FY23. Additionally, 137 raccoons, 123 coyotes, 9 opossums, 4 armadillos, and 3 gray foxes were removed. Prescribed fire was applied to 92,471 acres, a decrease from 99,978 acres reported in fiscal year 2023, but lower than the USAF average of 114,160 acres.

**AVON PARK:** Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) protected an additional 70 acres of highly suitable potential gopher tortoise habitat under new conservation easements on private lands surrounding APAFR. On installation, the installation completed the following land management objectives to improve and maintain suitable gopher tortoise habitat: Administered prescribed fire over 11,293 acres, treated 453 acres for invasive plant species, restored 609 acres of scrub habitat, planted 178 acres of long leaf to restore clear cut plantations back to natural flatwoods, and removed 201 feral hogs.

**SPACE LAUNCH DELTA (SLD) 45/U.S. SPACE FORCE:** Completed surveys for presence/absence in support of various construction, utility, and other miscellaneous projects. Completed excavation/bucket trapping and relocation of gopher tortoises in support of projects where gopher tortoise burrows could not be avoided. Completed restoration/management of gopher tortoise habitat through mechanical cutting of overgrown scrub, treatment of invasive flora through mechanical cutting and/or herbicide application, and application of prescribed fire. Additionally, monitoring of previously treated invasive vegetation continued to prevent re-growth. Removed nonnative and/or nuisance wildlife (raccoons, feral hogs and coyotes) to support protection of threatened and endangered species. Conducted educational outreach through presentations for school children and provided natural resources training to security forces (SF) and other SF personnel that conduct off road activities – gopher tortoises were included in the training. Researching offsite translocation of gopher tortoise due to concern with Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (CCSFS) reaching carrying capacity.

**EGLIN Air Force Base (AFB):** Eglin AFB continued to manage almost 400,000 acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat. Management tools included prescribed fire, chemical treatment of hardwood midstory, chemical treatment of invasive plants, control measures for invasive exotic animal species and sand pine removal. 44 tortoises were relocated from isolated, non-viable populations of less than 250 adults in unmanaged habitats, and/or from Eglin Main Base and Duke Field where burrows were impacting flight safety and normal operation.

543 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) tortoises were translocated from privately owned properties in Florida to Eglin AFB. 1,371 Conservation Permit tortoises were translocated from privately owned properties in Florida to Eglin AFB. All tortoises were relocated to sites with soft release enclosures and have been or will be held at least 6 months. Population monitoring documented one Minimum Viable Population (MVP) in an Incidental Take Permit (IT) translocation enclosure after pen removal, one MVP in an ITP translocation site nine years after pen removal, four MVPs in four different Conservation Permit sites

after pen removal, and one non-viable population in an internal Eglin relocation enclosure. Also, an MVP was documented at a Conservation Permit site after initial survey post-enclosure removal. All burrows located were mapped and data collected for each included status and size.

**MACDILL AFB:** The base contracted the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC) to conduct its first ever gopher tortoise survey via the Line Transect Distance Sampling method. MacDill AFB has gopher tortoises present in wooded areas and on the grassy areas of the airfield; 22.75 km of transects were stratified between the two habitat types. Previous MacDill reports only considered wooded, natural areas as potential habitat but this underestimates the suitable acreage that can support tortoises. ARC estimated the population size for MacDill AFB at approximately 1,025 tortoises at a density of 1.6 tortoises per hectare. To determine whether the installation supports a Minimum Viable Population, primary support population, or secondary support population only the data used to model adult tortoise abundance are considered. The abundance of adult tortoises was estimated at 765 at a density of 1.2 adults per hectare. These estimates indicate that MacDill AFB has a Minimum Viable Population of tortoises, which is defined as any population of at least 250 adult tortoises at a density of at least 0.4 adults per hectare on a site that is at least 100 ha in size. A total of 372 tortoise burrows and 159 tortoises (113 adults, 32 subadults, and 14 juveniles) were observed during the survey.

**MOODY AFB:** There are approximately 946 acres of gopher tortoise habitat located on the installation. Gopher tortoise management is accomplished through projects identified in the Moody AFB Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan with concurrence by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Current projects include seasonal monitoring and surveys of known gopher tortoise populations and habitat improvement/restoration through burning, chemical release, and mechanical means.

**TYNDALL AFB:** In FY24, Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) surveyed and monitored approximately 4,850 acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat. Annual gopher tortoise surveys include a total burrow count to monitor burrow usage and provide an estimate of population size on Tyndall AFB. All burrows encountered are mapped and scoped for population estimate reporting and then physically marked by PVC poles to make visible for forestry operations and land use management. Additional data collected during surveys included burrow occupancy by gopher tortoises and commensal species, as well as measurements, condition, and orientation of the burrow. Summer and fall surveys were conducted in FY24, resulting in 154 total burrows marked; 101 of which were actively maintained, and 78 burrows were occupied by gopher tortoises at the time of surveys. No incidents of upper respiratory tract disease (URTD) were identified or reported. During summer of FY24, 2 tortoises were captured and relocated from a vacant base housing neighborhood that is scheduled for rebuilding. Baseline vegetation surveys were conducted in fall of 2020 at 28 burrows across the installation as part of a long-term monitoring effort to assess gopher tortoise habitat quality as it relates to change in understory and midstory community composition and structure over time. Post-treatment vegetation surveys were conducted in FY24 at those burrows that received chemical and/or mechanical treatments such as prescribed fire, roller chopping, mowing, harrowing, herbicide application, or a combination of treatments.

Forest management activities for FY24 included prescribed fire, chemical treatment of invasive species, continued longleaf pine reforestation and native ground cover restoration. During FY24, 149,400 longleaf pine seedlings were planted on 236 acres at 726 trees per acre (TPA), and 950,700 longleaf pine seedlings were planted at a rate of 351 TPA on 2,451 acres where survival was low after initial planting. In addition to longleaf planting, 227 acres were direct seeded with native groundcover after being mechanically and chemically site prepped the previous year. Reforested areas will continue to be managed with fire on a 2–3-year fire return interval or managed with chemical or mechanical timber stand improvement techniques where fire is not meeting management goals. Prescribed fire was applied to a total of 5,783 acres in FY24 during the dormant and growing season and approximately 2,566 acres were in potential gopher tortoise habitat. Combined management activities covered approximately 4,565 acres of gopher tortoise habitat that was restored or improved in FY24. Chemical treatments for invasive species occurred on 449 acres across the installation.

#### UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

No report submitted.

#### USFS

**Conecuh National Forest** – In FY24, the Conecuh NF contributed to the continued conservation of gopher tortoise through the active restoration and maintenance of native fire ecosystems—some of which was achieved through partnerships with the TLA and TNC. The Conecuh NF accomplished prescribed burning on 40% of the forest in FY24, with the ultimate goal of keeping the forest on a 2-3 year burn rotation. Community outreach continued in FY24 after a 4-year hiatus (FY19-FY22) due to Covid-related impacts.

**Apalachicola National Forest** – The ANF’s management activities for the maintenance/restoration of gopher tortoise habitat for FY24 included: prescribed burning, invasive species treatments, tree plantings, mid-story and understory restoration using mechanical and herbicide treatments, site prep for seeding mechanical (roller chopping), and site prep for planting mechanical (mowing).

**Ocala National Forest** – The Ocala National Forest’s management activities were focused on maintaining or improving sandhill habitat quality. FWC is conducting a mid-story reduction on 159 acres in sandhills habitat on the Ocala NF under a Good Neighbor Authority agreement. Non-native invasive species was treated on 1.3 total acres, and 25,200 acres of sandhills habitat were prescribed burned in FY24.

**Osceola National Forest** - Our goal on the Osceola National Forest is to update the current distribution and population of gopher tortoises across the forest. We do this by conducting surveys on an annual basis to update our database. This helps us make informed management decisions when related to the gopher tortoise.

#### USFWS

For FY’24, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) data is being submitted for the National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS), and Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW)

program. Data included here are in most cases the same as were reported for FY'23. Those refuges and fish hatcheries contributing to the annual report include:

**Florida:** Archie Carr NWR (AC); Chassahowitzka NWR (CH); Egmont Key NWR (EK); Everglades Headwaters NWR (EH); Hobe Sound NWR (HS); J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR (DD); Lake Wales Ridge NWR (LWR); Lake Woodruff NWR (LW); Lower Suwannee/Cedar Key NWR (LS); Merritt Island NWR (MI); Pelican Island NWR (PI); St. Marks NWR (SM); St. Vincent NWR (SV); Florida Panther NWR (FP); and Ten Thousand Islands NWR (TTI)

**Georgia:** Okefenokee NWR (OK), Harris Neck (HN), Warm Springs NFH (WSNFH)

**Alabama:** Eufaula (EU) Bon Secour (BS)

**Archie Carr NWR:** No burns or gopher tortoise surveys conducted in 2024. There is, however, a known/previously surveyed population of gopher tortoise. Report only reflects federally owned or managed lands and does not include county owned protected properties within the Archie Carr NWR acquisition boundary.

**Chassahowitzka NWR:** A total of 30 acres of uplands (longleaf pine) is gopher tortoise habitat. This area surrounds the Chassahowitzka maintenance shop and is owned fee title and managed.

**Egmont Key NWR** totals 328 acres (fee title), but due to erosion, the island is estimated to be about 262 acres currently. The entire island is gopher tortoise habitat. A 6.54-acre inholding within Egmont Key NWR is owned by Hillsborough County and leased by the Tampa Bay Pilots Association. This area is marked as private property with no public access. It is not under a gopher tortoise management plan, but the gopher tortoises are protected.

**Everglades Headwaters NWR:** The refuge currently consists of about 12,181 acres (5,150 ac easements and 7,031 ac fee). Public protected gopher tortoise habitat is 4,980 acres and 3,674 acres are protected private lands. Approximately 2,392 acres were treated with prescribed fire in 2024. No invasive plants were treated in 2024.

**Harris Neck NWR:** No management activities were conducted specifically for gopher tortoise on Harris Neck NWR for FY24.

**Hobe Sound NWR:** The Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound NWR encompasses 1,091 acres of coastal dune, mangrove forest, coastal hammock, and sand pine scrub habitat. Gopher tortoises occur on about 290 acres of sand pine scrub and 25 acres of coastal dune habitat. During the period of performance, approximately 282 acres were treated for non-native, invasive plants and 49 acres of mechanical treatments were conducted to improve sand pine scrub in occupied gopher tortoise habitat. In partnership with the Hobe Sound Nature Center, the Refuge also provided educational opportunities to school groups and the general public.

**J.N. Ding Darling NWR:** No management specifically for gopher tortoise in 2024.

Lake Wales Ridge NWR: Approximately 80 acres were mechanically treated in preparation for prescribed fire in 2024.

Lake Woodruff NWR: Refuge continued to manage habitat on 5 acres specifically for gopher tortoises by controlling exotics on 5 acres.

Lower Suwannee NWR: Approximately 6,500 of habitat is in public conservation lands. No prescribed fires or invasive treatment acres were conducted in 2024. Staff surveyed 410 acres and located 30 tortoises in a presence / absence survey.

Merritt Island NWR: Refuge continued to manage 9277.5 acres of habitat for gopher tortoises by controlling exotics on 239 acres, growing season prescribed burning on 7,351 acres, dormant season burning on 1187.5 acres, and mechanical treatment on 500 acres.

Pelican Island NWR: The refuge currently consists of about 369 acres of uplands. In 2023 there were no prescribed fires. Approximately 5 acres of Brazilian pepper infestations were chemically treated in 2024.

St. Marks NWR: The Refuge managed 6622 acres of habitat and conducted 6,622 acres of prescribed burning.

St. Vincent NWR: This fiscal year gopher tortoise stewardship consisted of dormant season prescribed fire, and invasive exotic plant removal. The Refuge burned 5,609 acres and treated invasives on an additional 12 acres.

Florida Panther NWR: Only occasional gopher tortoises found. All of these considered likely releases from the public.

Ten Thousand Islands NWR: Scattered burrows among keys with no population estimates and no management.

Okefenokee NWR: Habitat for gopher tortoises on Okefenokee NWR is limited to the area of 470 acres around the refuge's east entrance that is on Trail Ridge and slopes to the Okefenokee Swamp's edge. North of the refuge entrance, the higher sand ridge feature known as Trail Ridge is owned by the USFWS but managed for timber by Forest Investment Associates until 2081. Gopher tortoise burrows continue to be protected on these lands through the timber production activities. The Refuge treated 0.5 acres of invasive plants within the habitat in 2024.

Harris Neck NWR: Harris Neck has a very small (<10 individuals), disjunct population of gopher tortoises whose origin is unknown. Gopher tortoises are not being considered in management activities other than a beneficiary of early successional management for other species.

Bon Secour NWR: Previously considered extirpated, several gopher tortoises are now being regularly seen and burrows found. Presumably these individuals are being "dumped" on the Refuge but may serve as the beginning of a resident population. A total of 150 acres of habitat is available and protected.

Eufaula NWR: Activities, accomplishments, and acreages--whether Alabama or Georgia--are reported under Alabama. While providing habitats selected by gopher tortoise is priority management direction, no gopher tortoises occur on the refuge proper. However, gopher tortoises are known to occur on conservation easements and fee title tracts (scattered throughout southwest GA and southeast AL) managed by the refuge. The refuge manages gopher tortoise habitat by prescribed burning, mowing, and disking.

Warm Springs NFH: We receive tortoise eggs from a variety of circumstances: tortoises nesting on the side of roadways, tortoises nesting on GADNR Wildlife Management Area properties, private landowners who wish to conserve this keystone species on their property, tortoises found in counties they don't naturally occur, and even land-owners trying to dig up their septic tank and happen across a nest of eggs! We raise all our tortoises with the upmost care and attention to ensure their survival into a juvenile life-stage. Once at this stage, they can be released back into the wild and be less vulnerable to predation and extreme weather occurrences.

For FY'24 Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery in partnership with Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) continues to raise and release juvenile Gopher Tortoises.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife: Habitat improvement was completed for 3,952.2 acres on private lands within the range of gopher tortoise in Florida, Georgia, and southeastern Alabama. Actions included growing season prescribed fire on 2,361.9 acres and dormant season burns on 811 acres. An additional 759.3 acres were mechanically treated.

#### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In Alabama, the gopher tortoise is federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the western portion of its range (Mobile, Washington and Choctaw counties) and state protected in twenty-three southern Alabama counties. The State of Alabama permanently protects and manages approximately 28,000 acres of tortoise habitat on public lands including Charles D. Kelly-Autauga, Barbour, Geneva State Forest (only the DWFF owned lands are being reported; AFC reports on acres they own that are in the Geneva State Forest Wildlife Management Area), and Perdido River Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs); Blackwater River, Uchee Creek, Fred T. Stimpson and Upper State Special Opportunity Areas (SOAs), and Elhew Research Station (Wehle tract). The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (DWFF) and the State Lands Division (SLD) continue to work together to restore and maintain gopher tortoise habitat on DWFF, Forever Wild Land Trust (FWLT), and SLD lands. Land management conducted by DWFF staff included 9992 acres (roughly 35% gopher tortoise habitat on listed WMAs, SOAs, FWLT, and SLD properties) of prescribed burning (combined dormant and growing season burns), 1786 acres of thinned pine plantation, 600 acres of clearcut, 51 acres of site prep, 84 acres of reforested longleaf pine, 268 acres of mechanical treatment, and 10 acres of native warm season grass established. Additionally, 388 feral hogs, 19 coyotes, 62 raccoons, 3 bobcats, 1 gray foxes, and 19 opossums were removed from DWFF lands. Land management conducted by the SLD, Elhew Research Station included 1 acre of cogongrass eradication.

DWFF continues work towards determining a more accurate gopher tortoise population estimate and distribution in Alabama. Gopher tortoise surveys on public lands using Line Transect Distance Sampling (LTDS) methodology were completed in Oct 2017. (AL Gopher Tortoise Surveys on Public Lands SWG

Final Report, 2017). Since non-industrial private landowners own the majority of the gopher tortoise habitat in Alabama, efforts continue to access private lands to conduct gopher tortoise surveys as funding permits. Alabama gopher tortoise population counts are as follows (including public and non-industrial private lands):

- 5 viable populations
- 5 Primary support populations
- 35 Secondary support populations

We did not receive any calls from the public about possessing waif tortoises this reporting period, but we did receive three gopher tortoises that were confiscated by DWFF law enforcement. These animals were evaluated by a wildlife rehabilitator and deemed healthy for release. The animals were soft released into the waif enclosure on a Wildlife Management Area and will be penned for 12 months after which the enclosure will be removed, and the animals will be free to disperse.

Targeted relocation efforts are on the rise due to increasing development (housing and solar) pressures in Pike, Henry, Houston, Dale, Geneva, Covington, Escambia, and Baldwin counties. DWFF collaborates with landowners, agencies, utilities (solar, gas, power), developers and consultants to find solutions to gopher tortoise issues. When leaving the animal(s) in place is not an option, relocation to permanently protected public lands is considered. In August, DWFF worked with D.R. Horton Homes in Baldwin County to relocate 50 gopher tortoises from the subdivision footprint. DWFF assisted Horton Homes wildlife consultant with relocating the animals from the development site to a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with a low-density gopher tortoise population. The developer constructed the 23-acre enclosure on the WMA (2 gopher tortoises per acre). Tortoises will stay in the enclosure for 12 months after which the barrier will be removed, and the animals will be free to disperse.

There was no activity from the Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement (GTCCA) partners, other than some partners, including DWFF, completed the 2023-24 Annual Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement Report was compiled and submitted to the USFWS.

DWFF biologists assisted with ongoing gopher tortoise research at Geneva Wildlife Management Area and with headstarts at Auburn University. Assistance included gopher tortoise monitoring, trapping, enclosure construction, data collection, collaborating with researchers, and site inspections.

Education and outreach continued throughout the year via social media, press releases, school programs, and landowner tours. A variety of topics were discussed including species biology, conservation from threats, and habitat management.

#### FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Progress on the implementation of conservation actions outlined in the Gopher Tortoise Management Plan (September 2012) continues to be achieved. This Management Plan was intended to guide continued recovery of the gopher tortoise in Florida through 2022. Revisions were anticipated to be prepared and completed in 2022, but were paused until a Federal listing decision by the USFWS was completed. Following the Federal decision that the gopher tortoise was not warranted in the eastern portion of its range, the FWC resumed the revision of this Management Plan in FY23; this revision effort continued into the reporting FY24. During FY24, a revision draft was provided to the Gopher Tortoise Technical Assistance Group (GTTAG) and partner organizations for stakeholder review and feedback.

After stakeholder engagement, the FWC conducted a public comment period. Stakeholder and public comments were incorporated into the Management Plan, and the revised Management Plan was presented to the Commission at the December 2024 Commission Meeting for approval (during FY25). This 2024 revision to the Gopher Tortoise Management Plan will guide conservation of the species in Florida through 2034.

Additional progress has been made on completing gopher tortoise surveys using Line Transect Distance Sampling under a contract with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). In FY24, 10 surveys on state-owned public conservation lands were completed and included 34,907 acres of suitable gopher tortoise habitat. Of the 10 sites surveyed this FY, all populations were considered viable. Of the seven of these sites where LTDS surveys had been repeated, all maintained their population status as either viable or primary support populations. Surveys completed under this contract, in addition to FWC staff-led surveys, will continue into the next few years.

As development in Florida continues to increase, so does the number of gopher tortoises that are relocated. In FY23, 10,439 gopher tortoises were relocated from development sites, with most of those tortoises relocated to lands under permanent conservation easements. With the demand for recipient sites being high, 1,258 new acres were brought in under four newly permitted, privately-owned recipient sites. Two previously permitted and protected privately-owned recipient sites have added phases and placed an additional 320 acres of gopher tortoise habitat under conservation easement during FY24. Four public conservation land recipient sites were permitted and comprise 1,618 acres of gopher tortoise habitat. Five short-term protected recipient sites were established in FY24 and comprised 1,966 acres of gopher tortoise habitat.

The FWC is actively promoting actionable science to help address knowledge gaps and inform the policies and practices outlined in the Guidelines. The FWC is funding research annually using gopher tortoise mitigation contributions. In FY24, two proposals were funded which align with FWC-identified research priorities. These projects are titled “Assessing trauma, road mortality and decomposition in gopher tortoises from east Florida” and “Geographic predictors of pathogen presence and individual genetic diversity, and their post-translocation consequences for gopher tortoises”.

The FWC continues to work with stakeholders to discuss any new challenges and work together toward possible solutions throughout the implementation of the Gopher Tortoise Management Plan. The continued participation of stakeholders is important to the long-term conservation of the species. The implementation and completion of many management plan actions to protect the gopher tortoise and its habitat has made an impact on the status of the keystone species and continues to show progress toward achieving conservation.

#### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative (GTCI) is a Georgia-based effort that aims to protect at least 65 tortoise populations that meet or exceed the current USFWS standard for a minimum viable population (MVP; >250 adult tortoises). As of September 30, 2024, Georgia reached 64 protected populations and we expect to meet or exceed our goal in FY 2025.

Georgia added 2,113 acres of protected gopher tortoise habitat through fee simple acquisitions, including a 338-acre addition to Griffin Ridge WMA in Long County and a 2,345-acre addition to Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA in Marion County.



During the reporting period, the GADNR Wildlife Conservation Section's tortoise survey crew completed LTDS surveys on two sites covering 4,935 acres of tortoise habitat and is working to complete a re-survey of Altama Plantation Wildlife Management Area (WMA). One of the completed surveys was a re-survey of Townsend WMA. Survey estimates indicate a slight increase in the population to 1,221 gopher tortoises since the last survey in 2014, a great indication that habitat improvements are benefitting this population. Lanahassee Creek WMA was also resurveyed. This has been the primary release site for gopher tortoises head-started at the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery in Warm Springs, Georgia. The population is primarily comprised of juvenile and subadult tortoises with only a small number of previously translocated adults. The survey produced many detections of juvenile tortoises and evidence of multi-year juvenile survival.

The Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative Burn Crew completed its fourth season and conducted prescribed fire on 5,767 acres of gopher tortoise habitat across South Georgia. The crew logged 46 operations, down 6 from last year, from January through June 2024. While the crew was unable to break the last crew's records, they proved to be an important resource in accomplishing habitat management goals and collaborated with several conservation partners. In total, 60,689 acres were burned on WMAs with gopher tortoise populations. Of those, 19,450 acres were burned during the growing season. Growing season burn acreage was up significantly from the previous reporting period. In addition, 4,918 acres of pine and mixed pine/hardwood were thinned, 649 acres were planted in longleaf, and 98 acres of various invasives were treated.

Soft release pens constructed at Chickasawhatchee WMA, Alligator Creek WMA, Ceylon WMA, Sansavilla WMA, and Wormsloe State Historic Site provided protected recipient areas for 87 gopher tortoises. Of these, were waif gopher tortoises, from small development projects, and 53 were from a singular residential development. Additionally, 61 head-started gopher tortoises were released at Lanahassee Creek, Altama Plantation, Sansavilla, and Penholoway Swamp WMAs.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

During the 2023-2024 reporting period SCDNR has continued to actively participate in gopher tortoise conservation and management. Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve, Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve and now the Coosawhatchie Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area have continued habitat management and enhancement activities for the benefit of the gopher tortoise.

Based on our past surveys (2015-2018), we have identified nine (9) gopher tortoise populations in South Carolina: Two minimum viable populations (MVP), four primary and three secondary support populations. Currently, the four most robust gopher tortoise populations are under state ownership (2 MVP and 2 PSP). The Coosawhatchie HPWMA (CHPWMA) consists of over 10,000 acres and incorporates upper reaches of the Coosawhatchie River creating a barrier between two gopher tortoise populations. On one side, there is an MVP and the other a PSP. Since these properties were recently acquired by the SCDNR, surveys for gopher tortoise burrows and commensals are underway to better understand the distribution onsite. The other MVP is located on the state-owned Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve (TSRHP) which has the highest density of gopher tortoises of any population in South Carolina. TSRHP is currently broken into two parcels however, SCDNR recently acquired a 100+ acre piece of property in between the currently owned TSRHP properties that helps create a more contiguous habitat. At TSRHP we continue efforts to restore and enhance over 180 acres at the TSRHP and will increase the available tortoise habitat by nearly 50%. This habitat has been thinned and sprayed with herbicide to control

regeneration of hardwoods, burned and replanted with a combination of wiregrass plugs, longleaf pine seedlings and a sandhills seed mix, to restore it to a more suitable gopher tortoise habitat. To date over 50 new burrows have been found in the newly restored habitat. Finally, at the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve (AGTHP) we continue efforts to restock this population utilizing waif tortoises. Most waif tortoises are obtained through an MOA with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, though tortoises have been acquired from 16 states since 2007. Through these efforts, the population at AGTHP has gone from 8 adults to ~200. Savannah River Ecology Lab staff Kurt Buhlmann and Tracey Tuberville have received funding from the Longleaf Alliance to continue to head-start tortoises for release at the AGTHP. We expect these efforts increase survivorship of this vulnerable age class, increasing recruitment and the overall viability of this population. This year we released 50 waifs and 67 headstarted gopher tortoises to the property. Additionally, the Aiken Land Conservancy purchase ~300 acres of gopher tortoise habitat directly adjacent to the AGTHP, increasing the total property acreage to just over 2000 acres. Finally, 652 acres at AGTHP were commercially thinned during this reporting period with 500 acres thinned to 10 trees/acre to help promote understory vegetation for gopher tortoises and other organisms in this longleaf pine ecosystem.

SCDNR continues to be active in the gopher tortoise conservation community. Andrew Grosse serves as the Gopher Tortoise Council SC state representative and attended the 2023 annual meeting with the region 3 Heritage Preserve Biologist Hunter Young, who manages the Aiken Gopher tortoise HP.

#### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) conducts numerous habitat and presence/absence surveys for gopher tortoise within proposed transportation project rights-of-way annually. These may include habitat suitability analyses, burrow presence surveys, and burrow scoping surveys.

#### POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

No report submitted.

#### AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION (AFF)

No report submitted.

#### LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

No report submitted

#### JONES CENTER AT ICHAUWAY

We managed 12,312 ac of upland habitat with prescribed fire. We are continuing long term research on the effects of mesopredators on tortoise populations at Ichauway and have collaborated with researchers from Virginia Tech and the University of Georgia on tortoise nesting and burrow site selection to inform habitat management and restoration. We are also collaborating with Clemson University on estimating gopher tortoise dispersal distances using GPS tracking devices.

### ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) manages eight state forests within the gopher tortoise's (GTs) range. Geneva State Forest (GSF) and Little River State Forest (LRSF) are the largest two and provide permanent protection for GTs. These two state forests now total 11,536 acres, GSF is 7,200 acres and LRSF is 4,336 acres. Alabama's Forever Wild Program owns 712 acres directly adjacent to Little River State Forest. GSF has AFC personnel permanently stationed there, while LRSF utilizes surrounding county personnel to conduct operations. It is one of AFC's objectives to continue improving GT habitat on GSF and LRSF lands through prescribed burning, timely timber stand thinning and removal of hardwood mid-story where applicable, creating and maintaining useful forest openings, planting longleaf pine on applicable sites and conducting final harvests as needed. Geneva State Forest is managed for natural regeneration of longleaf pine by using shelterwood harvest. The forest is managed on a 72-year rotation. Additional information is listed in the following sections.

The majority of work AFC personnel conduct is for private landowners. There are 9,021,520 acres of timberland within the GT's native range in Alabama. Of these timberland acres 96.5%, or 8,711,638 acres, are privately owned. AFC has foresters and rangers available to assist landowners in all 27 counties within the GT candidate range. AFC provides GT habitat management recommendations to landowners during site visits, stand management recommendations, and in Stewardship Forest Management Plans. Other forms of landowner assistance provided that benefit GTs include invasive species control recommendations and prescribed burning.

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

No report submitted.

### ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

Electric power delivery rights-of-way must be accessed with heavy machinery periodically for construction and maintenance, and in emergency situations to restore power. The following practices were observed this year by Alabama Power Company (APC) in order to minimize impacts to gopher tortoises during these activities: Surveying segments of ROWs prior to construction/maintenance was conducted to detect and mark burrows (i.e., sign, cone, flagging, etc.); A GIS database of gopher tortoise burrow locations is maintained; BMPs are implemented specifying buffer zones, matting criteria, etc. to help reduce risk to tortoises and burrows and educate transmission crews. Alabama Power continues to mark burrows with GT signs this year; each sign is labeled with "Sensitive Area" and "No Equipment or Excavation Within 25 Feet;" the signs also have a contact number to call if someone has questions; the signs are highly visible and can be seen at distances far greater than 25 feet; signs are placed relatively close to the burrow near the apron but APC avoids sign placement on GT trails.

In addition to the above BMPs, GT informational flyers (written in English and Spanish) were created for Power Delivery crews. The flyers provide information about GT, a picture of a GT burrow, GT signage, and steps to avoid GT Burrows.

APC has also participated in the Alabama Tortoise Alliance (ALTA) meetings and the Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement (GTCCA) meetings to stay current on listing decisions and discuss best management and conservation practices with state and federal agencies.

### GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

Georgia Power Company (GPC) continues to manage gopher tortoise habitat on multiple large tracts using prescribed fire and longleaf pine system restoration. Most of these sites contribute to the sustainability of tortoise populations on adjacent conservation lands. Additionally, tortoise habitat is protected during substation and transmission line construction and maintenance activities.

GPC's requests for proposals for solar energy generation strongly encourage developers to avoid gopher tortoise habitat and other environmentally sensitive sites, and these factors are considered in our proposal evaluation process. GPC participated in developing The Nature Conservancy's "Georgia Low Impact Solar Siting Tool," and is engaged in the Georgia Utility Scale Solar Siting Initiative to develop "Recommended Practices for the Responsible Siting and Design of Solar Development in Georgia."

**RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR A (THE PRESENT OR THREATENED DESTRUCTION, MODIFICATION, OR CURTAILMENT OF THE SPECIES' HABITAT OR RANGE)**

ARMY

**a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?**

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009			
2010			
2011			
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			

2019			
2020			
2021			
2021	175,266	0	N/A
2022	164,228	0	N/A
2023	175,963	0	N/A
2024	200,855	0	N/A

**b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.**

i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2009	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2010	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2011	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2012	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					

2013	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2014	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2015	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2016	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2018	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands	8786	5824	1666	370	626
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands	4900		4543	102	255
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands	8,303	34,925	28,061	488	2,577
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands	109,195	7,224	19,345	419	3,821
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed lands	75,574	18,309	21,961	361	6,381
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or managed lands	85,864	24,942	33,984	154	2,314
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the preceding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

Data in Tables 1 & 2 for 2019 and 2020 are for Ft. Novosel in Alabama only.

#### NAVY

a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	12,140	N/A	N/A
2010	12,140	N/A	N/A
2011	12,140	N/A	N/A
2012	12,140	N/A	N/A
2013	12,140	N/A	N/A
2014	12,140	N/A	N/A
2015	12,357	N/A	N/A
2016	12,182	N/A	N/A
2017	12,522	N/A	N/A
2018	12,522	N/A	N/A
2019	12,522	N/A	N/A
2020	12,522	N/A	N/A
2021	7,863	127	N/A
2022	13,357	127	N/A
2023	13,357	127	N/A
2024	13,357	127	N/A

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.
- ii. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

During late 2024, NS Mayport NRM and staff conducted GT surveys at the Helen Cooper Floyd portion of NS Mayport. We are not aware of previous GT surveys at this area. We found 15 Active/Inactive burrows and 2 Abandoned burrows. Invasive plants, including asparagus fern and Kalanchoe, were removed from approximately 5 acres of GT habitat. Both species are



notoriously difficult to eradicate and will require repeat visits. This year we conducted our first ever growing season burn at OLF Harold, burning 277 acres in May of 2024 to control emergent hardwoods. OLF Harold has been on a strict 2 year burn rotation for decades and has a healthy longleaf pine overstory and a wiregrass understory. It is hoped that the recent relocation of gopher tortoises (3 this year), will in time see a natural increase in population. NSB Kings Bay prescribed burns totaled 1200 acres for this time period. This will provide enhanced GT habitat on NSB Kings Bay. An Invasive Species survey was conducted on 625 acres in and around gopher tortoise habitat. Cogon grass was treated on 12.07 acres. Prescribed burning was completed on 183 acres at NAS Pensacola and Bronson Field to promote and establish new gopher tortoise habitat. In FY 24, four Gopher Tortoises were relocated within the base boundary to protect them from vehicular traffic.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season	Acres burned - dormant season	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2009	Owned or managed lands	1819	194	1,295	68	262
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2010	Owned or managed lands	1501	180	1,108	63	150
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2011	Owned or managed lands	517	64	191	155	107
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	Owned or managed lands	463	7	65	262	129
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	Owned or managed lands	956	187	663	57	49
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014	Owned or managed lands	2837	42	2,621	117	57
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	Owned or managed lands	1439	60	110	409	860
	**Other lands	N/A	50+	200+	N/A	N/A
2016	Owned or managed lands	2809	175	268	75	135

	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	Owned or managed lands	1035	0	877	50	108
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2018	Owned or managed lands	338	0	268	25	45
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	Owned or managed lands	2263 (Pensacola, Bronson, Saufley)	0	244	30	128
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	Owned or managed lands	828	0	328	242	204
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	Owned or managed lands	2,080	100	683	270	235
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	Owned or managed lands	13,357	0	1,332	366	16
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	Owned or managed lands	13,357	0	486	408	18
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	Owned or managed lands	13,357	0	1660	625	0
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### AIR FORCE

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
  - i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise):

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)*	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	101		470,840
2010	101		457,965
2011	151		457,292
2012	190		456,733
2013	190	21,100	456,674
2014	190	22,806	456,630
2015	190	22,806	464,368*
2016	190	22,806	464,368*
2017	190	23,306	464,261*
2018	190	23,306	464,187
2019	190	23,306	464,187
2020	190	29,773	453,622
2021	190	26,480	453,596
2022	190	27,923	453,576
2023	190	31,233	453,615
2024	SLD 190	31,303	453,525

\* Corrected; previous acreage report was incorrect.

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

**AVON PARK:** Potential habitat protected under new conservation easements on private lands surrounding APAFR (70 acres). On installation we completed: Prescribed fire (11,293 acres), Invasive plant treatments (453 acres), scrub restoration (609 acres), long leaf restoration (178 acres) and feral hog removal (200 individuals removed).

**SLD 45:** A construction project caused the loss of 40 acres of other lands owned or managed by the agency. Mechanical cutting of overgrown scrub, treatment of invasive flora through mechanical cutting and/or herbicide application, and application of prescribed fire. Additionally, monitoring of previously treated invasive vegetation continued to prevent re-growth. SLD 45 relocated 74 tortoises. It is becoming more difficult to find areas on CCSFS to move tortoises and it's possible that CCSFS has reached carrying capacity for tortoises. SLD 45 is developing a policy for future translocation of gopher tortoises on CCSFS. The proposal is to 1) reserve CCSFS property to support

tortoises requiring translocation because of DoD projects; 2) utilize Eglin AFB as a translocation site to support Spaceport of the Future projects, and 3) require all commercial development to utilize offsite Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)-approved translocation sites, which will require permitting and fees.

**EGLIN AFB:** Eglin AFB continued to manage almost 400,000 acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat. Management tools include prescribed fire, chemical treatment of hardwood midstory, chemical treatment of invasive plants, control measures for invasive exotic animal species and sand pine removal.

**MACDILL AFB:** Treatment for non-native invasive plant species occurred on approximately 496 acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat, which is higher than in previous years. Ten acres of mechanical vegetation treatments were conducted in potential gopher tortoise habitat to reduce woody invasive species midstory, vegetation heights, and provide required vegetation setback limits along installation fence lines. Prescribed fire is a constant challenge at MacDill AFB due to its location in a highly urbanized setting, difficult weather conditions due to its location on a peninsula within Tampa Bay, and other mission-related factors. In 2024, burns were located entirely within gopher tortoise habitat for a total of 73 acres.

**MOODY AFB:** In 2024, gopher tortoise management activities included prescribed burning (469 acres) and invasive species control (86 acres). During the year, four additional gopher tortoises were tagged and located weekly through radio telemetry. An acre of long leaf pine was planted, and a chemical treatment was applied to the airfield and BASH exclusion zone to limit tree growth.

**TYNDALL AFB:** Forest management activities for FY24 included prescribed fire, chemical treatment of invasive species, continued longleaf pine reforestation and native ground cover restoration. During FY24, 149,400 longleaf pine seedlings were planted on 236 acres at 726 trees per acre (TPA), and 950,700 longleaf pine seedlings were planted at a rate of 351 TPA on 2,451 acres where survival was low after initial planting. In addition to longleaf planting, 227 acres were direct seeded with native groundcover after being mechanically and chemically site prepped the previous year. Reforested areas will continue to be managed with fire on a 2–3-year fire return interval or managed with chemical or mechanical timber stand improvement techniques where fire is not meeting management goals. Prescribed fire was applied to a total of 5,783 acres in FY24 during the dormant and growing season and approximately 2,566 acres were in potential gopher tortoise habitat. Combined management activities covered approximately 4,565 acres of gopher tortoise habitat that was restored or improved in FY24. Chemical treatments for invasive species occurred on 449 acres across the installation.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on “owned or managed lands” or “other lands” for reporting agency/organization. Total = 485,018

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2009	Owned or managed lands	21,945	4,000 (45%)	4,946 (55%)	7,430	Unk.
	**Other lands					
2010	Owned or managed lands	147,466	34,946 (26%)	100,346 (74%)	2,506	9,668
	**Other lands					
2011	Owned or managed lands	113,654	31,151 (31%)	68,124 (69%)	2,056	14,423
	**Other lands	10			10	
2012	Owned or managed lands	124,219	35,669 (32%)	76,703 (67%)	3,470	11,551
	**Other lands					
2013	Owned or managed lands	128,738	53,234 (46%)	63,368 (54%)	3,578	11,179
	**Other lands					
2014	Owned or managed lands	129,294	39,186 (34%)	75,564 (66%)	3,076	11,468
	**Other lands					
2015	Owned or managed lands	128,529	59,664 (50%)	58,583 (50%)	5,378	8,269
	**Other lands					
2016	Owned or managed lands	106,746	46,406 (45%)	56,176 (55%)	2,542	3,256
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands	96,297	53,498 (62%)	33,276 (38%)	3,029	6,491
	**Other lands					
2018	Owned or managed lands	113,081	45,338(44%)	58,694(56%)	3,285	5,764
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands	130,181	49,771 (38%)	64,557 (50%)	4,364	11,489
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands	82,319	20,081	50,030	5,199	7,009
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands	130,805.5	33,442	83,257	7,513.5	6,593

	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands	109,793	41,099.5	58,878.5	4,245	5,570
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	Owned or managed lands	131,198	60,144 (45.8%)	56,447 (43.0%)	7,220 (5.5%)	7,542 (5.7%)
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	Owned or managed lands	100,481	43,979	48,492	1,924.5	6,440.5
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

### MARINE CORPS

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	1200		2
2010	1200		2
2011	1200		2
2012	1200		2
2013	1200		2
2014	1200		2
2015	1200		2

2016	1200		2
2017	1,200	NA	2
2018			2
2019	1,500		2 (MCSF BI) 3,190 ((MCAS TBR)
2020	1,500		2 (MCSF BI) 3,190 ((MCAS TBR)
2021	1,500		3,192
2022	1,500	0	3,192
2023	1,500	N/A	3,192
2024			

b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization. 7 acres

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2016	Owned or managed lands	1,200	264	267	200	0
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands	1,200	0	138	20	0
	**Other lands					
2018	Owned or Managed Lands					

	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or Managed Lands	1,500	382 56%	300 44%	60	50
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or Managed Lands	1,500	170 32%	353 68%	214	411
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or Managed Lands	1,500	382 56%	300 44%	60	50
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or Managed Lands	1,501	475	75	30	188
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or Managed Lands	1,626	105	733	160	125
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or Managed Lands					
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the preceding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement

#### USFS

a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	60,000		
2010	60,000		
2011	60,000		



2012	221,448		
2013	221,448		
2014	221,448		
2015	221,448		
2016	221,531		
2017	221,625		
2018	221,708		
2019	222,151		
2020	301,926*		
2021	301,926	0	0
2022	301,926	0	0
2023	306,653	0	0
2024	306,771	0	0

\*No additional acreage was obtained. The acres were calculated using different methods and reflected is a higher number.

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

**Conecuh National Forest** – During FY24, management activities on the Conecuh NF for the restoration and maintenance of native fire ecosystems that support gopher tortoise included: prescribed burning, longleaf planting, mid-story removal and understory restoration using mechanical and herbicide treatments, and non-native invasive species treatment.

**Apalachicola National Forest** – In FY24, the Apalachicola NF contributed to the restoration and maintenance of native fire ecosystems that support gopher tortoise by: timber thinning, timber harvest to restore native over-story species (longleaf), prescribed burning, mid-story and understory restoration using mechanical and herbicide treatments, site prep for seeding mechanical (roller chopping), and site prep for planting mechanical (mowing).

This past year the ANF did not receive any translocated tortoises. For the past several years we have attempted to come back online as a recipient site by working with the Florida Wildlife and Conservation Commission but regular turnover with their staff has prevented this effort.

#### **Ocala National Forest -**

1) Mid-story reduction – FWC and USFS completed another habitat improvement project through a Supplemental Project Agreement under the Good Neighbor Authority. FWC implemented mid-story reduction on 159 acres in compartment 267 in sandhill habitat on the Ocala NF. A similar project is scheduled to occur in FY25.

2) FY24 NNIS treatment – The Ocala NF treated 1.3 acres of invasive species. Ocala National Forest was awarded regional FY 24 funding of \$115,000 plus additional funding from the navy of \$48,000 to spray invasive species but the contract was initiated in FY 25 Planned for 364 acres.

3) FY24 prescribed burning – The Ocala NF burned a total of 25,200 acres of sandhill habitat, with all of the burning occurring between October 1, 2023 and Sept 30, 2024.

**Osceola National Forest** - Prescribed burning is the main practice used to manage gopher tortoise habitat on the Osceola. However, other practices are used such as thinning, mowing, and roller chopping. Out of the potential gopher tortoise habitat on the ONF (27,271 acres), 11,139 acres were managed during FY24. This entailed 1220 of prescribed burning during the growing season and 9919 acres during the dormant season.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on “owned or managed lands” or “other lands” for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2012	Owned or managed lands	35,721	30,354 (85%)	5,357 (15%)	60	?
	**Other lands					
2013	Owned or managed lands	76,776	48,851 (64%)	27,817 (36%)	173	?
	**Other lands					
2014	Owned or managed lands	103,809	38,370 (46%)	45,433 (54%)	126	15,171

	**Other lands					
2015	Owned or managed lands	79,761	29,178 (46%)	34,893 (54%)	201	9,091
	**Other lands					
2016	Owned or managed lands	88,010	33,778 (42%)	45,939 (58%)	397	7,896
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands	85,430	17,176 (54%)	14,785 (46%)	1120	52,349
	**Other lands					
2018	Owned or managed lands	175,960	67,913 (44%)	86,362 (56%)	1,152	20,533
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands	124,369	55,560 (52%)	50,579 (48%)	2,753	15,477
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands	52,154	14,372 (30%)	34,176 (70%)	834	2,772
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands	58,205	20,954 (37%)	35,994 (63%)	161	1,096
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands	61,399.5	14,873 (25%)	45,159 (75%)	203	1164.5
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed lands	86,435	34,167 (40%)	50,769 (60%)	342	1,157
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or managed lands	104,587	33,508 (33%)	68,396 (67%)	442	2,241
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### USFWS

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
  - i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2016	SV: 6,117 PI: 363 MI: 88,751 LS: 4,855 LW: 2,400 EK: 260 CH: 35 EH: 1,500 HS: 315 AC: 2,000 LWR: 1,900 DD: 37  <b>Total: 108,533 acres</b>	EK: 6.5 EH: 3,500          <b>Total: 3,506.5 acres</b>	n/a
2017	AC – 200 CH – 30 EK – 250 EH – 1,855 HS – 315 DD – 37 LWR – 1,900 LW – 2,400 LS – 4,855 MI – 88,751 PI – 250 SM – 10,928 SV – 6,117 OK – 470  <b>TOTAL = 118,358</b>	EK – 6.5 EH – 4,440   <b>TOTAL = 4,446.5</b>	OK – 982
2018	AC – 200 CH - 30 EK – 260 EH – 1,855 LWR – 1,900 LW – 2,400 LS – 4,855 MI – 88,751 PI – 250 SV – 6,117 OK – 470		

	<b>TOTAL = 107,088</b>		
2019	AC – 200 EK – 250 CH – 30 EH - 4,000 HS – 315 DD – 37 LWR - 1,900 LW - 2,400 LS - 4,855 MI - 88,751 PI – 350 SM - 10,928 SV - 6,117 OK - 470  TOTAL = 120,603	EK - 6.5 EH - 5,000  Total = 5,006.5	OK – 982  Total = 982
2020	AC – 200 EK – 240 CH – 30 EH - 1,500 HS – 315 DD – 37 LWR - 1,900 LW - 2,400 LS - 4,855 MI - 88,751 PI – 200 SM - 10,928 SV - 6,117 OK - 470  <b>Total = 117,943 acres</b>	EK - 6.5 EH - 3,595  Total = 3,601.5 acres	OK – 982  Total = 982 acres
2021	AC – 200 EK – 230 CH – 30 EH – 3,659 HS – 315 DD – 65 LWR - 1,900 LW - 2,400 LS – 3,396 MI - 88,751 PI – 200 SM - 10,928 SV - 6,147	EK - 6.5 EH – 3,595 EU – 1,000  Total = 4,601.5	

	OK – 470 HN – 150 EU – 11,600		
	<b>Total = 130,441</b>		
2022	AC -200 EK - 262 CH - 30 EH - 3,659 HS - 315 DD - 65 LWR - 1,900 LW - 2,400 LS - 3,396 MI - 88,751 PI - 200 SM - 10,928 SV - 6,117 OK - 470 HN - 150 EU - 11,600	EK - 6.5 EU - 1,000	0
	<b>Total = 130,443 acres</b>	<b>Total = 1,006.5 acres</b>	
2023	AC - 200 EK - 262 BS - 150 CH - 30 EH - 4,980 HS – 315 DD – 65 LWR - 1,900 LW - 2,400 LS - 6,500 MI - 88,751 PI – 369 SM - 10,928 SV - 6,117 OK – 470 HN – 150 EU - 11,600	EK - 6.5  EH - 3,674 EU - 1,000	
	<b>Total = 135,187 acres</b>	<b>Total = 4,680.5 acres</b>	

2024	AC - 200		
	EK - 262		
	BS - 150		
	CH - 30		
	EH - 4,980		
	HS - 315		
	DD - 65		
	LWR - 1,900		
	LW - 2,400		
	LS - 6,500	EK - 6.5	
	MI - 88,751	EH - 3,674	
	PI - 369	EU - 1,000	
	SM - 10,928		
	SV - 6,117		
	OK - 470		
	HN - 150		
	EU - 11,600		
	<b>Total = 135,187 acres</b>	<b>Total = 4,680.5 acres</b>	

b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

EH: Approximately 2,392 acres were treated with prescribed fire in 2024.

HS: Mechanical fuel reduction was conducted on 49 acres of sand pine scrub habitat. An additional 282 acres of invasive plants were treated during 2024.

LWR: Approximately 80 acres were mechanically treated in 2024.

OK: Invasives species control was conducted on 0.5 acres.

PI: Approximately 5 acres were treated for Brazilian pepper removal in 2024.

SM: St. Marks NWR: Of the 10,928 acres of habitat available, Refuge staff prescribe burned 6,622 acres in dormant season. The area was too wet for burning in the growing season. No surveys were conducted in 2024.

SV: Dormant season prescribed fire was utilized to maintain approximately 5,609 acres of occupied and unoccupied gopher tortoise habitat in 2024. Invasive exotic plant removal enhanced 12 acres of habitat.

LS: No prescribed fires and no invasive treatment occurred in 2024.

DD: No acres managed specifically for gopher tortoise.

EU: Prescribed fire was applied to 495 acres.

PFW: Projects completed a total of 3,592.2 acres of habitat improvements for gopher tortoise.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2016	Owned or managed lands	AC: 350 EK: 6 CH: 35 EH: 1,200 HS: 315 LWR: 841 LW: 1,391 LS: 4,855 MI: 10,645 SV: 5,476 DD: 37 <b>Total: 25,151</b>	LWR: 350 LS: 4,030 MI: 60% (no acreage) SV: 1000  <b>Total: 5,380</b> (not incl. MI)	LW: 100 LS: 825 MI: 40% (no acreage) SV: 4,466  <b>Total: 5,391</b> (not incl. MI)	AC: 114 EK: 6 EH: 1,200 HS: 154 LWR: 491 LW: 2 MI: 26 PI: 363 SV: 10 DD: 37 <b>Total: 2,403</b>	CH: 35
	**Other lands	EH 3,500 EK 6.5 <b>Total: 3,506.5</b>			EK 6.5	
2017	Owned or managed lands	AC – 200 CH – 30 EK – 16.2 EH – 62 HS – 5 DD – 37 LWR – 350 LW – 108 LS – 1,889 MI – 5,424 PI – 250 SM – 852 SV – 857 OK – 378  <b>TOTAL = 10,458.2</b>	LS – 1,620 MI – 11 SV – 10  <b>TOTAL = 1,641 (43.6%)</b>	LW – 100 LS – 127 MI – 89 SM – 582 SV – 847 OK – 378  <b>TOTAL = 2,123 (56.4%)</b>	EK – 15 EH – 62 HS – 5 DD – 37 LWR – 350 LW – 2 LS – 30 MI – 39 PI – 230  <b>TOTAL = 770</b>	AC – 200 CH – 30 EK – 1.2 LW – 6 LS – 112 MI – 5,285 PI – 20 SM – 270  <b>TOTAL = 5,924.2</b>
	**Other lands	EK – 6.5			EK – 6.5	



2018	Owned or managed lands	AC – 45 EK – 5 LW – 1,000 LS – 4,855 MI – 1,007 PI – 56.5 SV – 2,844 OK – 470  Total = 10,282.5	LW-60(60%) LS-441(16%)  Total 501ac (8% of total)	LW-40(40%) LS-2,333(86%) SV-2,834 OK-375(100%)  Total =5,582ac (92% of total)	AC – 45 EK – 5 LW – 2 LS – 25 MI – 459 PI – 34.5 SV – 10 OK – 1  Total=581.5	LW – 36 LS – 253 PI – 22  Total=311
	**Other lands	OK - 982				
2019	Owned or managed lands	AC - 200 EK - 4 CH – 30 EH - 100 HS – 3 DD – 37 LWR - 500 LS – 2,540 MI – 8,427 PI – 20 SM – 2,922 SV – 5,639 PFW – 12,641  Total = 33,063	LWR - 500 LS (1,323:61%) MI(1,509:19%) SV (5,609)  Total = 8,941	LS (833:39%) MI(6,433:81%) SM(2,904, 100%)  Total = 10,170	AC – 200 EK – 4 EH – 100 HS - 3) DD – 37 LS – 18 MI – 485 SV – 20  Total = 867	CH – 30 LS – 366 PI – 20 SM – 18  Total = 434
	**Other lands	EK - 6.5  Total = 6.5			EK - 6.5  Total = 6.5	
2020	Owned or managed lands	AC - 30 EK - 378.5 CH - 30 EH – 620 HS – 237 DD – 37 LWR – 340 LS - 1,418 LW – 670 MI - 8,427 PI – 40 SM - 5,683 SV - 2,879 PFW – 811 OK – 401  Total = 22,001.5	AC - 30:100% EH - 300:48% LWR - 340:100% LS - 750:53% LW - 660:99% MI - 1,509:18% SM - 3,825:67% SV - 2,868:99% OK - 284:70%  Total = 10,566	EH - 320:52% HS - 32:14% LS - 415:29% MI - 6,433:76% SM - 1,858:17% PFW - 621:77% OK - 117:30%  Total = 9,796	EK - 378.5 HS – 205 DD – 37 LS – 21 LW – 10 MI – 485 PI – 20 SV – 11  Total = 1167.5	CH – 30 LS – 232 PI – 20 PFW – 190  Total = 472

	**Other lands	EK – 6.5 Total = 6.5			EK – 6.5 Total = 6.5	
2021	Owned or managed lands	AC – 200 EK - 230 CH – 30 EH - 3659 HS – 315 DD - 37 LWR - 1900 LS - 3396 LW - 55 MI – 7329 PI – 200 SM – 5683 SV – 373 OK – 470 EU – 1800  Total = 25,677 acres	LS - 2532 MI – 2963 SM - 818  Total = 6,313 acres (24.6%)	EH – 2619 LWR - 90 LS – 761 MI - 3893 SM – 1346 EU – 723  Total = 9,432 acres (36.7%)	EK - 13.08) HS – 105 DD 37 LS - 21 LW – 10 MI – 433 PI – 30 SV – 7 OK - 0.1  Total = 656.18 acres	EK – 89 CH - 30 HS – 55 LS - 103 LW – 45 MI - 30 PI – 20 EU – 50  Total = 422 acres
	**Other lands	PFW – 4,584	PFW – 1,597	PFW – 1,308	PFW - 24	PFW - 831
2022	Owned or managed lands	AC - 8 EK - 262 CH – 30 EH - 1,304 HS – 315 LWR – 486 LS - 3,396 LW - 1,586 MI - 8,528 PI – 20 SM - 2,195 SV – 373 OK – 470 EU - 1,700  Total = 20,673 acres	EH - 1,304 LS - 1,715 LW - 725 MI - 2,678  Total = 6,442 acres (31.1%)	LWR – 486 LW – 800 MI - 5,272 SM - 2,195 SV - 3,382 OK – 114 EU – 688  Total = 12,937 acres (62.6%)	AC - 8 EK – 12 HS – 60 LS – 14 LW – 5 MI – 120 SV – 19 OK - 0.1  Total = 238.1 acres	HS – 86 LS - 178 chemical and mechanical) LW – 56 MI – 458 PI – 20  Total = 798 acres
	**Other lands	PFW - 2,013  Total = 2,013 acres	PFW – 773  Total = 773 acres (38.4%)	PFW – 372  Total = 372 acres (18.5%)		
2023	Owned or managed lands	EK - 262 CH – 30 EH - 2,392	MI - 7,351 EH - 2,392	MI - 1,187 SM - 6,622 SV - 5,609	HS – 282 LW – 5 MI – 239	HS – 49 MI – 500 LWR – 80

		HS – 315 LS - 3,396 LW – 5 MI - 9,277 SM - 6,622 SV - 5,621 OK- 470 EU - 1,605  Total = 29,995 acres	Total = 9,743 acres (32.5%)	EU – 495  Total = 13,913 acres (46.4%)	SV – 12 OK - 0.5 PI – 5  Total = 549.5 acres (1.8%)	Total = 629 acres (2.1%)
	**Other lands	PFW - 3,952	PFW - 3738.9 (94.6%)	PFW – 811 (20.5%)	PFW – 20 (0.5%)	PFW - 759.3 (19.2%)
2024	Owned or managed lands	EK - 262 CH – 30 EH - 2,392 HS – 315 LS - 3,396 LW – 5 MI - 9,277 SM - 6,622 SV - 5,621 OK- 470 EU - 1,605  Total = 29,995 acres	MI - 7,351 EH - 2,392  Total = 9,743 acres (32.5%)	MI - 1,187 SM - 6,622 SV - 5,609 EU – 495  Total = 13,913 acres (46.4%)	HS – 282 LW – 5 MI – 239 SV – 12 OK - 0.5 PI – 5  Total = 549.5 acres (1.8%)	HS – 49 MI – 500 LWR – 80  Total = 629 acres (2.1%)
	**Other lands	PFW - 3,952	PFW - 3738.9 (94.6%)	PFW – 811 (20.5%)	PFW – 20 (0.5%)	PFW - 759.3 (19.2%)

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### ALABAMA DCNR

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
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2014	8263	0	0
2015	19603	0	5050
2016	19103	0	0
2017	20354	0	0
2018	21168	0	0
2019	22895	0	0
2020	27,198	0	0
2021	28,261*	NA	NA
2022	28,478	NA	NA
2023	28,576	NA	NA
2024	28,576	NA	NA

\*WMAs, SOAs, and Wehle Center total 80,020 acres and of those total acres 28,261 acres are considered suitable soils.

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

The State of Alabama permanently protects and manages approximately 28,000 acres of tortoise habitat on public lands including Charles D. Kelley-Autauga, Barbour, Geneva State Forest, and Perdido River Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Blackwater River, Uchee Creek, Fred T. Stimpson and Upper State Special Opportunity Areas (SOAs), and Elhew Research Station (Wehle tract). DWFF and SLD continue to work together to restore and maintain gopher tortoise habitat on DWFF, Forever Wild Land Trust, and SLD lands. Public land management breakdown:

- Charles D. Kelley-Autauga WMA – Thinned 392 acres, 353 acres of growing season burning, 1238 acres of dormant season burning, and 8 acres of invasive plant species treated.

- Barbour WMA – Thinned 650 acres, 400 acres of clearcut, 113 acres of mechanical treatment, 271 acres of growing season burning, 3951 acres of dormant season burning, 186 acres of invasive plant species treated, 51 acres site prep, and 51 acres planted to longleaf pine.
  - Geneva State Forest WMA (only DWFF ownership acres reported) – Thinned 528 acres, 40 acres mechanical treatment, growing 784 acres of growing season burning, 1448 acres of dormant season burning, and 20 acres of invasive plant species treated.
  - Perdido River WMA – Clearcut 200 acres, 1100 acres of growing season burning, 30 acres of invasive plant species treated.
  - Blackwater River SOA – No management activities were done this reporting period.
  - Fred T. Stimpson SOA – Thinned 16 acres, 84 acres of mechanical treatment, and 20 acres of invasive plant species treated.
  - Upper State SOA – 31 acres of mechanical treatment, 180 acres of growing season burning, 180 acres of dormant season burning, and 15 acres of invasive plant species treated.
  - Uchee Creek SOA – Thinned 200 acres, 487 acres of dormant season burning, 10 acres of invasive plant species treated, 33 acres site prep, 33 acres planted to longleaf pine and 10 acres of invasive plant species treated.
  - Elhew Research Station (Wehle Center) (SLD) – Treated 1 acre of cogongrass.
- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on “owned or managed lands” or “other lands” for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2016	Owned or managed lands	4667	2168(46%)	1200(26%)	84(1%)	1215(27%)
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands	4892	1420(29%)	3041 (62%)	78(1%)	353(8%)
	**Other lands	724	424(59%)	NA	20(1%)	280(40%)
2018	Owned or managed lands	9617	1081(11%)	7684 (80%)	74 (1%)	778 (8%)
	**Other lands	724	281 (39%)	NA	NA	443 (61%)
2019	Owned or managed lands	7842	272(3%)	5645 (72%)	98 (1%)	1827 (24%)
	**Other lands	724	458(63%)	186(26%)	NA	80(11%)

2020	Owned or managed lands	13259***	2063 (15%)	3967 (30%)	134 (1%)	7095 (54%)
	**Other lands	0	0	0	0	0
2021	Owned or managed lands	15,851	1744 (11%)	7759 (48%)	48 (1%)	6300 (40%)
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands (DWFF Lands)	18,711	991 (5%)	8886 (47%)	144 (1%)	8690 (47%)
	**Other lands (SLD lands)	285	206 (72%)	79 (28%)	0	0
2023	Owned or managed lands (DWFF Lands)	14107	1886(14%)	7613(54%)	280(1%)	4328(31%)
	**Other lands (SLD lands)	202	171 (85%)	30(14%)	1(1%)	NA
2024	Owned or managed lands (DWFF Lands)	12,970	2688 (21%)	7304 (56%)	189 91%)	2789 (22%)
	**Other lands (SLD lands)	1	0	0	1 (100%)	0

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

\*\*\*ADCNR owned lands includes Wehle Center, WMAs and SOAs mentioned in executive summary.

#### FLORIDA FWCC

a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

A gopher tortoise potential habitat model, created by FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), was used to gather data on where potential gopher tortoise habitat occurs on FWC-managed lands. From 2016-2023, a model from 2016 was used for this query. In late 2023, FWC updated this model using updated data inputs. For the current reporting year, acres reported in the following table represent the current cumulative total acreage of potential gopher tortoise habitat in each category based on the 2023 model.

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	n/a	n/a	n/a

2010	n/a	n/a	n/a
2011	104,485	n/a	n/a
2012	150,872	n/a	n/a
2013	143,784	8,740	257
2014	145,931	n/a	n/a
2015	177,533	9,944	219
2016	180,960	14,021	n/a
2017	180,958	14,021	n/a
2018	180,948	14,021	n/a
2019	181,257	13,682	n/a
2020	181,076	13,682	n/a
2021	185,087	19,005	n/a
2022	185,001	19,240	n/a
2023	185,313	19,240	n/a
2024	188,088	23,902	n/a

b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

The FWC and other state agencies have conducted prescribed burns and removed exotic species across the state. To assess management activities, the FWC's Objective-Based Vegetation Management (OBVM) system was used to compile data on prescribed burns, mechanical treatments, planting, and invasive species removal. For FY24, gopher tortoise habitat management included LAP acres maintained for Conservation, Wildlife, and Forestry (23,235 acres) as well as 170,310 acres managed on FWC lands. Table 2 provides estimates of acres burned during the dormant season (October–March) and the growing season (April–September).

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on “owned or managed lands” or “other lands” for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2009	Owned or managed lands	6,104	1,461	4,643		
	**Other lands	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2010	Owned or managed lands	25,389	15,162	12,426	1,847	
	**Other lands	72,318	n/a	41,221	31,097	
2011	Owned or managed lands	62,327	11,479	10,042	382	
	**Other lands	60,031	41,421	18,610	n/a	n/a
2012	Owned or managed lands	60,322	27,264	15,682	6,880	
	**Other lands	63,580	36,241	27,339	n/a	n/a
2013	Owned or managed lands	304,423	138,345	166,078		
	**Other lands	83,918	35,377	47,793	513	
2014	Owned or managed lands	67,485	15,356	16,809	23,452	11,868
	**Other lands	32,929	169		136	722
2015	Owned or managed lands	210,877	48,985 (45%)	59,862 (55%)	64,137	37,893
	**Other lands	53,251	29,149 (58%)	21,123 (42%)	495	2,484
2016	Owned or managed lands	229,680	55,708 (50%)	55,394 (50%)	57,072	61,506
	**Other lands	22,386	10,317 (51%)	10,005 (49%)	481	1,583



2017	Owned or managed lands	217,696	32,594 (36%)	57,065 (64%)	86,341	42,696
	**Other lands	6,130	1,470 (26%)	4,090 (74%)	281	289
2018	Owned or managed lands	238,650	29,743 (43%)	68,320 (57%)	107,617	32,970
	**Other lands	5,768	1,912 (33%)	2,848 (67%)	250	758
2019	Owned or managed lands	258,423	56,830 (55%)	47,181 (45%)	124,996	29,416
	**Other lands	21,830	9,265 (63%)	5,511 (37%)	336	6,718
2020	Owned or managed lands	244,330	41,594 (39%)	66,003 (61%)	109,366	27,367
	**Other lands	13,791	2,643 (62%)	1,651 (38%)	1,431	8,066
2021	Owned or managed lands	202,961	44,216 (41%)	63,127 (59%)	67,434	28,184
	**Other lands	45,113	9,260 (45%)	11,409 (55%)	1,001	23,443
2022	Owned or managed lands	225,852	47,613 (47%)	52,744 (53%)	96,840	28,655
	**Other lands	25,075	5,041 (44%)	6,436 (56%)	106	13,492
2023	Owned or managed lands	220,546	46,546 (52%)	55,056 (61%)	101,408	17,535
	**Other lands	37,601	916 (7%)	11,905 (93%)	2,199	22,581
2024	Owned or managed lands	170,310	36,683 (43%)	49,114 (57%)	63,482	21,001
	**Other lands	23,235	3,700	6,881	2,308	10,346

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### GEORGIA DNR

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
  - i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	30,889	n/a	n/a
2010	31,692	n/a	n/a
2011	31,716	n/a	n/a
2012	31,716	n/a	n/a
2013	32,840	n/a	n/a
2014	39,641	n/a	n/a
2015	40,525	n/a	n/a
2016	46,192	n/a	n/a
2017	51,451	n/a	n/a
2018	60,104	n/a	n/a
2019			
2020	73,746.7	N/A	N/A
2021	77,221	N/A	N/A
2022	80,816	N/A	N/A
2023	85,439	N/A	N/A
2024	87,552	N/A	N/A

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

Prescribed fire continued to be the primary management activity, nearly meeting the totals from last FY. One emerging challenge is the increase in acreage of state-managed land that needs prescribed fire and the amount of resources available to meet management goals. Additionally, air quality standards continue to evolve and could reduce the number of available burn days. Other continued activities included timber thinning, mulching, herbicide application, invasive species control, planting longleaf, and groundcover restoration.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2009	Owned or managed lands	22,899	305 (2%)	17,865 (98%)	758	3,971
	**Other lands	0	0	0	0	0
2010	Owned or managed lands	19,622	1,360 (9%)	14,326 (91%)	10	3,926
	**Other lands	10,690	?	10,210 (seasons not reported)	0	480
2011	Owned or managed lands	19,644	1,830 (11%)	15,487 (89%)	417	1,910
	**Other lands	3,862	?	3,333 (seasons not reported)	379	150
2012	Owned or managed lands	18,005	3,543 (24%)	11,315 (76%)	300	2,847
	**Other lands	6,291	?	5,776 (seasons not reported)	30	485
2013	Owned or managed lands	21,781	3,189 (17%)	15,601 (83%)	2,211	780
	**Other lands	7,427	4,026 (55%)	3,314 (45%)	0	87
2014	Owned or managed lands	32,714	8,343 (34%)	16,048 (66%)	1,003	7,320

	**Other lands	2,127	829 (39%)	1,298 (61%)	0	0
2015	Owned or managed lands	26,162	5,725 (30%)	13,459 (70%)	815	6,163
	**Other lands	3,752	2,502 (67%)	1,250 (33%)	0	0
2016	Owned or managed lands	26,285	7,882 (36%)	14,158 (64%)	91	4,154
	**Other lands	4,380	1,487 (37%)	2,513 (63%)	0	380
2017	Owned or managed lands	24,145	9,062 (47%)	10,359 (53%)	44	4,680
	**Other lands	640	335 (52%)	305 (48%)	0	0
2018	Owned or managed lands	29,631	14,104 (55%)	11,338 (45%)	6	4,183
	**Other lands	276	87	189	0	0
2019	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands	36,458	6,780 (20.4%)	26,429 (79.6%)	105 acres of sand pine removed	2,425 acres thinned; 719 acres planted in longleaf
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands	42,146	10,899	29,459	39 acres of invasive plant treatment	681 acres of longleaf planted; 1,068 acres of pine thinned
	**Other lands	1,017	339	678		
2022	Owned or managed lands	54,051	16,320 (31%)	35,624 (69%)	13	1,113 acres LL planted, 981 acre pine thinned
	**Other lands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2023	Owned or managed lands	57,129	9,434 (18.2%)	42,330 (81.8%)	71	2,203 ac. thinned, 2,888 ac. LL planted, 203 ac. herbicide
	**Other lands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2024	Owned or managed lands	66,354	19,450 (32%)	41,239 (68%)	98	4,818 ac. Pine thinned, 649 ac LL planted

	**Other lands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
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\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

**NOTE:** Our burn data do not break down acreages by habitat. As a result, the burn acreages given here unfortunately over-estimate tortoise habitat burned by including all habitats within burn units. However, all burn units used in these calculations contain tortoise habitat. Additionally, some management acreages may be represented more than once if multiple types of management were completed on the same units within the reporting period.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Coosawhatchie WMA/HP - 5000 acres

Buckfield Plantation – 3700 acres

Tillman Sandridge HP -700 acres

Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP -1400 acres

Total= 10,800 acres\*

\*note that these acreages represent rough estimates of the available gopher tortoise habitat on these properties

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2012	3059		
2013	3124		
2014	3124		
2015	3124		
2016	3124	~450 (deed restriction)	

2017	3124	~450 (deed restriction)	
2018	3124	450	
2019	3124	450	
2020	3124	450	
2021	3124	450	
2022	3124	450	
2023	3200	150	
2024	7100		

b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Coosawhatchie WMA/HP – 1122 acres

Tillman Sand Ridge HP – 131 acres

Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP – 808 acres

Total= 2061 acres\*

\*Note that these acreages represent rough estimates of the available gopher tortoise habitat on these properties

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2012	Owned or managed lands	3059	337	476		245
	**Other lands					
2013	Owned or managed lands	3124	93	487		
	**Other lands					
2014	Owned or managed lands	3124	0	395		
	**Other lands					
2015	Owned or managed lands	3124	350	613		300
	**Other lands					
2016	Owned or managed lands	3124	0	550		
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands	3124	544	175		43.5
	**Other lands					
2018	Owned or managed lands	3124	31	254		180
	**Other lands	450				
2019	Owned or managed lands	3124	460	105		106
	**Other lands	450				
2020	Owned or managed lands	3124	131	150		100
	**Other lands	450	150			
2021	Owned or managed lands	3124	404	57		
	**Other lands	450				
2022	Owned or managed lands	3124	226 (7.2%)	307 (9.8%)		
	**Other lands	450				
2023	Owned or managed lands	672 (21%)	527 (16.5%)	70 (2.2%)		75 (2.3%)
		150				

2024	Owned or managed lands	2061	1039 (50.4%)	347 (16.8%)		675 (32.8%)
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### GEORGIA DOT

a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2013	1492 acres	0 acres	55* acres
2014	1492 acres	0 acres	55 acres
2015	1492 acres	0 acres	55 acres
2016	1492 acres	0 acres	55 acres
2017	1492 acres	0 acres	55 acres
2018	1,492 acres	0 acres	0 acres
2019	1,492 acres	0 acres	0 acres
2020	1,492 acres	0 acres	0 acres
2021	1,492 acres	0 acres	0 acres
2022	1,492 acres	0 acres	0 acres



2023	1,492 acres	0 acres	0 acres
2024	1,492 acres	0 acres	0 acres

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

GADNR manages gopher tortoise properties for GDOT and includes information on these properties in their report.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2013	Owned or managed lands	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None
	**Other lands	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	None
2014	Owned or managed lands	750 acres	200 acres (27%)	550 acres (73%)	700 acres	None
	**Other lands	None	None	None	None	None
2015	Owned or managed lands	700 acres	500 acres (71%)	200 acres (29%)	Unknown	180 acres^
	**Other lands	None	None	None	None	None
2016	Owned or managed lands	1050 acres	None	1050 acres (100%)	Unknown	280 acres^
	**Other lands	None	None	None	None	None
2017	Owned or managed lands	280 acres	None	280 acres (27%)	Unknown	None
	**Other lands	None	None	None	None	None
2018	Owned or managed land					
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed land					
	**Other lands					

2020	Owned or managed land					
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed land					
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed land					
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed land					
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or managed land					
	**Other lands					

\* The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the preceding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

^ Acres managed were also burned, so figures from this column are not included in the sum of the left-most column: "Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat."

**NOTE:** All burns on GDOT properties were carried out by GADNR. These acreages are included within the data provided by GADNR data.

#### POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2016	0	11,895	0
2017	0	12,845	0
2018	0	14,645	0

2019	0	15,545	0
2020	0	15,885	0
2021	0	16,215	0
2022			
2023			
2024			

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.
- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the preceding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2016	Owned or managed lands	3900	0	3550 (91%)	100-150 (4%)	200 (5%)
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands	3250	0	3000 (92%)	100-150 (5%)	100 (3%)
	**Other lands					
2018	Owned or managed lands	3450	0	3300 (96%)	100-150 (4%)	0
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands	3090	0	2720 (88%)	100-150 (5%)	220 (7%)
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands	2800	0	2600(94%)	140(5%)	60(1%)
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands	3,795	0	3500 (93%)	75 (1%)	220 (6%)
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					

#### AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

AFF does not own any land.

#### LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Longleaf Alliance does not own land.

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2017	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands	40,485	12,187	27,379	363	556
2018	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands	45,378.3	24,851.4	19768	58.3	700.6
2019	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands	68,151.8			151	628.5
2020	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands		43,334	24,202	1,659	1063.3
2021*	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands					
2022*	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands					

2023*	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands					
2024*	Owned or Managed Lands					
	** Other Lands					

\* Beginning in 2021, The Longleaf Alliance began reporting only numbers that were done for partners not enrolled in the gopher tortoise CCA. Partners enrolled in the GT CCA have and will continue to provide those numbers as part of their own report. The Longleaf Alliance's on the ground management staff, including both the Ecosystem Support Team (EST) and the Wetland Ecosystem Support Team (WEST), assist partners with management in Northwest Florida and South Alabama.

#### JONES CENTER

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise) 16,976 ac (6,870ha)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2010	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2011	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2012	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2013	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2014	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2015	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A

2016	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2017	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2018	N/A	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	N/A
2019	N/A	16,976 ac (6,870 ha)	N/A
2020	N/A	16,976 ac (6,870 ha)	N/A
2021	N/A	16,976 ac (6,870 ha)	N/A
2022	N/A	16,976 ac (6,870 ha)	N/A
2023	N/A	16,976 ac (6,870 ha)	N/A
2024	N/A	16,976 ac (6,870 ha)	N/A

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2012	Owned or managed lands	11,991 ac	3964.1 ac (33.2%)	7976.2 ac (66.8%)	N/A	51 ac
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	N/A
2013	Owned or managed lands	13,125 ac	3441.9 ac (26.3%)	9645.1 ac (73.7%)	N/A	38 ac
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2014	Owned or managed lands	12,425 ac	786 ac (6%)	11,579 ac (94%)	N/A	60 ac
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	Owned or managed lands	12,974.4 ac	2528.7 ac (19.6%)	10382.0 ac (80.4%)	N/A	63.6
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	Owned or managed lands	13,091.2 ac	†2920.4 ac (22.3%)	10170.8 ac (77.7%)	N/A	N/A
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	Owned or managed lands	12,962.6 ac	2797.3 ac (22%)	10127.3 ac (78%)	N/A	N/A
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2018	Owned or managed lands	12,076.8 ac.	1141.1 (9.4%)	10935.8 (90.6%)	N/A	N/A
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	Owned or managed lands	12,930.5 ac	†2,735.6 ac (21.2%)	10,194.8 ac (78.8%)	N/A	0
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	Owned or managed lands	11,856.2 ac	†1794.5 (15.1%)	10,061.6 ac (84.9%)	N/A	N/A
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	Owned or managed lands	16,354 ac.	3809 (23.3%)	12,545 (76.7%)	N/A	N/A
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	Owned or managed lands	16,976 ac	9136.4 (80.9%)	2147.8 (19.0%)	NA	NA
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	Owned or managed lands	13,297	2148	11149	N/A	N/A
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	Owned or managed lands	12,312	1,750 (14.2%)	10,562 (85.8%)	N/A	N/A
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

†Note: Growing season burns occurred from May-September; dormant season burns occurred from January-April.

#### ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?



- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

AFC actively manages a total of 11,536 acres of state land. Geneva State Forest and Little River State Forest are 7,200 and 4,336 acres, respectively. There are 741 acres of state forest land that are managed less intensively.

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2014	9,363	N/A	741
2015	9,363	N/A	741
2016	9,363	N/A	741
2017	9,363	N/A	741
2018	9,363	N/A	741
2019	9,363	N/A	741
2020	9,363	N/A	741
2021	11,536	N/A	741
2022	11,536	N/A	741
2023	11,536	N/A	741
2024	11,536	N/A	741

- b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

Geneva State Forest: AFC personnel prescribe burned approximately 1,778 acres on Geneva State Forest during the dormant season. Twenty miles of fire lanes were installed or refreshed. Approximately 5.0 acres of cogongrass were treated.

Little River State Forest: AFC personnel prescribe burned 362 acres and installed or refreshed 8.0 miles of firelanes. Efforts continue to informally survey the forest as time allows. Surveys (100%) are being conducted as units are burned. Eighty tortoises have been documented within the boundary. Surveys over the past several years have led AFC personnel to increase the population estimate to >100 tortoises on LRSF. Approximately 15 acres of cogongrass were treated within the boundary.

Private Landowner Report: It is important to capture and convey the accomplishments that are being achieved on private lands. Not all the accomplishments completed on private lands were aimed directly at GT habitat management, however indirectly they could improve the habitat for tortoises. During the reporting period, AFC personnel conducted 146 prescribed burns for a total of 12,181 acres. This acreage includes dormant and growing season understory and site preparation burns. AFC personnel wrote a variety of stand management recommendations (SMRs) for landowners; these included recommendations on thinning, harvesting, planting pines, prescribed burning, and timber stand improvement. AFC also performs compliance/practice checks for cost share and financial assistance programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on “owned or managed lands” or “other lands” for reporting agency/organization

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2014	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2015	Owned or managed lands	781.5	600 110 – site prep	60	Cogongrass 11.5 ac.	110
	**Other lands	15,651.51	N/A	14,353.61	372.2	925.7
2016	Owned or managed lands	2,362.1	1580 240 – site prep	540	Cogongrass 12.1 ac.	200 – LLP 30 - Slash
	**Other lands	14,972.94	14,350.17***		395.46	227.31
2017	Owned or managed lands	1,395	600	790	5	0
	**Other lands	15,545	13,741		1,072***	732

2018	Owned or managed lands	2,526	852	1617	5	52
	**Other lands	12,872	12,620		252	
2019	Owned or managed lands	2,622	1,317	1,297	8.0	0
	**Other lands	18,447	18,327		120	0
2020	Owned or managed lands	2,370	1,218	1,117	35	0
	**Other lands	7,392	7,237		155 cogongrass	0
2021	Owned or managed lands	1,574	486	1,068	20	0
	**Other lands	14,580	14,580		0	0
2022	Owned or managed lands	2,592	2,092 (80%)	500 (20%)	40	0
	**Other lands	29,427	21,997 (75%)	7,430 (25%)		
2023	Owned or managed lands	2,460	0	2,420	20	0
	**Other lands	14,980	14,980			
2024	Owned or managed lands	2,160	2140 (100%)		20	0
	**Other lands	12,391	12,181		210	0

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

\*\*\* 275 acres of cogongrass, 23 acres of kudzu, 774 acres of invasive control verified through CRP

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2010	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A

2011	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2012	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2013	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2014	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2015	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2016	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2017	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2018	75 (ANHS)	0	N/A
2019	75 (ANHS) 9,900 (TIMU & FOCA) 10,000 (CNS) 69 (FMNM)	0	N/A
2020	173 (EVER) 10,000 (CANA) 679 (CUIS) 15 (DESO) 69 (FOMA) 75 (ANDE) 9,900 (TIMU/FOCA)	0	N/A
2021	ANDE (75) CANA (10,000) CUIS (679) DESO (15) EVER (173) FOMA (69) TIMU (9900)	0	N/A
2022			
2023			

2024			
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b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2012	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2013	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2014	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2015	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2016	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2018	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands	10,000 (CNS) 9,900 (TIMU & FOCA) 69 (FMNM) Total=19,969	0	0	2 (ANHS) 1,000(CNS) 1 (FMNM) Total=1,003	0
	**Other lands					

2020	Owned or managed lands	173 (EVER) 10,000 (CANA) 490 (CUIS) 15 (DESO) 69 (FOMA) 9,900 (TIMU/FOCA) 75 (ANDE)  Total = 20,722	0 (EVER) 5,5 (CANA) 0 (CUIS) 0 (DESO) 0 (FOMA) 0 (TIMU/FOCA) 0 (ANDE)	0 (EVER) 0 (CANA) 474 (CUIS) 0 (DESO) 0 (FOMA) 0 (TIMU/FOCA) 0 (ANDE)	0 (EVER) 20 (CANA) 0 (CUIS) 0 (DESO) 1 (FOMA) 0 (TIMU/FOCA) 0 (ANDE)	0 (EVER) 0 (CANA) 15 (CUIS) 0 (DESO) 0 (FOMA) 0 (TIMU/FOCA) 0 (ANDE)
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands	ANDE (75) CANA (10,000) CUIS (325) DESO (15) EVER (173) FOMA (69) TIMU (9,900)	0 10.6 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 310 (100%) 0 0 0 0	0 8 0 0 0 1 5	0 0 15 0 0 0 0
	**Other lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the succeeding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2018	n/a	n/a	30,000
2019	n/a	n/a	30,000
2020	N/A	N/A	30,000
2021	N/A	N/A	30,000
2022	N/A	N/A	30,000
2023	N/A	N/A	30,000
2024	N/A	N/A	30,000

b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

- i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2018	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands					

	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the preceding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

- a) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?
- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2018	n/a	n/a	Approximately 4,200
2019	n/a	n/a	Approximately 4,200
2020	n/a	n/a	Approximately 4,200
2021	n/a	n/a	Approximately 4,200
2022	n/a	n/a	Approximately 4,200
2023	n/a	n/a	Approximately 4,200
2024	n/a	n/a	Approximately 4,200



b) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.

i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2018	Owned or managed lands	1,380		1,175		205
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands	1,110	60 (6%)	900 (94%)		150
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands	1,060		975		85
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands	1,180	0 (0%)	820 (70%)	0	0
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands	1,665	1,022 (61%)	643 (39%)	0	0
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed lands	2089	864	1098	0	127
	**Other lands					
2024	Owned or managed lands	2,165	1,215	904	0	46
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the preceding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

**LAND CONSERVATION**ARMY

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009				
2010				
2011				
2012				
2013				
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				
2018				
2019				
2020				

2021	15,724	NA	0	NA
2022	0	NA	0	NA
2023	597	NA	1,342	NA
2024	597	NA	1,342	NA

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A
2010	N/A	N/A	N/A
2011	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A

2018	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	18.7 acres	Development Activities	Permanent
2022	148 acres	Development Activities	Permanent
2023	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### UNITED STATES NAVY

- j) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009			N/A	
2010			N/A	
2011			N/A	
2012			N/A	
2013			N/A	

2014			N/A	
2015			N/A	
2016			N/A	
2017			N/A	
2018			N/A	
2019			N/A	
2020	4,419			100
2021	27,176	0	0	4,123
2022	0	0	0	Unchanged 4,023 acres REPI Program
2023	0	0	0	Unchanged 4,023 acres REPI Program
2024	0	0	0	Unchanged 4,023 acres REPI Program

- iii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2009	N/A	N/A	N/A
2010	N/A	N/A	N/A

2011	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	435	Solar panel projects at NSB King's Bay	Permanent
2016	300	Solar panel project at NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field (Saufley Field and NOLF Holley)	Permanent
2017	Unknown Acres (NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport)	Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma	Temporary
2018	Unknown acres at Panhandle and NAS JAX	Hurricane Michael and Dorian damage of forest resources and longleaf understory	Temporary
2019	450	Solar Panel project at NAS Pensacola	Permanent
2020	1	Development, Parking Lot and Office Space	Temporary
2021	34	Glide Slope Project for military mission at NAS Whiting Field converted forested habitat to maintained mowed grass	Permanent
2022 Mayport Whiting Field	8 acres	Storm damage to dune coastal areas during Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole	Temporary
	25 acres	Glide slope project for military mission turned to maintained clear zone mowed grass OLF Santa Rosa	Permanent
2023 NS Mayport	6 acres	Storm damage to dune coastal areas during Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Continuous high tide impacts to dune line	Temporary
2024	None reported	NA	NA

AIR FORCE

Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

**AVON PARK:** Potential habitat was protected under new REPI conservation easements on private lands surrounding APAFR (70 acres).

i)

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009	101	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0
2011	50	0	0	0
2012	39	0	0	0
2013	0	21,000	0	0
2014	0	1,706	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	0	500	0	0
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	0	5,580	Avon Park AFR	0

2020	0	887 (Avon Park)	0	0
2021	0	1292 (Avon Park)	0	0
2022	0	1,443 (Avon Park)	0	0
2023	0	3,310 Avon Park	0	0
2024	0	70 Avon Park	0	0

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2009	610	Construction	Permanent
2010	448	Construction	334 Permanent, 114 Temporary
2011	673	Construction	Permanent
2012	634	Construction	559 Permanent, 75 Temporary
2013	110	Construction	59 Permanent, 51 Temporary
2014	59	Construction, Mowing	54 Permanent, 5 Temporary
2015	37	Construction	22 Permanent, 15 Temporary
2016	336	Construction, Site Restoration	Temporary



2017	90	Construction	Permanent
2018	74	Construction	Permanent
2019	8	Moody AFB – Conversion for a military field training/exercise area	Permanent
2020	5	Relativity Construction at Space Launch Complex 16 (45 <sup>th</sup> Space Wing)	Permanent
2021	SLD 45 = 34 EGLIN = 148 TOTAL: 182	Dredge Material Management Area – Clearing/grubbing of vegetation for future spoil –SLD 45 Range expansion - EGLIN	SLD 45 - Permanent EGLIN - Temporary
2022	20	SLD 45 – Clearing of land to support development for Rapid Capabilities/ICO Office Beddown	Permanent
2023	9	SLD 45: Clearing of land to support new launch operations at SLC 20	Permanent
	477	Avon Park: Land clearing around airfield as part of drainage improvement project	Temporary
	7	Tyndall AFB: Bases rebuild of flightline work area	Permanent
2024	42	SLD: Clearing of land to support new launch operations	Permanent
	30	Eglin: Test range expansion	Temporary

#### MARINE CORPS

- i. Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2016	0	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0	0

2018	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	3,190
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0
2024				

- i) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2016	NA	NA	NA
2017	NA	NA	NA
2018	0	N/A	N/A
2019	0	N/A	N/A
2020	0	N/A	N/A
2021	0	N/A	N/A

2022	0	N/A	N/A
2023	0	N/A	N/A
2024			

USFS

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Conecuh National Forest – Land sale acquisition

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2013	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0
2016	83*	0	0	0
2017	94*	0	0	0
2018	83*	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0

2021	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	Conecuh NF – 594 Osceola NF – 4,133	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	Conecuh NF - 16	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*Conecuh National Forest purchased 2 tracts in FY16 totaling 83 acres, 2 tracts in FY17 totaling 94 acres, and 2 tracts in FY18 totaling 83 acres.

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”. None

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2016	0		
2017	0	N/A	N/A
2018	0	N/A	N/A
2019	0	N/A	N/A
2020	0	N/A	N/A
2021	0	N/A	N/A
2022	0	NA	NA

2023	0	N/A	N/A
2024	0	N/A	N/A

USFWS

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2016	HS – 40 ac			
2017	EH – 351	EH – 223		
2018		EH - 712		
2019	EH – 2,000			
2020				
2021	28 acres at DD 1,864 acres at EH*			
2022	0	0	0	
2023	2 @ Archie Carr	0	0	
2024	0	0	0	0

\* Have not determined suitable gopher tortoise habitat yet from additional acreage acquired in 2021 at EH. Total gopher tortoise habitat acreage subject to change

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

EU: Habitat lost due to lack of management capacity at EU can be “recovered”. With >75% reduction in staffing in the previous 10 years, the refuge’s ability to maintain priority habitats has declined. Each year, an unknown quantity of gopher tortoise habitat is lost to succession and invasive plants and animals. Also, the quality of remaining habitat is reduced.

EK: Egmont Key continues to suffer severe erosion along the north, west, and southwest beaches due to hurricanes, high winds, shipping traffic, and sea level rise, especially since 2022. The island was 328 acres (fee title) in 1974 but is now less than 262 acres. Hurricane Helene caused additional erosion in September, 2024.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2016	EK – Dozens; actual unknown	EK – Erosion due to storm tides and sea level rise	Unknown
2017	EK: Dozens; actual unknown  PI: 113	EK: erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, and sea level rise. PI: Acres not “lost”; habitat was re-assessed and fewer acres determined to be suitable	EK: Hopefully temporary, but historic loss permanent. Hurricane Irma hit the west coast of Florida September 11, 2017. PI: Permanent
2018	EK – Dozens (actual unknown)	EK – erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, and sea level rise	
2019	Dozens on Egmont Key NWR	Erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, and sea level rise.	Unknown
2020	Dozens on Egmont Key NWR	Erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, and sea level rise.	Unknown
2021	At least 10 acres lost on EK (actual unknown); Acreage was lost, for many refuges, but amount is unknown.	Erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, and sea level rise at EK; Lack of management capacity for many refuges	For present lack of management capacity: An unknown quantity of habitat is lost each year due to the loss of management capacity. Areas are succumbing to succession and exposure to invasive plants and animals, unclear whether this is

			permanent but projecting long-term at least
2022	EK (at least 10 acres lost, actual unknown) EU (100 acres)	Erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, and sea level rise  Lack of management capacity	Unknown  Temporary
2023	EK (at least 10 acres, actual unknown)	Erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, and sea level rise	Unknown
2024	EK (at least 10 acres, actual unknown)	Erosion due to storm tides, high waves from wind, Hurricane Helen and sea level rise at EK.	Unknown

ALABAMA DCNR

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

There were no land acquisitions conducted this reporting year.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009				1257
2010				852
2011				382
2012				1001
2013				1746
2014	3629*			1818
2015	5725*			653

2016				2893
2017				
2018	23**			
2019	1341***			
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	25** 3434**** Total = 3459	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	630** 2135 ***** 2765	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	NA	NA	NA

\* Acres were added to Geneva SF WMA, \*\* Acres added to Perdido WMA, \*\*\* Acres added to Barbour WMA, \*\*\*\* New Blackwater River SOA, \*\*\*\*\*Charles D. Kelley WMA

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2014	No acres lost this FY		
2015	No acres lost this FY		
2016	No acres lost this FY		



2017	No acres lost this FY		
2018	No acres lost this FY		
2019	No acres lost this FY		
2020	Unknown		
2021	None known		
2022	3	Food plot establishment at GWMA	Permanent
2023	0		
2024	0		

#### FLORIDA FWCC

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Of public conservation lands newly protected in FY24, 7,152 acres comprise potentially suitable gopher tortoise habitat; these lands were primarily acquired via Florida Forever. Four newly permitted privately-owned recipient sites were placed under perpetual conservation easement and comprise 1,258 acres of gopher tortoise habitat. Two previously permitted and protected privately-owned recipient sites have added phases and placed an additional 320 acres of gopher tortoise habitat under conservation easement during FY24. Four public conservation land recipient sites were permitted and comprise 1,618 acres of gopher tortoise habitat. Five short-term protected recipient sites were established in FY24 and comprised 1,966 acres of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009	n/a	719	n/a	n/a

2010	n/a	1,214	n/a	n/a
2011	n/a	1,115	n/a	n/a
2012	n/a	1,789	n/a	n/a
2013	n/a	5,595	20,800	1,631
2014	n/a	3,370	n/a	n/a
2015	52	2,745	n/a	n/a
2016	n/a	417.43	n/a	2,443
2017	2,619	2,237	n/a	59
2018	906	1,709	n/a	404
2019	2,066	1,880	n/a	965
2020	6,910	3,440	n/a	849
2021	14,717	5,430	n/a	240
2022	4,490	18,005	n/a	4,725
2023	n/a	5,142	n/a	2,018
2024	7,152	1,578	n/a	3,968

ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter "unknown".

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2009	Unknown	n/a	n/a
2010	Unknown	n/a	n/a
2011	Unknown	n/a	n/a
2012	Unknown	n/a	n/a
2013	Unknown	n/a	n/a
2014	Unknown	n/a	n/a
2015	82.7	FWC is developing a public shooting park and hunter education center at Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area, resulting in a loss of gopher tortoise habitat	Permanent
2016	n/a	n/a	n/a
2017	11.53	Tenoroc Wildlife Management Area Shooting Range Clubhouse facilities	Permanent
2018	n/a	n/a	n/a
2019	n/a	n/a	n/a
2020	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	n/a	n/a	n/a

2023	10.7	Tenoroc Wildlife Management Area Sporting Clays Range A, cart path and facilities construction resulting in loss of gopher tortoise habitat	Permanent
2024	n/a	n/a	n/a

GEORGIA DNR

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Georgia added 2,683 acres of protected land in the range of the gopher tortoise through the fee simple acquisitions: the 338-acre Chapman Tract in Long County added to Griffin Ridge WMA and the 2,345-acre Little Pine Knot Creek, Brown Springs, and Taylor Tracts in Marion County added to Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA. Together these tracts provide approximately 2,113 more acres of protected gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009	600	3,172	n/a	0
2010	803	4,756	n/a	0
2011	24	1,662	n/a	0
2012	0	2,507	n/a	0
2013	865	5,944	n/a	0
2014	4,152	1,480	n/a	0
2015	884	841	n/a	0
2016	5,563	0	n/a	0

2017	5,931	0	0	0
2018	8,653	2,170	n/a	0
2019				
2020	2,366.69	10,243.19	N/A	N/A
2021	3,474	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	1,953	1,642	N/A	N/A
2023	4,531	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	2,113	N/A	N/A	N/A

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2009	None		
2010	None		
2011	None		
2012	None		
2013	None		

2014	None		
2015	None		
2016	None		
2017	None		
2018	None		
2019			
2020	None		
2021	None	N/A	N/A
2022	None	N/A	N/A
2023	None	N/A	N/A
2024	None	N/A	N/A

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

The Aiken Land Conservancy purchased ~300 acres directly adjacent to the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve providing more habitat for the gopher tortoise population there and brings the total acreage of AGTHP to just over 2000 acres, most of which is gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-
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		conservation easement		term easement, MOU, or similar
2016		450 acres – “Slater”		Unknown – one easement on old MWV property “Whitener Tract” 140 acres may still be under easement
2017	0	0	0	Unknown
2018	0	0	0	Unknown
2019	0	0	0	
2020	0	0	0	
2021	0	0	0	
2022	0	0	0	
2023	0	0	0	
2024	0	0	0	300 acres

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2016	None	None	None

2017	None	None	None
2018	None	None	None
2019	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None
2021	None	None	None
2022	None	None	None
2023	None	None	None
2024	None	None	None

GA DOT

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2013	None	None	None	None
2014	None	None	None	None
2015	None	None	None	None
2016	None	None	None	None



2017	None	None	None	None
2018	None	None	None	None
2019	None	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None	None
2021	None	None	None	None
2022	None	None	None	None
2023	None	None	None	None
2024	None	None	None	None

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2013	None	None	None
2014	None	None	None
2015	None	None	None
2016	None	None	None
2017	None	None	None

2018	None	None	None
2019	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None
2021	None	None	None
2022	None	None	None
2023	None	None	None
2024	None	None	None

#### POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2016	None	None	None	None
2017	None	None	None	None
2018	None	None	None	None
2019	None	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None	None

2021	None	None	None	None
2022				
2023				
2024				

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2016	None	None	None
2017	None	None	None
2018	None	None	None
2019	290	Converted to other use	Permanent
2020	None	None	None
2021	None	None	None
2022			
2023			
2024			

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

None reported.

LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

- a) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

None reported.

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter "unknown".

None reported.

JONES CENTER

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat. N/A

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009	None	None	None	None
2010	None	None	None	None
2011	None	None	None	None
2012	None	None	None	None
2013	None	None	None	None
2014	None	None	None	None
2015	None	None	None	None
2016	None	None	None	None

2017	None	None	None	None
2018	None	None	None	None
2019	None	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None	None
2021	None	None	None	None
2022	None	None	None	None
2023	None	None	None	None
2024	None	None	None	None

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

N/A

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2009	0	N/A	N/A
2010	0	N/A	N/A
2011	0	N/A	N/A
2012	0	N/A	N/A

2013	0	N/A	N/A
2014	0	N/A	N/A
2015	0	N/A	N/A
2016	0	N/A	N/A
2017	0	N/A	N/A
2018	0	N/A	N/A
2019	0	N/A	N/A
2020	0	N/A	N/A
2021	0	N/A	N/A
2022	0	N/A	N/A
2023	0	N/A	N/A
2024	0	N/A	N/A

#### ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2014	None	None	None	None
2015	None	None	None	None
2016	None	None	None	None
2017	None	None	None	None
2018	None	None	None	None
2019	None	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None	None
2021	Little River State Forest Addition 2,173 acres	None	None	None
2022	None	None	None	None
2023	None	None	None	None
2024	None	None	None	None

ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2014	None	None	None

2015	None	None	None
2016	None	None	None
2017	None	None	None
2018	None	None	None
2019	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None
2021	None	None	None
2022	None	None	None
2023	None	None	None
2024	None	None	None

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2013				
2014				



2015				
2016				
2017				
2018				
2019	None	None	None	None
2020	None	None	None	None
2021	None	None	None	None
2022				
2023				
2024				

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2013	None	None	None
2014	None	N/A	N/A
2015	None	N/A	N/A

2016	None	N/A	N/A
2017	None	N/A	N/A
2018	None	N/A	N/A
2019	None	N/A	N/A
2020	None	N/A	N/A
2021	None	N/A	N/A
2022			
2023			
2024			

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0

2021	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0

ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter "unknown".

Unknown

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2018	0		
2019	0		
2020	0		
2021	0		
2022	0		
2023	0		
2024	0		

#### GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2018	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2018	0		
2019	0		
2020	0		
2021	0		

2022	0		
2023	0		
2024	0		

## GOPHER TORTOISE POPULATION MONITORING

### ARMY

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population ?
2020	Oct. 2019	Ft. Novosel	17,855 (high & moderate quality habitat)	2,872	Unknown	LTDS	Minimum Viable Population within high quality habitat
2021	5 January 2021 - 3 March 2021	Habitat Mgt Unit 5	3020.7	372	Stable - New Habitat Delineations	LTDS	Primary Support Population
2021	Nov. 2020 – Feb. 2021	Fort Stewart Zone 5  Ft. Stewart – Entire Property	5397	626  2913	Not enough data to estimate a trend. See notes below.	LTDS	Primary Support Population  Minimum Viable Population
2021	Dec 1st, 2020 - Feb 27th 2021	Camp Blanding Joint Training Center	2500	518	N/A	LTDS	Viable
2022	20 March - 26 May 2022	Fort Gordon (Eisenhower ) Area 2	9259	23	Stable	N/A	N/A
2022	Dec 2021- Jan 2022 - LTDS  Feb 2022 - 100%  Mar - Apr 2022 - 100%  Jul 2022 - 100%	Habitat Management Unit (HMU) 3 / Ranger Objective / Anzio, Concord, and Black Lion HLZs / NEC Tower	0	224	Stable, observations of juveniles	LTDS for HMU 3	0

2022	1 NOV 2021 - 28 FEB 2022	Fort Stewart	12362	2713	Slight decrease	N/A	Viable
2022	5 Nov 21 - 18 Jan 2022	Camp Blanding Joint Training Center Zone One	805	805	General trend shows an increase in tortoises/ acre from first sample year.	N/A	Viable
2023	LTDS Feb 2023 - 100% 20 Oct 2022 / 4 NOV 2022 and 3 Aug 2023	HMU2 / Ranger Objective / Cactus Range	4608	198	Stable, populatio n that is still accumulat ing adults in the larger adult size classes	LTDS for HMU 2 and 100% survey for other mission support activities	Primary support population
2023	November - February, weather permitting.	Fort Stewart	7178	2317	Stable	LTDS	Primary support population
2023	3 Jan 2023 - 1 Feb 2023	Camp Blanding Joint Training Center Zone Three	2090	4118	General trend shows an increase in tortoises- per-acre from first sample year.	N/A	Viable
2024	11 Dec 2023 – 22 Dec 2023	Fort Eisenhower Gopher Tortoise HMU Area 3 (Small Arms Impact Area)	4896	169	Decrease	LTDS	Primary Support Population
2024	LTDS DEC 2023 - Feb 2024	HMU B (formerly 1) and Cactus	6123	511	Stable, populatio n that is	LTDS for HMU B and 100% survey	Primary support population

	100% survey - 27 Mar 2024	Range Battle Position Project			still accumulat ing adults in the larger adult size classes	for other mission support activities	
2024	NOV 2023 - FEB 2024	Fort Stewart	6966	3166	Slight increase from 2023.	LTDS	Viable
2024	3 Jan 2024 - 2 Feb 2024	Camp Blanding Joint Training Center Zone Four	2606	4280	Total Gopher Tortoise populatio n on Camp Blanding is Increasing	Survey is conducted using State of Florida approved LTDS methodolog y	Viable

NAVY

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Populatio n estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodolo gy (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support populatio n?
2009	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the five installaton s)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	5500	428 (estimate from subsampl e)	Found 31 new burrows	100%	
2010	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the five installaton s)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	8400	512 (based on survey results)	Found 77 new burrows, unable to scope subadult and	100% survey method, subsampl e burrow scoping	



					juvenile burrows		
2011	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the five installations)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	8400	512 (no new info this year)	Burrow cameras purchased	Based on 2010 survey	
2012	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the five installations)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	8400	480	Monitoring and marking of GT burrows	100% survey method, subsample burrow scoping	
2013	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the five installations)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	17,963 (included non-habitat areas; urban areas)	500 (estimate slight increase from 2012)	Slight increase, camera scoping is beginning to validate prior year estimate	100% survey of all Gt habitats discovered	
2014	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the five installations)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	5,532	500	Steady	100% survey of all Gt habitats discovered	
2015	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the six installations)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	2,398	590	Steady; Survey at NOLF Holley was in preparation for a solar farm project	100% monitoring of all GT habitats discovered	
2016	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the six	All Navy installations either in whole or part	3,500	500	Steady; slight increase at Mayport; decrease	100% monitoring of all GT habitats discovered	

	installations)				at NAS Pensacola likely due to survey intensity reduction in 2016	d, camera logs.	
2017	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the six installations)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	6,654	721	Juvenile burrows on the increase. Increase of burrows at NAS Whiting Field. Decrease in adult burrows due to hurricane at NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport. Steady at other sites.	100% monitoring of all GT habitats discovered; 100% of burrows scoped at NAS Whiting Field.	
2018	All Year (ongoing at any or all of the six installations)	All Navy installations either in whole or part	2,485	750	Active burrows increased at NAS Jacksonville, NAS Mayport, and NAS Whiting Field, steady at other sites.	Meandering transects, road survey, 100% monitoring of all GT habitat discovered.	
2019	All Year	All Navy installations either in whole or part	Acreages NASP (1713) Bronson (350) Saufley	Completed survey for NASP, Saufley, Bronson	2018 survey completed by UGA for NAS Pensacola	100% monitoring of all GT habitats discovered.	

			(200) Total (2,263)		; increase in juvenile burrows from 2016 survey.		
2020	All Year	All Navy installations either in whole or part	Acreages Kings Bay (489) Mayport (127)	UNK		Transect Burrow Survey	Secondary
2021	January	NAVSTA Mayport	127	74	Stable		
	September	NAS Pensacola	20	25	Increase	100%	Secondary
	September	NAS Whiting Field	1,000	150	Stable	Blanked area survey	
2022	1 month survey	Whiting Field - OLF Holley	290 acres	45	Stable	Area survey and repeat survey of burrows	0
	July 2022	NAS Pensacola	65 acres	26	Increase	100%	Secondary support
2023		LEFAC Bugg Springs	60 acres	7	Unchange d	Area Search (Meander ing Transects )	Secondary support
2024	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

### AIR FORCE

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population ?
2016	Survey conducted	APAFR – scrub habitat	6,368 ac	1,525 adult tortoises	N/A. Monitoring has not been	LTDS	The population

	2/11/2015 – 5/6/2015. Final data analyses completed in May 2016.			(CV 15.92%); 1,847 subadult and adult tortoises (CV 13.22%)	going on long enough to detect trends. Juvenile tortoises ( $\leq 14$ cm CL) comprised only 2% of tortoises found in the survey. However, this is likely an underestimate because small juvenile-sized burrows have much lower detection probability.		at APAFR is likely a viable population, especially when considering the large numbers of tortoises inhabiting adjacent non-scrub habitats (e.g., flatwoods, plantations).
2016	Monitoring conducted 6/24/2015 – 9/1/2016	APAFR – 6 subpopulations inhabiting a representative mix of scrub, flatwoods, and sandhill habitats	Total 670 ac (range 62-143 ac across the 6 sites)	Mean of 0.96 non-collapsed burrows per ac (range 0.67-1.34 burrows per ac); Mean proportion of non-collapsed burrows that were juvenile-sized (mean 0.08, range 0.01-0.20), subadult-sized (mean 0.15, range 0.06-0.38), and adult-sized (mean 0.77, range 0.48-0.90)	Two of the six sites were surveyed previously in 2011. At the Kissimmee 7 South scrub site, the abundance of non-collapsed burrows did not change between 2011 and 2015, but there were relatively more subadult-sized and relatively fewer juvenile-sized burrows in 2015. At the Smith 4 flatwoods site, the density of non-collapsed burrows declined by 33% and the burrow size distribution was even more	Burrow surveys (width, activity status) along 5-m-spaced transects. Most non-collapsed burrows were also scoped, but in many cases occupancy could not be determined due to flooding (high water table).	The population at APAFR is likely a viable population, especially when considering the large numbers of tortoises inhabiting adjacent non-scrub habitats (e.g., flatwoods, plantations).

					skewed toward adult sizes.		
2016	October 2015	Eglin AFB (Duck Pond Lt)	41	5.60	Decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	October 2015	Eglin AFB (Duck Pond Paired #2)	41	0.00	Decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB (Rogue Creek LT)	35	6.72	Decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB (McQuage Branch LT)	15	6.16	Decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	November	Eglin AFB (East Bay LT)	26	23.52	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB B70C1 – Legacy Study	12	3.92	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB B70C2 – Legacy Study	12.1	5.60	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB B70E – Legacy Study	13.9	8.40	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB C64 – Legacy Study	16.5	3.36	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB C61A – Legacy Study	10.4	25.2	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	Primary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB C72 – Legacy Study	10.6	8.40	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB C62N – Legacy Study	10.0	5.60	n/a	Area-constrained Total Transect	secondary

2016	May/June	Eglin AFB C62S – Legacy Study	10.4	9.52	n/a	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB Pine Log – Legacy Study	10.5	7.28	n/a	Area- constrained Total Transect	Primary
2016	May/June	Eglin AFB 201E – Legacy Study	9.9	9.52	n/a	Area- constrained Total Transect	Primary
2016	Mar – Oct	Moody AFB- Main Base Gopher Tortoise Colonies	50	30	Stable	Pedestrian survey. No scoping of burrows	Primary
2016	Summer	Tyndall AFB, Florida	530	229 Active burrows	Increasing, juveniles	100% of known burrows were inspected	
2017	October 2016	Eglin AFB (Duck Pond Lt)	40.8	5.60	Decrease	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary
2017	October 2016	Eglin AFB (Duck Pond Paired #2)	40.8	0.00	Decrease	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary
2017	September	Eglin AFB (Turtle Creek Reintroduction Site)	48.7	8.40	Decrease	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary
2017	September	Eglin AFB (Turtle Creek Reintroduction Site Paired #1)	48.7	0.00	n/a	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary
2017	September	Eglin AFB B75 – Legacy Study	25.7	12.9	n/a	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary
2017	September	Eglin AFB Bull Creek – Legacy Study	24.7	12.9	n/a	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary
2017	September	Eglin AFB Middle Creek – Legacy Study	34.6	5.6	n/a	Area- constrained Total Transect	secondary

2017	Mar – Sep	Moody AFB Main Base Gopher Tortoise Colonies	50	30 tortoises	Stable to slight decrease	Pedestrian Survey. No scoping of burrows.	Primary
2017	Spring	Tyndall AFB	3,648	202	Slightly Increasing, juveniles	Total Count and LTDS	
2018	October 2017	Eglin C-74	25	20	decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	Secondary
2018	October 2017	Eglin C-52N	28	4	decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	Secondary
2018	October 2017	Eglin B-71C	26	30	decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	Secondary
2018	March	Eglin Garnier Creek	25	1	decrease	Area-constrained Total Transect	Secondary
2018	September	Eglin C-61A	153	88	increase	Area-constrained Total Transect	Secondary
2018	Year-round	MacDill AFB	157	11 tortoise; 40 burrows	N/A	Incidental; Grid	N/A
2018	Spring	Moody AFB	946	220	Stable	100% Pedestrian Survey	Primary
2018	Year-round	Tyndall AFB	3,750	214	Slight increase, juveniles in multiple areas	Total Count	N/A
2019	July	Cape Canaveral AFS	4,458	2,017*	Unknown (first survey)		Viable/Primary
2019	March	Eglin AFB H26 Pen	107	250	Initial Survey	Area-constrained Total Transect	Primary
2019	September	Eglin AFB East Bay	25.9	50	Increase	Area-constrained Total Transect	Primary
2019	March	MacDill AFB	1783	149	Stable w/juveniles observed	LTDS: Incidental	Primary

2019	Winter	Moody AFB	946	228	Stable	100% Pedestrian Survey	
2019	Year-Round	Tyndall AFB	3,771	60	Stable-slight increase	100% Survey Total Count	Primary
2020	Spring/Fall	Tyndall AFB	4,021	70-80	Stable, some juveniles	Total Count	Primary
2020	Winter	Moody AFB	946	184	Stable/slight decrease	100% pedestrian survey	Primary
2020	Year-round	MacDill AFB	N/A	149 (based on 2019 survey)	N/A	Incidental	N/A
2020	August	Eglin AFB I-26 (Red Empire Drop Zone)	649	2	Initial Survey	Area-constrained Total Transect	Secondary
2020	N/A	45th Space Wing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	N/A	Avon Park AFR	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	Started FY22	Avon Park	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	N/A	SLD-45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	Year-round	MacDill AFB	N/A	15 tortoises, 49 burrows	1 juvenile observed	Incidental	N/A
2021	Summer	MOODY AFB	946	184 tortoises	Stable	100% pedestrian survey. Scoped 20% of burrows.	
2021	Spring/Fall	Tyndall Air Force Base	~4,000	70-80	Stable; juveniles present	Total Count	Primary
2021	July	H-26 EGLIN AFB	232	250	Secondary Survey	Area-constrained Total Transect	Primary
2022	Summer	MAFB	946	184	Stable	100% Survey	



2022	Spring/Fall	Tyndall AFB	4,800	70-80	Stable	Total Count	Primary
2022	Year-round	MacDill AFB	N/A	3 tortoises 50 burrows	2 juveniles observed	Incidental	
2022	June	Eglin AFB	162	300	Increase in juveniles and hatchlings	Area- constrained total transect	Primary
2022		USAF Combined		617			
2023	Pilot survey: 17 January 2023 to 9 February 2023.  Main Survey: 3 March 2023 to 25 March 2023	<b>Avon Park</b> Air Force Range in Pine Plantations and Flatwoods	548	7,243 – 12,461 individuals  Flatwoods: 5,123 individuals  Plantations: 1,453 individuals  Total: 7,243 to 12,461 individuals	First time surveying these habitats. No comparison to determine trend	a) LTDS  b) Burrow surveys (width, activity status) along 5-m-spaced transects. Most non-collapsed burrows were also scoped, but in many cases occupancy could not be determined due to flooding (high water table).	The population at APAFR is likely a viable population, especially when considering the large numbers of tortoises inhabiting adjacent non- scrub habitats (e.g., flatwoods, plantations).
2023	Year-round	<b>MacDill AFB</b>	1395	Observed:  54 active burrows  2 sub-adults  5 adults	Unknown	Incidental (first LTDS ever scheduled in 2024)	N/A
2023	Mar - Oct	<b>Moody AFB</b>	146	152 tortoises	Stable/slight decrease	100% pedestrian survey	Primary
2023	Spring/Fall	<b>Tyndall AFB</b>	4,850	70-80	Stable	Total Count	Primary
2023	January/February	<b>Eglin AFB, N-23</b>	257	215	Stable		Primary
		<b>Air Force Combined</b>	7,196				
2024	October	<b>Eglin AFB, Boiling Creek</b>	141	350	Initial survey post-pen removal	20% belt transect survey	Primary

2024	March	<b>Eglin AFB, Field 1</b>	100.4	286	Initial survey post-pen removal	20% belt transect survey	Primary
2024	August	<b>Eglin AFB, Mt. Sinai</b>	139.8	333	Initial survey post-pen removal	20% belt transect survey	Primary
2024	October	<b>Eglin AFB, L-25</b>	294.3	566	Increasing	20% belt transect survey	Primary
2024	Jan-April	<b>Eglin AFB, H-26</b>	175	300	Increasing with many hatchlings and juveniles observed	100% belt transect survey	Primary
2024	April/May	<b>Eglin AFB, N-23D</b>	170	420	Initial survey post-pen removal	100% belt transect survey	Primary
2024	February	<b>Eglin AFB, F-34</b>	233	130	Increasing with hatchlings and juveniles observed	100% belt transect survey	Secondary
2024	6-10 May	<b>MacDill AFB</b>	~2800 acres with addition of airfield (22.75 km of transects )	1,025 (95% CI: 698-1506)	Baseline (1st year of survey)	LTDS	Viable (~765 adults estimated, 1.2 adult tortoises/h a)
2024	Mar – May	<b>MAFB</b>	387	111 tortoises	Stable/slight decrease	90% LTDS & scoping of burrows, 10% pedestrian	Primary
2024	Spring/Fall	<b>Tyndall AFB</b>	4,850	~80 Tortoises	Stable	Total Count	Primary
2024	<b>Total acres for AF:</b>		9,290.5				

\*Cape Canaveral AFS believe this number is underestimated based on capture/recapture data.

MARINE CORPS

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used).

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2009	April	MCSF-BI	911	67		Survey	
2010	July	MCSF-BI	911	100	Increase	Survey	
2011	April	MCSF-BI	911	120	Increase	Bucket traps, hand and mechanical excavation	
2012	April	MCSF-BI	911	49	Decrease	Mechanical excavation	
2013	April	MCSF-BI	911	10	Decrease	Survey	
2014	August	MCSF-BI	911	11		Mechanical excavation	
2015	March	MCSF-BI	911	3	Decrease	Survey	
2016	April	MCSF-BI	911	1	Decrease	Survey	
2016	Year-round	MCLB Albany	1,200	3	Decrease	Direct Encounter	No
2017	Year-round	MCLB Albany	1,200	1	Decrease	Direct Encounter	No
2017	April	MCSF-BI	911	1	No change	Survey	
2018	October	MCSF-BI	911	2	Increase	Survey	

2019		MCLB Albany		2		Personal Observation	
2020		MCLB Albany		1	Decrease	Personal Observation	
2020	October	MCSF-BI	911	3	Increase (found a hatchling)	Survey	
2020	September	MCAS-TBR EOD Area	100	0		LTDS	
2021	November	MCSF-BI	911	2	Decrease	Survey	
2021	February	MCSF-BI	911	14	Increase	Survey	
2021	February	MCLB Albany	25	3	Increase – juvenile sized burrow located	100%	
2021	March	TBR	Unknown	N/A	N/A		
2022	May	MCSF-BI	911	22	Increase	Survey	Not Viable
2022	September	TBR	Unk	21	N/A; 1 <sup>st</sup> year burrows were scoped to determine actual #	VES and scoping	
2022	January	MCLB Albany	20	3	Increase by 2 of the number of active burrows	Personal observations – complete area survey	
2023	September	TBR	UNK	16-21	Numbers are similar	VES and scoping	
2023	May	MCSF-BI	911	19	Decrease	Survey	Not Viable
2023	January	MCLB Albany	20	3	No Change	Personal observations complete area survey	
2024							

USFS

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2014	September	Munson East	1,457ha/ 3,600acres	1.81 per ha or 2,638	First Year		
	September	Munson West	6,688ha/ 16,527 acres	.24 per ha or 1,613	First Year		
2015							
2016							
2017							
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	8/15/2019	Osceola NF	45 acres	28 Active Burrows	Baseline data, all ages present	Total Area Survey	Viable Population
2020	01/03/20-03/19/20	Osceola NF	549 acres	758 active burrows			Viable Population
2021	3/5/21-6/20/21	Osceola NF	322	107 active burrows found			Viable population
2022	10/1/21-9/30/22	Osceola NF	3110	119 burrows	NA		
2023	1/1/23-3/31/23	Apalachicola NF Munson Sandhills	19,827	4,097	Increase 0.51 tortoise/ha	LTDS	Yes
	2/15/23-7/13/23	Osceola NF	489	Under 50	Initial Survey Presence/absence	100%	No
2024	Feb – Aug	Osceola NF	3,300	< 50	Initial Survey, Presence/Absence	100%	Area adjacent to known

	April	Ocala NF – Salt Springs Island	2,398 ha (5,926 ac)	1,877 (0.78 GT/ha)	Baseline Survey	LTDS	tortoise population Exceeds Viable
	May	Ocala NF – Paisley Woods	5,403 ha (13,351 ac)	7,271 (1.3 GT/ha)	Baseline Survey	LTDS	Exceeds Viable
	May	Ocala NF - Norwalk	704 ha (1,740 ac)	262 (0.37 GT/ha)	Baseline Survey	LTDS	Primary Support Population

USFWSTable 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, in methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2016	Several	CH	30	~55	Stable	100%	2 <sup>nd</sup> support
2016	Apr-Jun	DD	37	38	Increase	100%	2 <sup>nd</sup> support
2017	EK – Oct 2016	NWR	80	84 burrows	Stable	LTDS pilot	Support
2018			None				
2019	Fall	Ding Darling	37	15	Minor decrease	100%	Secondary support
2020	Fall	Ding Darling	37	17	Minor increase	100%	Secondary support
2020	Summer	Archie Carr	30	33	Unknown	Active Burrow Count	Viable/primary

2020	summer/winter	St. Marks	5,438	448-859 individuals	slight decrease	LTDS	Primary
2020	Spring	St. Vincent	99	63 burrows		Burrow Count – known occupied areas	
2020	Summer	PFW	732	160			
2021	Fall/winter	Ding Darling	33	11	Minor decrease	100%	Secondary support
2021	4 Jan-10 Mar Conducted by USGS	St. Vincent	787	52	Increase	LTDS	Primary support
2022	Summer	SM*	30	N/A	N/A	Visual	N/A
	Fall	PI – part of mowing area and bathroom parking area	5	8-10	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	Summer	LS	410	30	N/A	Visual	N/A
2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

ALABAMA DCNR

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was not Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2012	Aug-Oct	Wehle Center	724	.02 Gt/ha	Evidence of juveniles and eggs at burrow	Field Reconnaissance	Secondary Support Popn
2013	Aug-Oct	Wehle Center	724	.02 GT/ha	Juvenile Confirmed	Field Reconnaissance	Secondary Support Popn

2013	10/14	Geneva State Forest (AFC)	2172.8	589	Initial survey	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2014	Aug-Oct	Wehle Center (State Lands Division)	724	20	Evidence of juveniles and eggs at burrow.	Field Reconnaissance	Secondary Support popn
2014	July	Conecuh NF (Snake Release Pens)	985.9	205	Initial survey	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2014	Sept.	Lakepoint State Park	74.7	--	Initial Survey	Pilot Survey Only	NA
2014	Oct.	Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center (AU)	1479.0	201	Initial survey	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2015	April	Conecuh NF (Jim's Site)	1213.8	163	Initial survey	LTDS	Support Popn
2015	Sept.	Conecuh NF (Nellie Pond)	826.7	337	Initial survey	LTDS	MVP
2015	June	Perdido WMA (Forever Wild Land Trust)	3299.9	434	Initial survey	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2015	August	Gulf State Park	173	<20	Initial survey	Pilot Survey Only	Secondary Support Popn
2016	March	Barbour WMA	369	<20	Initial survey	Pilot Survey Only	Secondary Support Popn
2016	July	Geneva WMA	2441.6	140	Initial survey	LTDS	Secondary Support popn
2017	Nov.	Upper State SOA	268.5	<20	Initial survey	Pilot Survey Only	Secondary Support Popn
2017	Nov.	Fred T Stimpson SOA	1213.8	214	Initial survey	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2017	July – October	Wehle Tract	~700 ac	20	Juveniles observed	Complete trapping effort	Secondary support population
2018	July – October	Wehle Tract	~700 ac	20	Juveniles observed/nest discovered	Targeted trapping effort	Secondary support population



2019	July	Wehle Tract	50	23	Nest with eggs discovered during trapping	Targeted trapping effort	Secondary Support Popn
2019	July	CNF Work Station Site	293.5 ha	N=143 .489 GT/ha	Initial, Hermann	LTDS	Primary Support Population
2019	July	CNF Site 4	139.8 ha	N=50 .356 GT/ha	Initial, Hermann	LTDS	Primary Support Population
2019	August	CNF Nellie Pond Site	101 ha	N=158	Initial, Hermann	LTDS	Primary Support Population
2019	Sept.	CNF Site 2	413 ha	--	Pilot Survey, not enough GT encounters to continue with survey, Hermann	LTDS	--
2019	Sept.	Private landowner 5, Baldwin County	402.6 ha	--	Pilot Survey Only	LTDS	--
2019	Sept.	Private landowner 6, Houston County	88.87 ha	N=117 .86 GT/ha	Initial Survey	LTDS	Primary Support Popn
2020	Oct., 2019	Private landowner 4, Covington County	147.53	N=34 .23 GT/ha	Initial	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2020	Nov., 2019	Private landowner 2, Geneva County	92.91 ha	N=119	Initial	LTDS	Primary Support Popn
2020	Nov., 2019	Private landowner 3, Coffee County	76.66	N=34 .43 GT/ha	Initial	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2020	Jan.	Private landowner 7, Escambia County	172.05	N=26 .15 GT/ha	Initial	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2020	Jan.	Private landowner 8, Henry County	117.8 ha	N=27 .28 GT/ha	Initial	LTDS	Secondary Support Popn
2020	May	Private landowner 9,	1144.3 ha	N= <25 GT	Initial	LTDS Pilot only	Secondary support population

		Conecuh County					
2020	Feb.	Private landowner 12, Geneva County	7.0 ha	N=5 .71 GT/ha	Initial	100%	Secondary support population
2020	March	Private landowner 13, Geneva County	19.7 ha	N=2 .10 GT/ha	Initial	100%	Secondary support population
2020	April	Private landowner 14, Dale County	34.22 ha	N=43 1.25 GT/ha	Initial	100%	Secondary support population
2020	Dec., 2019	Private landowner 15, Barbour County	5.54	N=7 1.16GT/ha	Initial	100%	Secondary support population
2020	March, 2019	Private landowner 16, Houston County	15.4	N=1 .06 GT/ha	Initial	100%	Secondary support population
2020	Dec., 2019	Private landowner 17, Russell County	39.51 ha	N=9 .22 GT/ha	Initial	100%	Secondary support population
2020	Sept.	CNF Prickly Pear Site	101 ha	N=27 1.09 GT/ha	Initial, Hermann	Pseudocircuit Design	Secondary Support Population
2020	Sept.	CNF Hogfoot Road Site	413 ha	--	LTDS Pilot Survey, not enough GT encounters to continue with survey, Hermann	LTDS	--
2021	February	Private landowner 18 Henry Co.	192 ac	N=13 .06 GT/ac	Initial	100%	Secondary Support Population
2021	January	Private landowner 19 Geneva Co.	176 ac	N=36 .07 GT/ac	Initial	100%	Secondary Support Population
2021	March	Private landowner 20 Pike Co.	100 ac	N=16 .08 GT/ac	Initial	100%	Secondary Support Population
2021	April	Private landowner 21 Geneva Co	45 ac	N=49 .91 GT/ac	Initial	100%	Primary Support Population

2021	April	Private Landowner 22 Henry Co	124 ac	N=12 .08 GT/ac	Initial	100%	Secondary Support Population
2022	February	Private Landowner (OC) Henry County	37	7	Initial	100%	Secondary Support Population
2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

### FLORIDA FWC

Beginning in 2014, Florida adopted and has implemented the range-wide population survey protocol as outlined in the GT CCA, Line Transect Distance Sampling (LTDS). Ten gopher tortoise surveys were completed between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024 and included 34,907 acres of suitable gopher tortoise habitat. All surveys were conducted by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Of the ten sites surveyed this FY, all were considered viable populations. Seven of these sites were re-surveys to monitor population trends; all maintained status as viable. Density estimates are provided for sites surveyed prior to LTDS implementation in 2014.

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used).

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2009							
2010	FY 2009 - 2010	Apalachee Wildlife Management Area	400	1.16	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	FY 2009 - 2010	Big Bend WMA (Spring Creek Unit)	350	0.31	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	FY 2009 - 2010	Jennings State Forest WMA		400 (Total)	Increase from 2005	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	January	Northwest Hackletrap (RS)	150	0.07	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	

	January	The Woods (RS)	75.25	0.03	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	June	Lake Louisa State Park (RS)	6.4	0.54	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	August	Allen Brossard Conservancy (RS)	40	0.2	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	July	Withlacoochee Bay Trail (Felburn Trailhead)	53	0.2	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	December, 2009	PSC Gopher Ranch Eight Mile Still Road (RS)	55.7	0.2	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	January	Chinquapin Farm (RS)	31.9	1.88	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	February	Hatchineha Ranch Cons Bank (RS)	17.6	0.9	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
2011	May	Chassahowitzka WMA	1,636	0.24	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	April	Guana River WMA	402	0.18	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	July	Caravelle Ranch WMA	47	0.88	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	June	Aucilla WMA	280	0.023	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	December, 2010	Hickey Creek	80	1	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	June	North Buck Lake Sanctuary	49.06	1.72	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	January	Allen Broussard Conservancy (RS)	316.4	0.22	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	February	Nokuse Plantation	494	0.12	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	

		(Black Creek Unit) (RS)					
	February	Heritage Ranch (Unit 1) (RS)	8.95	1.34	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	February	Heritage Ranch (Unit 2) (RS)	42.28	0.85	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	February-11	Heritage Ranch (Unit 3) (RS)	29.26	0.34	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	May-11	Charlotte County (Tippecanoe Unit 4) (RS)	28.4	1.28	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	September	Adams Ranch (RS)	273.1	0.57	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	May	Russakis Ranch (Phase 1) (RS)	221.56	0.15	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	June	Tiger Lake Wildlife Ranch (RS)	270.1	0.16	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	August	Nokuse Plantation (Magnolia Creek Sandhill) (RS)	250	0	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	October, 2010	Allapattah Flats Wildlife Management Area (RS)	16.36	0.24	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
2012	June	Aucilla WMA	346.56	0.01	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	May	Blackwater WMA	3,000	0.04	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	May	Econfina Creek WMA	203	0.08	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	April	Jennings Stat Forest	5,820.3	0.36	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	

	July	Point Washington WMA	387.9	0.01	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	June	Pine Log WMA	410.97	0.03	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	August	Beville Ranch Phase 2 (RS)	125.3	0.18	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	January	Gator Hole preserve (RS)	20.85	0	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	Nov. 2011	Isle of Pine Preserve (RS)	7.05	1.49	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	April	Viera Wilderness Park Stage 1 (RS)	41.18	0.08	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	June	Camp La-No-Che Wildlife Cons Area (RS)	92	0.01	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	Nov. 2011	Bowman's Beach (RS)	62.89	0.52	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	January	Venus Ranch (RS)	200	0.08	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
2013	FY 2012 - 2013	Ongoing Blackwater, Econfinia, Pine Log and Point Washington WMAs				Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	Nov. 2012	Allen Broussard Conservancy Long-Term Protected Site	294.83	0.083	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	Nov. 2012	Allen Broussard Conservancy Phase II	344.28	0.101	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	Nov. 2012	Russakis Ranch Phase II	221.33	0.164	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	Nov. 2012	West Grasshopper Tract Unit 1	212.9	0.436	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	

	January	Russakis Investments Phase I	181.64	0.102	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	September	Dunns Creek State Park Recipient Site	52	0.545	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	September	Triple S Land Company Phase I	135.6	0.876	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
	September	Triple S Land Company Phase II	413.15	0.066	n/a	Belt transect (burrow survey)	
2014	August – October 2014	Bell Ridge WEA	721.94	1,197	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	August – October 2014	Ft. White WEA	808.04	974	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	August – October 2014	Goldhead Branch SP	1,880.96	843	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	August – October 2014	Ichetucknee Springs SP	790.18	1,269	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
2015	April	Cayo Costa State Park	404.02	343	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	January	Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park	1,111.73	73	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	December	Goethe SF Levy County- Main tract	4,724.65	2,039	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	March	Guana River WMA	941.96	219	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	February	Hilochee WMA (non-Osprey unit)	1,291.12	176	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	October, 2014	Joe Budd WMA	638.03	66	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	March	Jonathan Dickinson State Park	2,794.02	870	Baseline	LTDS	Viable

	August	Lake Louisa State Park	1,853.53	1,626	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	May	Lake Wales Ridge WEA Carter Creek	1766.80	243	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	March	Lake Wales Ridge WEA Silver Lake	454.67	296	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	October 2014	Little Talbot Island State Park	402.29	754	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	March	Moody Branch WEA	448.50	478	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	November 2014	O'Leno/River Rise State Park	1,147.06	1,011	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	February	Perry Oldenburg WEA	333.10	213	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	June	St. Sebastian River SP NE	2,817.00	977	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	October 2014	Watermelon Pond WEA	329.64	184	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	July	Wingate Creek State Park	376.09	303	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	February	Withlacoochee SF Citrus	44,229.3 2	7,179	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	Sept 2014- Feb 2015	Apalachicola NF-Munson East	3,600.32	2,638	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	Sept 2014- Feb 2015	Apalachicola NF-Munson West	14,030.6 2	1,207	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	April	Ocala NF-Riverside Island	8,974.85	1,126	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	April	Tall Timbers Research Station	558.46	42	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	April	Woodfield Springs Plantation	2,132.52	231	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support



	May	Dixie Plantation	1,989.2	166	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	June	Merrily Plantation Conservation Easement	574.00	34	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	July	Cherokee Plantation	647.00	19	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	July	El Destino Plantation	1,524.64	373	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	August	Foshalee Plantation Conservation Easement	1,907.65	45	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	October	Horseshoe Plantation	3,422.41	469	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
2016	January-12	Bullfrog Creek WEA	457.49	378	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	February-12	Blackwater River SF West Boundary Unit	6,989.91	284	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	April-7	Withlacoochee SF Croom	12,761.51	8,221	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	May	Half Moon WMA	2,396.60	820	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	May	Big Bend WMA Spring Creek	721.55	208	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	May	Big Bend WMA Tide Swamp	341.50	238	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	June	Eglin AFB	6,543.00	36	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	September	Lafayette Forest WEA	760.59	388	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	September	Suwannee Ridge WEA	1,135.94	831	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	October	Crooked Lake WEA	281	181	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support

	November	Hickey Creek WEA	410	165	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
2017	March- 14	Platt Branch WEA	762	967	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	March-20	Julington-Durbin Preserve	542	273	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	April	Twin Rivers SF-Ellaville Tract	2,570	1189	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	April	Branan Field WEA	92	132	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	April	Honeymoon Island SP	154	217	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	April	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve SP	18,506	4778	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	April	Highlands Hammock SP	2,988	1,658	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	May	Tate's Hell SF	223	Unable to determine	Baseline	LTDS	Secondary Support
	May	Econfina Creek WMA- Carter Tract	948	96	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	May	Jennings SF	7,075	3,828	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	September	Apalachee WMA	2,147	434	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
2018	October	Ralph E. Simmons SF	939	1,408	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	October	Torrey SP	2,032	216	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	November	Twin Rivers SF-Blue Springs	2,036	2,498	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	November	Chassahowitzk a WMA	6,420	1,491	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	April	Little Manatee River SP	1,141	272	Baseline	LTDS	Viable

	April	Rainbow Springs SP	591	479	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	May	Withlacoochee West CA- Quail Farms	611	154	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	May	Green Swamp West Unit WMA	8,080	2,204	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
2019	March	Oscar Scherer State Park	986	564	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	May	Halpata Tastanaki & Cross FL Greenway Pruitt Tract	4,441	1,966	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	May	Seabrook Preserve State Park	570	228	Baseline	LTDS	Primary Support
	September	Bullfrog Creek WEA	404	430	Stable	LTDS	Viable
2020	February	Lake Wales Ridge State SF Walk in Water	2,403	672	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	March	Starkey WP	2,698	1,156	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	April	Wekiwa Springs SP & Rock Springs Run SR	3,249	3,436	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	August	Bell Ridge Longleaf WEA	688	732	Decrease	LTDS	Viable
	August	Fort White WEA	969	932	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	August	Perry Oldenburg WEA	316	424	Increase	LTDS	Viable
2021	October	Lake Louisa SP	1,458	1,072	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	November	Ross Prairie SF & the SR 200 to CR 484 Sect. of Marjorie Harris	3,934	1,831	Baseline	LTDS	Viable

		Carr Cross Greenway					
	November	Half Moon WMA	1,951	473	Decrease	LTDS	Viable
	February	Conner Preserve	1,179	1,286	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	September	Apalachicola Bluffs & Ravines Preserve	2,935	726	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	November	Lafayette Forest WEA	740	683	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	November	Hickey Creek WEA	345	232	Stable	LTDS	Primary Support
	December	Crooked Lake WEA	251	162	Stable	LTDS	Primary Support
2022	January	Suwanee Ridge WEA	1,168	805	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	May	Lake Monroe CA	457	832	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	August	Edward Chance Reserve	1,669	966	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	October	Apalachee WMA	853	648	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	October	Chassahowitzka WMA	4,790	2,651	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	October	Guana River WMA	504	159	Stable	LTDS	Primary Support
	November	Troy Springs CA	635	829	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
2023	February	Apalachicola National Forest - Munson East	3,560	1,315	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	February	Apalachicola National Forest - Munson West	16,267	2,350	Stable	LTDS	Primary Support

	March	Platt Branch WMA	843	1,033	Stable	LTDS	Viable
2024	February	Lake Wales Ridge WEA – Silver Lake Tract	302	234	Increase	LTDS	Viable
	February	Triple N Ranch & HH Bull Creek WMA	4,030	665	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	February	Lake Wales Ridge WEA – Lake Placid & McJunkin Tracts	1,525	1,102	Increase	LTDS	Viable
	February	Hilochee WMA	1,689	496	Increase	LTDS	Viable
	April	Cayo Costa SP	404	349	Stable	LTDS	Viable
	April	Goethe State Forest Levey Main Tract	4,218	1,670	Decrease	LTDS	Viable
	April	Goldhead Branch SP	1,722	862	Increase	LTDS	Viable
	September	Ocala NF – Norwalk Island Tract	1,740	262	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	September	Ocala NF – Paisley Woods Tract	13,351	7,271	Baseline	LTDS	Viable
	September	Ocala NF – Salt Springs Island Tract	5,926	1,877	Baseline	LTDS	Viable

GEORGIA DNR

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support
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							population? *
2009		Various (12 sites)	7,925	1,933	n/a		3/7/2
2010	No surveys						
2011	No completed surveys						
2012		Various (19 sites)	20,930	7,405	n/a		5/13/1
2013		Various (16 sites)	15,424	3,468	n/a		1/14/1
2014		Various (14 sites)	11,335	3,808	Increase at FLWSMA; n/a others		7/7/0
2015		Various (12 sites)	16,157	4,275	Increase at Barrington; n/a others		7/13/4
2016	January	Lower Satilla WMA	692	471	n/a		Viable
2016	Jan.- March	Fort Perry/Flournoy /McLaurin	2,377	137	n/a		Primary support
2016	March - May	Altama WMA	764	182	n/a		Primary support
2016	May-June	Altamaha WMA (Cox Tract)	161	68	n/a		Primary support
2016	June - July	Alapaha River Ranch	1,068	513	n/a		Viable
2016	July – Aug.	Flint River WMA	210	63	n/a		Primary support
2016	Aug. – Sept.	Bullard Creek WMA TCF additions	692	315	n/a		Viable
2017	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Ohoopsee Dunes	1,890	195	Increase		Primary support

2017	Oct. – Nov., 2016	Alligator Creek WMA	2,016	201	n/a		Primary support
2017	Nov. 2016	General Coffee State Park	136	97	Increase		Primary support
2017	Dec. 2016	TNC R.G. Daniels	141	74	Increase		Primary support
2017	Dec. 2016	George L. Smith State Park	509	157	Increase		Primary support
2017	Jan. – Feb.	Ochoopee Dune WMA addition	2209	395	n/a		Viable
2017	Feb. - March	TCF Bulloch/Bryan	736	389	n/a		Viable
2017	March - April	Southern Power Wayne	529	320	n/a		Viable
2017	May - July	Alapaha River WMA	2946	2385	Increase		Viable
2017	July – Aug.	Hilliard Tract	1473	183	n/a		Primary support
2017	Aug. – Sept.	Sandhills WMA addition	1764	270	n/a		Viable
2018	Oct. 2017	Moody Forest WMA	850	168	Increase		Primary support
2018	Oct. 2017	Plant Hatch	311	51	n/a		Primary support
2018	Nov. – Dec. 2017	Ochoopee Dunes WMA additions	618	126	Increase		Primary support
2018	Dec. 2017- Jan. 2018	Georgia Power Rouse Tract	353	21	n/a		Secondary support
2018	Jan. - March	Westervelt's Tiger Creek Tract	1882	340	n/a		Viable
2018	March - April	Plant Vogtle	301	27	n/a		Secondary support
2018	April - June	Yuchi WMA	4297	104	Increase		Primary support

2018	June – August	Doerun WMA	346	258	Increase		Viable
2018	Aug. – Sept.	Thomas Farms	1001	257	n/a		Viable
2019	October	Flat Tub WMA	1,732	341	Increase		Viable
2019	October	River Creek WMA	791	311	N/A		Viable
2019	Nov. – Dec.	Seminole State Park	405	247	N/A		Viable
2020	Dec. 2019-Sept. 2020	Ceylon WMA	3,136	2,990	N/A		Viable
2020	9/2020	Dykes Emanuel Co.	133	94	N/A		Primary
2020	July – Sept.	Greenwood Plantation	791	217	N/A		Primary
2021	Oct. 2020 – Jan. 2021	Langdale, Marion Co. Private Property	699	71	N/A		Primary
	Nov. 2020	Sansavilla/Wire Road	141	77	N/A		Primary
	Nov. – Dec. 2020	Benning ACUB Juniper	452	58	N/A		Primary
	Dec. 2020 – Jan. 2021	Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA – Almo Tract	1609	184	Increase		Primary
	Feb. - March	Brumby/Steven s, Tift Co. Private Properties	405	224	N/A		Primary
	Feb. - March	Crumley, Tift Co. Private Property	381	192	N/A		Primary
	March - June	Dill, Irwin Co. Private Property	86	119	N/A		Primary
	June - July	ABAC School Forest	363	175	N/A		Primary



	July – Aug.	Penholoway Swamp WMA	677	339	Increase		Viable
	Aug. – Sept.	Sansavilla WMA	882	890	Increase		Viable
2022	Sept. – Oct. 2021	McKinney Tract	586	224	N/A		Primary
	April - May	Beards Creek	521	127	N/A		Primary
	Jan. - August	Silver Lake WMA	3,884	703	Increase		Viable
2023	July - November	Alapaha River WMA	2,945	2,136	Increase in juvenile and subadult detections		Viable
2024	2/2023-7/2024	Townsend WMA Resurvey	4,271	1,225	Increase in juvenile and subadult detections		Viable

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2015	11/2015	TSRHP	~400	232 (169-320)	Baseline survey all age classes present	LTDS	Viable
2016	Winter/spring	Buckfield	~1700	381 (263-553)	Baseline surveys all age classes present	LTDS	Viable PSP
		Slater	~474	141 (92-218)		LTDS	
2017	Winter/spring 2017	Green Swamp	~470	104 (79-138)	Baseline – all sizes present	LTDS	PSP PSP
		SCPSA	~739	88(64-120)	Baseline – only adults	LTDS	
2018	Summer 2018	Aiken GTHP	~1600	107	All sizes present	Live Trapping	PSP

2019							
2020							
2021							
2022							
2023							
2024							

GA DOT

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)
2013	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2014	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2015	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2016	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2017	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2018	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence

2019	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2020	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2021	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2022	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2023	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence
2024	*	GDOT Proposed Rights-of-Way	*	*	*	Presence/Absence

\* *GDOT conducts numerous habitat and presence/absence surveys for gopher tortoise within proposed transportation project rights-of-way annually.*

#### POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2016							
2017							
2018							
2019	August	PBCI Area 1	348.5 ha	106 .30 GT/ha	Initial Survey	LTDS	SSP
	August	PBCI Area 2	613.3 ha	336 .55 GT/ha	Initial Survey	LTDS	MVP

2020							
2021							
2022							
2023							
2024							

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION (AFF)

None reported.

LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2018	Fall	Conecuh NF	600+	63		100% cruise	
2019							
2020							
2021							
2022							
2023							
2024							

JONES CENTERTable 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2011	Fall	Ichauway	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	4880 ( $\pm 708$ ; 14.5% CV)			Viable
2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	Fall	Ichauway	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	5319 $\pm$ 722; 13.6% CV	Stable or increasing	LTDS	Viable
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	Fall	Ichauway	16,976 ac (6870 ha)	5683 $\pm$ 772;	Stable or increasing	LTDS	Viable
2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2023	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2024	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2014	April-October	Geneva State Forest	5,430	589 (0.27/ha)		LTDS	
2015	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2016	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2017	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2020	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2022	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICETable 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2014	June - Dec. 2014	TRA & AB		TRA = 15 AB = 19		Burrow Count & Occupancy Scope	
2015							
2016							
2017	June - August	TRA FC KP AB	TRA=3 FC=3 KP=7 AB=3	TRA=4 FC=2 KP=5 AB=19		Burrow Count Active/Inactive	
2018	June - August	TRA FC KP CP AB	TRA=10 FC = 10 KP = 7 CP = 12 AB = 10	TRA = 8 FC = 5 KP = 9 CP = 22 AB = 55	TRA = stable FC = increase KP = stable AB = substantial increase, especially juveniles and subadults	Burrow Count and Occupancy Scope	
2019	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2020	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	May-July	CUIS	175 acres	225	Increase	LTDS	Primary
2022							
2023							

ALABAMA POWER COMPANYTable 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2018	March/April	RMS	238	20	NA/first survey		
2019	March - May	Farley Nuclear Plant	580.7	47	Initial Survey		Secondary Support Population
2020							
2021							
2022							
2023							
2024							

GEORGIA POWER COMPANYTable 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
2018	Oct. 2017	Plant Hatch	311	51	Juveniles seen		Secondary
	May 2018	Plant Vogtle	654	49	Juveniles seen		Secondary
2019							



2020	NA						
2021							
2022	NA						
2023							
2024	NA						

**RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR B (OVERUTILIZATION FOR COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES)****ARMY**

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; N/A
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]; NA

**NAVY**

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; N/A
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]; NA

**AIR FORCE**

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures];
    - Avon Park AFR:** The outdoor recreation department provides information on state and federally-listed species occurring at APAFR for recreationist awareness through information kiosks, brochures, and briefings.
    - MacDill AFB:** Informational flyers were distributed to contractors working in gopher tortoise areas. Road signs are placed in areas utilized by gopher tortoises to notify drivers of tortoise presence and possible road crossings.
    - TYNDALL AFB:** Gopher tortoise crossing signs posted in high occupancy areas, especially near roadways. Brochures about living with gopher tortoises available at Natural Resources Office.
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
    - MACDILL AFB:** Staff provide briefings on tortoises at project sites and input during design review on avoidance measures and awareness. These meetings occur year-round. Natural Resources staff hosted an Arbor Day event focused on planting

tortoise-friendly groundcover and trees, including longleaf pine, in an area utilized by gopher tortoises.

- iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

#### MARINE CORPS

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures];
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

#### USFS

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows. None reported
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures]; None
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; None
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or None
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] None

#### USFWS

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures];
 

EK: The Tampa Bay tearsheet provides information that gopher tortoises may be found on Egmont Key and are protected. There is a gopher tortoise informational sign at the north end of the island and the Florida Park Service provides a gopher tortoise brochure.

CH: The Crystal River NWR Visitor Center in Crystal River opened July 2022 and has interpretive material including the USFWS fact sheet on gopher tortoises.

LS: Outreach efforts on Refuge include kiosks, signage, along with information on Gopher tortoises in the Refuge brochure and on the website.
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

#### ALABAMA DCNR

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) publications [signage, brochures]; NA
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

FLORIDA FWCC

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.

- i) Publications [signage, brochures];

This fiscal year, approximately 14,000 (13,761) outreach materials were distributed; 2,338 of those materials were the 'Living with Gopher Tortoises' pamphlet. Other pamphlets that were distributed frequently included 'Before You Build' (1,800) and 'Laws and Guidelines' (1,287). Two vinyl decal stickers, 'Keep Tortoises Wild', and 'Slow for GT's' were distributed 1,535, and 1,841 times, respectively. We've also distributed 1,499 activity books, and 2,253 temporary tattoos celebrating Gopher Tortoise Day. The main focus is to distribute materials that cannot be printed at home; those materials currently make up approximately 50% of our total outreach efforts. Electronically available publications can be found online at <http://MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise>.

- ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];

Utilizing staff and student interns, the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Program hosted and/or participated in 13 outreach events in FY23, including: 4 law enforcement training events, and multiple diverse presentations.

FWC gopher tortoise presentations and/or education booths were present at a variety of events, including:

- Citrus County Local Government Workshop
- Palm Bay Local Government Workshop
- Gopher Tortoise Council Annual Meeting
- Tallahassee Farmers Day
- Water Wings and Wild Things Kids Festival
- MarineQuest
- Classroom Presentations x2
- Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day
- Cornerstone Learning Community

- iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements;

n/a

- iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

The FWC posted seven social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. Post topics included Gopher Tortoise Day, private landowner recognition, information on co-existing with gopher tortoises, World Turtle Day, commensal species, and a call for research proposals.

The agency published three media releases to announce regional local government workshops and Gopher Tortoise Day to promote gopher tortoise conservation throughout Florida.

During the reporting period agency staff sent six GovDelivery bulletins to our lists. The main gopher tortoise listserv currently has over 42,000 subscribers. A sub-list for local government information is also maintained with 25,000 subscribers.

#### GEORGIA DNR

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.

GA DNR reports submitted separately at the same time as this document.

- i) publications [signage, brochures];

- (1) Second Revision of the *Recommended Practices for the Responsible Siting and Design of Solar Development in Georgia*, May 2024.

- ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];

- (1) Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup – Whigham, GA: gopher tortoise outreach at public event. Despite the name, this was the second event that the festival did not collect wild diamondback rattlesnakes, approx. 4,000 people; Whigham Community Club, March 2, 2024.

- (2) Claxton Rattlesnake & Wildlife Festival – Outreach at public event. Gradually moving toward no wild-collected diamondback rattlesnakes; Evans County Wildlife Club, Claxton, GA; March 10, 2024.

- (3) Gopher Tortoises and Solar – GA DNR Presentation regarding impacts to gopher tortoises from industrial-scale solar development and permitting process given to project developers and environmental consultants working in Georgia at the Georgia Environmental Conference, Jekyll Island, GA; August 21, 2024.

- (4) Utility-Scale Solar Siting Initiative Meeting – GA DNR Presentation regarding impacts to gopher tortoises from industrial-scale solar development to solar developers and wildlife professionals at Georgia Power Corporation Headquarters in Atlanta, GA; June 12, 2024.

- (5) Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Webinar – GA DNR Presentation regarding impacts to gopher tortoises from industrial-scale solar development to wildlife professionals across the Southeastern US hosted virtually by AFWA; June 24, 2024.

- (6) Renewable Energy and Wildlife Initiative Webinar – GA DNR Presentation regarding impacts to gopher tortoises from industrial-scale solar development to solar developers and wildlife professionals hosted virtually by REWI; August 14, 2024.

- iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or

- iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.

- i) Publications [signage, brochures]; None to report.
- ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; None to report.
- iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

GEORGIA DOT

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) publications [signage, brochures]; NA
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) publications [signage, brochures]; NA
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) publications [signage, brochures]; NA
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures];
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

JONES CENTER

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows. N/A
  - i) Publications [signage, brochures]; None
  - ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; None
  - iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; None; or
  - iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] None

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows. N/A
- i) Publications [signage, brochures];
- ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
- i) Publications [signage, brochures];
- ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

- b) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.
- i) publications [signage, brochures];
- ii) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];  
None provided during this reporting period.
- iii) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or  
None provided during this reporting period.
- iv) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]  
None provided during this reporting period.

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

- a) Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows. NA
- i. Publications [signage, brochures];
- ii. Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- iii. Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- iv. Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

**RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR C (DISEASE OR PREDATION)**ARMY

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths); NA
- b) Disease screening efforts; NA
- c) Predator Control; NA

NAVY

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths): No mortalities found. The NS Mayport gopher tortoise population is located within the dune line adjacent to approximately one mile of beach. Increase in storms and high tides threatens habitat due to coastal erosion and potential storm surge at this installation.
- b) Disease screening efforts; N/A
- c) Predator control: N/A

AIR FORCE

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths)  
**EGLIN AFB:** In 2024, we documented a total of 36 deceased gopher tortoises in the conservation permitted gopher tortoise enclosures. We detected 14 deceased gopher tortoises at the L-25 site (including all 5 current and removed enclosures) during the belt transect surveys. Of those 14, 11 were female and 3 were of an unknown sex; we were able to identify 3 of the females (2011, 2180, and 607). At Boiling Creek (enclosures A&B), we detected 7 deceased tortoises, mostly during the belt transect surveys. There were 2 females, 1 male, and the rest of unknown sex, all of which we were unable to identify. Two unknown gopher tortoises were deceased at Mt. Sinai. We detected 13 deceased tortoises at Field 1, 6 males, 3 females, and 4 unknowns, all of which we were unable to identify. Finally, we detected 2 deceased tortoises opportunistically in the Turtle Creek site, 1 female and 1 unknown tortoise. These mortalities ranged from full carcasses to pieces of the carapace or plastron, which made assessing tortoise identification, time, and cause of death difficult. All conservation permit recipient sites were permitted with a capacity of 2 adult or subadult tortoises per acre (0.4 ha), and as per the current FWC Gopher Tortoise Guidelines, enclosures can accommodate up to 1.5 times the permitted site capacity.

In 2024, at H-26, we documented 3 adult gopher tortoise mortalities, but we could not determine sex or identity or the cause of death for these individuals. At N-23D, we documented 21 adult (11 female and 10 unknown) gopher tortoise mortalities and 1 hatchling. Of the N-23D mortalities, 2 females were identified from permanent markings (217, 447). Cause of death for these tortoises was unknown. These mortalities ranged from full carcasses to pieces of the carapace or plastron, which made assessing tortoise identification and time of death difficult. With a total of 23 gopher tortoise mortalities in N-23D during 2022-2024, this represents 5.1% of the tortoises released in this enclosure. These numbers are lower than those documented from first surveys of other enclosures post-burn (i.e., 2020: 70 [8.3%] at H-21 and 19 [4.9%] at F-26; 2021: 33 [6.4%] at N-23A), and commensurate with the more recent enclosures post-burn (i.e., 2022: 11 [2.7%] at N-23B, 14 [5.4%] at N-23C, and 22 [4.2%] at J-19A-B).



In 2024, we documented few mortalities in the native gopher tortoise Eglin relocation sites. In F-34B, we detected one deceased unidentifiable adult male gopher tortoise. In enclosure F-35A, we detected one deceased adult female gopher tortoise, ID 187. We were unable to determine cause of death for these tortoises.

b) Disease screening efforts

**Eglin AFB:** All relocated tortoises were given cursory health screening for URTD. Any tortoises indicating signs of disease are brought to the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge for treatment and released on Eglin once recovered.

c) Predator control

**SLD 45:** Removed 83 raccoons, 26 hogs and 18 coyotes.

**Eglin AFB:** Predator control in areas adjacent to GT populations resulted in the removal of 1,173 feral hogs and 91 coyotes.

**Tyndall AFB:** A full time USDA Predator Control Biologist is employed at Tyndall AFB. Total predators trapped in FY 24 were 54 raccoons, 14 coyotes, 4 armadillo, 3 gray fox, and 9 opossums.

**MacDill AFB:** Coyotes, raccoons, armadillos, and other mammals are removed from the airfield as needed for safety as part of the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard program.

#### MARINE CORPS

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) None
- b) Disease screening efforts None
- c) Predator control None.

#### USFS

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths): None
- b) Disease screening efforts: None
- c) Predator control: None

#### USFWS

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths)
- b) Disease screening efforts:
- c) Predator Control:  
SV: Overabundant mesopredator control provided by three annual public hunts and a conservation partnership with USDA Wildlife Services resulted in a reduction of gopher tortoise predators.

#### ALABAMA DCNR

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) NA
- b) Disease screening efforts - NA
- c) Predator control –

- Barbour WMA – Removed 213 hogs, 7 coyotes, 2 bobcats, 12 opossums, 43 raccoons, 1 gray fox.
- Geneva WMA – Removed 150 hogs.
- Perdido River WMA – No trapping conducted during this reporting period.
- Fred T. Stimpson SOA – Removed 6 hogs, 1 bobcat, 15 raccoons, and 7 opossums.
- Upper Place SOA – Removed 11 hogs and 4 raccoons.
- Blackwater River SOA – Removed 8 coyotes.
- Uchee SOA – Removed 8 hogs.
- Autauga – Removed 4 coyotes.

#### FLORIDA FWCC

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths)  
 Since December 2014, the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Program has been collecting gopher tortoise mortality data submitted to the FWC via an online web form (<https://app.fwc.state.fl.us/crossdoi/sightings>). From the web form's inception to the end of the reporting period (September 30, 2024), 2,200 gopher tortoises were reported as sick, injured, or dead. For the reporting period of this fiscal year (October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024), 248 gopher tortoises were reported as sick, injured, or dead. Vehicles were the most commonly documented cause of injury or mortality, with 106 gopher tortoises reported hit on roads.

- b) Disease screening efforts                      NA

Over a two-day period, July 8-9, 2024, FWC staff (led by Herp Research and Fish and Wildlife Health subsections), collaborated with Highlands Hammock State Park staff and volunteers to efficiently capture and sample 50 gopher tortoises at the park. Location data including GPS points were recorded. A physical exam was conducted on each tortoise and swabs and blood were collected and processed appropriately on site. All animals were returned the same day to its point of capture.

One set of choanal / cloacal swabs was sent to the University of Illinois for multi-pathogen testing. A second set of swabs was sent for turtle herpesvirus (TFV) testing. Blood smears and plasma were sent to the University of Illinois Comparative Pathology lab for CBC and blood chemistries.

The majority of individuals evaluated appeared healthy, with a few showing signs of potential lethargy and/or mild upper respiratory tract disease. Multi-pathogen testing showed a low prevalence of pathogens found in other tortoise populations. All animals were negative for TFV. Blood data are still being analyzed. Pending funding, repeat site visits will look for changes in disease and pathogen status over time.

- c) Predator control                                      NA

#### GEORGIA DNR

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths)  
 b) Disease screening efforts

Any gopher tortoise being moved to a new area received a thorough health screening. Any tortoise suspected of carrying disease, either from a population known to have *Mycoplasma* or showing signs of disease, were tested for *Mycoplasma*.

## c) Predator control

No predator control was conducted specifically for gopher tortoises. However, efforts to reduce feral hog populations continue and Argentine black and white tegu monitoring and trapping efforts have increased through public outreach.

SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

## a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths)

## b) Disease screening efforts

All waif tortoises received for release at AGTHP are given a physical assessment before release. Blood samples are banked.

## c) Predator control

Began using electric fencing in small release pens around headstarts to deter domesticated dogs from digging and destroying burrows and other predators (raccoons, coyotes, etc.) from eating tortoises.

GEORGIA DOT

## a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) N/A

## b) Disease screening efforts N/A

## c) Predator control NA

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

## a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) N/A

## b) Disease screening efforts N/A

## c) Predator control NA

LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

## a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) N/A

## b) Disease screening efforts N/A

## c) Predator control NA

JONES CENTER

## a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) - None

## b) Disease screening efforts - None

## c) Predator control: None reported

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

## a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) N/A

## b) Disease screening efforts N/A

## c) Predator control N/A

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) N/A

## b) Disease screening efforts N/A

## c) Predator control N/A

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) N/A
- b) Disease screening efforts N/A
- c) Predator control NA

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

- a) Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths) N/A
- b) Disease screening efforts NA
- c) Predator control N/A

**RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR D (INADEQUACY OF EXISTING REGULATORY MECHANISMS)**ARMY

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents:
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)

NAVY

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations N/A
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents: N/A
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted) N/A

AIR FORCE

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations N/A
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents N/A
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted) N/A

MARINE CORPS

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat).
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations N/A
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents N/A
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)  
Property: MCSF-BI was allowed to take up to 10 gopher tortoise. Permit (GTT-22-01485). None for other installations.

USFS

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat). None reported
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)

USFWS

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat). None reported
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)

ALABAMA DCNR

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations - None
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents – DWFF policy enacted to protect burrows during forestry activities on state owned lands.
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted) – None in the candidate range. USFWS did issue take permits for a railroad expansion in the federally listed range (Mobile County).

FLORIDA FWCC

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations                      None reported
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents  
The ten-year Gopher Tortoise Management Plan, last updated in 2012, outlines the objectives and conservation actions for gopher tortoise recovery. This plan was undergoing revision during FY24 and was approved in FY25 (December 2024). This 2024 revision to the Gopher Tortoise Management Plan will continue to guide the conservation of gopher tortoises in Florida through 2034.
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted) - None

GEORGIA DNR

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation - None
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents - None
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted) None

SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)

GEORGIA DOT

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation - NA
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents - NA
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted) - NA

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)

- i) State laws, rules and regulation - NA
- ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents - NA
- iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted) - NA

#### AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation                      None
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents                      None
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)                      None

#### LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation                      NA
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents                      NA
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)                      NA

#### JONES CENTER

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation                      None
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents                      None
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)                      None

#### ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulations  
NA
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents –  
Existing Policy – The AFC will take appropriate measures to protect the interest of TES whenever they are known to occur within a project area. AFC personnel will be aware of the TES known to occur within their work unit and will consult the AFC Threatened and Endangered Species Manual regarding the potential effect of cultural treatments on TES. If a TES is encountered during the course of an AFC activity, personnel should contact their Regional Coordinator and the AFC Forest Health Coordinator for consultation concerning appropriate action. Management recommendations made in areas where TES are known to occur will be made in a manner that provides either benefits or no negative effects on the TES in question.

AFC inserts a clause in logging contracts that requires heavy logging equipment to stay at least 15 feet away from all known burrow entrances at Geneva State Forest. We “flag” burrows prior to the onset of any new logging activity so crews would be aware of the

known burrows. Burrow locations are marked and entered into a database for future reference.

- iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)  
N/A

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation  
All wildlife including gopher tortoises are protected on National Park Service owned lands.
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents  
None
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)

#### ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)

#### GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

- a) Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)
  - i) State laws, rules and regulation
  - ii) Agency policies/directives/compliance documents
  - iii) Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)



# **RELEVANT ACTIVITIES TO LISTING FACTOR E (OTHER NATURAL OR MANMADE FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES CONTINUED EXISTENCE)**

## **ARMY**

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form).

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2021	92	13	79	0	No
2022	27	27	0	0	Yes
2023	1	1	0	0	Yes
2024	3	0	3	0	No

## **NAVY**

- b) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form).

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2009	0	0	0	0	0
2010	1	1	0	0	No
2011	3	3	0	0	No

2012	0	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0	0
2014	2	2	0	0	No
2015	47	47	0	0	Yes (ongoing at NOLF Holley)
2016	72	72	0	0	No, except for NAS Whiting Field (NOLF Holley).
2017	3	3	0	0	No
2018	1	1	0	0	Yes (Soft Enclosure NASP)
2019	1 (NASP) 1 (NS Mayport)	1 (NASP)	0	0	Yes, Soft Enclosure NASP. GT to rehab center for NS Mayport
2020	2	2	0	0	NA
2021	2	2	0	0	No
2022	6	0	0	0	No
2023	6	0	0	0	No
2024	None reported	None reported	None reported	None reported	N/A

#### AIR FORCE

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

**SLD45:** 20 tortoises were permanently relocated for Relativity construction at SLC 16 for Terran R, 19 tortoises were permanently relocated for Stoke construction at SLC 14, 28 tortoises were permanently relocated for operation of concrete batch plant to support airfield repaving (this is a temporary loss of acreage that will be returned to habitat), 6 tortoises were permanently relocated for airfield repaving project (no loss of habitat; relocation required along access road), and 1 tortoise permanently relocated from SLC 40 launch ramp.

**EGLIN AFB:** Within Eglin: 44 tortoises were relocated from outside the Core Conservation Area from airfields and Ammo storage areas in response to direct mission support. All tortoises were relocated to sites with enclosures and have been or will be held at least 6 months. One site containing a 20-acre enclosure began receiving tortoises in April 2023 and reached full capacity in October 2024.

Off-site relocation to Eglin: 543 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) tortoises were translocated from privately owned properties in Florida to Eglin AFB. All tortoises were relocated to sites with enclosures and have been or will be held at least 6 months. ITP tortoises are permitted for take by FWC under an older permitting system but still honored by the state. ITP tortoises have been translocated to 3 sites on Eglin. The first site containing a 148-acre enclosure began receiving tortoises in February 2024 and has not yet reached full capacity. A second 153-acre enclosure began receiving tortoises in August 2023 and reached full capacity in November 2023. A third site containing a 197-acre enclosure began receiving tortoises in September 2024 and has not yet reached full capacity.

1,371 Conservation Permit tortoises were translocated from privately owned properties in Florida to Eglin AFB. All tortoises were relocated to sites with enclosures and have been or will be held at least 6 months. Conservation Permit tortoises have been translocated to five recipient sites on Eglin, in which 8 enclosures were constructed and received tortoises. The first site containing three enclosures at 172-acres, 210-acres, and 156-acres began receiving tortoises in April 2023 and reached full capacity in October 2024. A second site containing two enclosures at 227-acres and 190-acres began receiving tortoises in September 2023 and reached full capacity in May 2024. A third site containing one 130-acre enclosure began receiving tortoises in July 2023 and reached full capacity in November 2023. A fourth site containing one 128-acre enclosure began receiving tortoise in September 2023 reached full capacity in October 2024. A fifth site containing a 76-acre enclosure began receiving tortoises in September 2024 and reached capacity in November 2024.

**MOODY AFB:** Released one juvenile, female gopher tortoise on September 6, 2024. The tortoise was given to us by Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) after it had been attacked by a dog in Valdosta, GA and had been rehabbed at Jekyll Island's Georgia Sea Turtle Center.

**TYNDALL AFB:** Two gopher tortoises were removed from base housing yards that are scheduled to be rebuilt in 2025.

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2010	52	0	52	0	NO
2011	53	0	53	0	NO
2012	16	0	16	0	NO

2013	97	0	97	0	NO
2014	18	0	18	0	NO
2015	60	0	60	0	24 NO, 36 YES
2016	36	0	105	69	36 YES, 69 NO
2017	666	0	666	0	40 NO, 626 YES
2018	818	0	827	9	17 NO, 810 YES
2019	575 Eglin AFB (471 ITP, 104 Eglin)	0	575	0	Yes
	7 Cape Canaveral AFS	0	7	0	No
2020	Eglin: 285 (243 ITP, 42 Eglin)	0	285	6	NO
	45 <sup>th</sup> Space Wing 87		87	0	Yes
2021	SLD 45 – 4	0	4	0	No
	Eglin – 1326	0	1326	0	Yes
2022	Eglin: 2,338 847 ITP, 1,452 CP, 39 Eglin	0	2,338	0	Yes
	Moody AFB: 1	1	0	0	No
	SLD 45: 10	0	10	0	No
2023	Eglin: 2,544 782 ITP, 1,762 CP	0	2,544	0	Yes
	SLD 45: 157	0	157	0	No
2024	74 SLD45	0	74	0	No
2024	1,958 (543 ITP, 1,371 Conservation Permit, 44 Eglin)	0	1,914	44	Yes

2024	1 Moody AFB	1			No
2024	2 Tyndall AFB	2	0	0	No

MARINE CORPS

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

MCSF-BI doesn't have a viable colony and enough land to maintain a permanent habitat for gopher tortoises.

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2010	0	0	0	0	No
2011	49	49	0	0	No
2012	0	0	0	0	No
2013	0	0	0	0	No
2014	7	7	0	0	No
2015	0	2	0	0	No
2016	0	2	0	0	No
2017	0	2	0	0	No
2018	0	2	0	0	No

2019	0	3	0	0	No
2020	0	2	0	0	No
2021	0	14	0	0	No
2022	3	3	0	0	No
2023	1	1	0	0	No
2024					

USFS

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

None

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2016	20*	20*			Yes
2017	905*	905*			Yes
2018	539*	539*			
2019	608*	608*	0	ANF – 0 Ocala NF _ 19	ANF – Yes Ocala NF - No
2020	191*	191*	0	0	Yes

2021	0	0	0	0	N/A
2022	0	0	0	0	N/A
2023	0	0	0	0	N/A
2024	0	0	0	0	N/A

\*Apalachicola NF was the recipient site

#### USFWS

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2017	SM – 1	1	N/a	N/a <b>OK – 4</b>	No, per FL FWCC
2018	OK - 2	OK - 2			
2019	None				
2020	None				
2021	None	None	None	6 (EK)	No
2022	DD – 1*	1	0	0	No
2023	None	None	None	None	N/A

2024	None	None	None	None	N/A
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\* A gopher tortoise was translocated to appropriate habitat from City of Sanibel property where a Hurricane Ian debris management site was established.

#### ALABAMA DCNR

- d) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

In Alabama, the gopher tortoise burrow is not state protected only the animal is state protected meaning you can not kill, possess, or harass. Relocation efforts only occur when ADCNR is contacted by consultants and landowners who want to actively participate in relocation efforts. The need of relocating tortoises this fiscal year is mainly due to loss of gopher tortoise habitat from development projects. Solar projects are significantly increasing in the southern part of the state (Pike, Henry, Houston, Dale, Geneva, Covington, Escambia and Baldwin counties) and we suspect gopher tortoises are being lost due to this habitat modification. Fifty tortoises were relocated due to D. R. Horton Homes development project in the town of Silverhill located in Baldwin County, Alabama. DWFF assisted Horton Homes wildlife consultant with the relocation to a W&A with a low-density gopher tortoise population. The developer constructed the 23-acre enclosure on the MA (2 gopher tortoises per acre). Tortoises will stay in the enclosure for 12 months after which the barrier will be removed, and the animals will be free to disperse.

DWFF received 3 gopher tortoises that were confiscated by law enforcement. The animals were evaluated by a wildlife rehabilitator and then soft released into an enclosure on permanently protected public land. The tortoise will be kept in the enclosure for a minimum of 6 months after which the barrier will be removed and the animals can disperse.

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2006	17	17*	0	0	Yes
2007	3	3*	0	0	Yes
2008	11	11*	0	0	Yes
2009	24	24*	0	0	Yes



2010	0	0	0	0	
2011	1	1*	0	0	No
2012					
2013					
2014	1	1*	0	0	No
2015					
2016	7	7**	0	0	Yes
2017	21	21**	0	0	yes
2018	7	7**	0	1	Yes
2019	8	8**	0	0	Yes
2020	4	4	0	0	Yes
2021	12	12	0	0	Yes
2022	23	23	0	0	Yes
2023	13	13	0	0	Yes
2024	53	53	0	0	Yes

\*Wehle Nature Center

\*\* Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

FLORIDA FWCC

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

All development projects that will impact gopher tortoises are required to obtain a relocation permit from the FWC and relocate tortoises prior to any land clearing or vegetation disturbance. Tortoises must be moved to a permitted recipient site or relocated on-site if sufficient habitat will remain post-development.

Under the FWC's gopher tortoise permit system, a total of 10,439 gopher tortoises were relocated from development sites during FY24. This includes adult, sub-adult, juvenile, and hatchling tortoises. All off-site relocation requires tortoises to be released into temporary enclosures for 6-12 months at the recipient site. Of the total number of tortoises relocated, 9,554 were relocated to long-term protected, short-term protected, or public conservation land recipient sites, 885 were relocated on-site, and 188 were temporarily relocated for utility right-of-way projects. As a result of ongoing efforts by the FWC and its partners to encourage the humane relocation of gopher tortoises from sites with previously permitted Incidental Take Permits (ITP), 583 adult, juvenile, and hatchling gopher tortoises were relocated to Eglin Air Force Base in Okaloosa County. Although this ITP recipient site is not permitted under the current standard, it does follow current practices and guidelines and is considered protected because of a perpetual conservation easement that prevents future development and an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.

In addition to the permitted relocations, the FWC has continued efforts to identify solutions for waif tortoises. Waif tortoises are gopher tortoises that have been removed from the wild (either unauthorized or due to injury) and are not associated with a permitted relocation. One solution includes establishing "waif tortoise recipient sites" on lands owned by local governments and conservation organizations. For this reporting period, no new publicly managed waif recipient sites were established.

Sites that actively received tortoises during the FY24 timeframe include Nixon Smiley Pinelands Preserve, Circle B Bar Reserve, and Econfina WMA.

Zero non-releasable gopher tortoises were transferred from a wildlife rehabilitator to an FWC-approved educational facility. Gopher tortoises are deemed non-releasable when they have an ailment that otherwise would prevent them from surviving in the wild.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), there is an ongoing effort to restock gopher tortoises on public lands where they are currently depleted in South Carolina through the waif program.

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2009	3,091	199	2,892*	6	Yes
2010	2,724	2,393	331	1,165	Yes
2011	2,623	2,267	356	291	Yes
2012	2,023	1,921	102	169	Yes
2013	2,128	1,979	149	165	Yes
2014	2,822	2,561	122	374*	Yes
2015	5,692	5,248	195	453*	Yes
2016	7,889	7,515	262	347*	Yes
2017	6,582	6,334	248	558*	Yes
2018	8,584	8,277	307	322	Yes
2019	8,488*	8,129*	359*	405*	Yes
2020	10,355*	9,930*	425*	507*	Yes
2021	10,666	10,061	605	452	Yes
2022	12,184*	11,173*	1,011*	389*	Yes
2023	10,925*	10,100*	825*	236	Yes

2024	9,943	9,219	724	298	Yes
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\*Number adjusted since previous report due to late receipt of after-action reports showing translocation during reporting period

#### GEORGIA DNR

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

Gopher tortoises directly impacted by development such as local construction projects, mining sites, road infrastructure projects, and utility-scale solar array construction were relocated. Utility scale solar projects accounted for 62% of the gopher tortoises translocated in Georgia for the reporting period. Additionally, gopher tortoises found to be waifs or those which needed veterinary care from vehicle collisions and could not be returned to their site of origin were also relocated. Gopher tortoises translocated to unprotected lands were on-site translocations or were associated with ongoing research projects.

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2009	2	2	0	0	Yes
2010	3	3	0	0	Yes
2011	18	18	0	0	Yes
2012	19	19	0	0	Yes
2013	0	0	0	0	n/a
2014	20	12	8	0	8 GTs = yes 12 head-started GTs = no
2015	350	350	0	0	207 GTs = yes 143 headstarted GTs = no
2016	198	198	0	53	170 GTs = yes

					28 headstarted GTs = no
2017	157	157	0	0	yes
2018	148	148	0	0	yes
2019					
2020	160	125 (36 were headstarts)	35 (mine on-site relocation)	77 headstarts in captivity	Yes, except for the headstarts
2021	122 total (76 adults and 46 headstarts)	122	0	14 hatchlings and 32 eggs	Yes except for 4 juveniles
2022	143 (123 adult/subadults and 20 juveniles)	143	0	24 eggs and 26 hatchlings	Yes, except for headstarts
2023	177 (88 adult/subadults and 89 juveniles)	92	85	17 hatchlings	Yes, except for headstarts and 3 waif tortoises
2024	408	154	254	8	Yes, except for 61 head-starts and 5 waif tortoises

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

SCDNR and SREL have collaborated since 2006 to utilize waif tortoise from the entire species range as a conservation tool to establish a viable population at AGTHP. This project began with ~8 adult tortoises and we currently have ~200 adults on the property. Natural reproduction is occurring onsite. Most animals are acquired through an MOA with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission though we have acquired waif tortoises from every state within the native range of the gopher tortoise, including several states not in the range of the gopher tortoise. In total, gopher tortoises at the Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP have come from 16 different states.

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2012					
2013	18	all	0	0	yes
2014	11	all	0	0	yes
2015	8	all	0	0	yes
2016	44	all	0	0	yes
2017	10 – Slater 3 waif – AGTHP	All	0	0	yes
2018	8 waif AGTHP	All	0	0	yes
2019	14 waif to AGTHP	All	0	0	yes
2020	22 waif to AGTHP	All	0	0	Yes
2021	22 waif to AGTHP	All	0	0	Yes
2022	45 waifs to AGTHP*	All	0	0	Yes
2023	1 waif to AGTHP	1	0	0	Yes
2024	50 waifs to AGTHP	50 waifs to AGTHP	0	0	Yes

\*An additional 67 headstarted tortoises were released initially collected as eggs at AGTHP during the report period.

GEORGIA DOT

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2013	0	0	0	0	N/A
2014	0	0	0	0	N/A
2015	32	32	0	0	Unknown
2016	32	32	0	0	Unknown
2017	0	0	0	0	N/A
2018	0	0	0	0	N/A
2019	0	0	0	0	N/A
2020	0	0	0	0	N/A
2021	0	0	0	0	N/A
2022	0	0	0	0	N/A
2023	2	2	0	0	Unknown
2024	0	0	0	0	N/A

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

None reported.

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

None reported.

LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

None reported.

JONES CENTER

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)    N/A



Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2009	0	0	0	0	N/A
2010	0	0	0	0	N/A
2011	0	0	0	0	N/A
2012	0	0	0	0	N/A
2013	0	0	0	0	N/A
2014	0	0	0	0	N/A
2015	0	0	0	0	N/A
2016	0	0	0	0	N/A
2017	0	0	0	0	N/A
2018	0	0	0	0	N/A
2019	0	0	0	0	N/A
2020	0	0	0	0	N/A
2021	0	0	0	0	N/A
2022	0	0	0	0	N/A

2023	0	0	0	0	N/A
2024	0	0	0	0	N/A

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2015	8 GTs were translocated to GSF.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes – GTs held prior to being released on GSF.
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2020	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2022	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

2024	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

No activities reported

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

None reported.

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

- a) Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
2018	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2019	NA	NA	NA	2	NA
2020	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2021	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2022	1	1	0	0	Yes
2023	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2024	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

**ALL OTHER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NOT MENTIONED IN ABOVE SECTIONS**ARMY

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements;
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach];

NAVY

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; Signs are placed and maintained near burrows in areas that are frequented by people and burrows close to the road, these signs include information on the burrows, species status and protections. Each sign is large enough for mowers to see that there is a gopher tortoise burrow nearby reminding them to avoid mowing over the burrows apron and large enough for motorists to be aware a gopher tortoise may cross the road.
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements;
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach];

AIR FORCE

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];  
**Tyndall AFB:** Gopher tortoise crossing signage has been posted along forestry roads where larger populations of gopher tortoise are present for their protection and brochures were handed out at outreach events on Base and available at Natural Resources office.
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];  
**SLD45:** The SLD 45 provided natural resources training to contractor, security, Navy and explosive ordinance disposal personnel that have a need to occasionally travel off road. The training presentation included a discussion on gopher tortoise use of roads and road shoulders and using caution when driving in areas where tortoises may burrow or forage. The SLD 45 set up a display at CCSFS for Family Day in April 2024; the audience was SLD 45 personnel and family members (approximately 2000 people). The display included education material on gopher tortoises
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or  
**SLD45:** The SLD 45 Conservation Chief expressed concerns with the increase in interactions between gopher tortoises and vehicles and the need to adhere to speed limits and be observant to tortoises crossing the road. This meeting is attended by Delta leadership as well as other launch operators and tenants.
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

U. S. MARINE CORPS

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

USFS

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];

**Conecuh National Forest-**

1. **Walk in the Forest**, 4/29/2024 - 5/1/2024, Open Pond Recreation Area – Conecuh National Forest, Local 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students, Organized by Alabama Cooperative Extension and 4H
  2. **Indigo Snake and Wildlife Festival**, 5/3/2024, Open Pond Recreation Area – Conecuh National Forest, Organized by Alabama Cooperative Extension and 4H and USDA Forest Service
  3. **Auburn Wildlife Practicum**, 5/9/2024, Conecuh National Forest, Auburn University Wildlife Ecology and Management Students, Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements
  - d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

USFWS

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; N/A
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];  
  
PI: Weekly meet and greets with gopher tortoise model and signage on Centennial Trail, audience is all visitors, organized by volunteers
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or N/A
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

PI: 48 individuals reached through Facebook posts

ALABAMA DCNR

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA

b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];

DWFF staff provided multiple gopher tortoise related presentations at various workshops including Natural Resource Council County landowner tours, logger trainings, AFC Academy, ACES sponsored events, and others. Gopher Tortoise Day was also celebrated throughout the state. The Alabama Wildlife Federation conducted 49 programs promoting gopher tortoise conservation that reached 3,923 individuals (youth and adults combined).

c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or

d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

Several facebook posts and ADCNR DWFF newsletter articles were released to the public throughout the year regarding gopher tortoise conservation and management.

#### FLORIDA FWCC

a) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA

b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA

c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA

d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

#### GEORGIA DNR

a) Publications [signage, brochures]; N/A

b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];

(1) Gopher Tortoise Day Shellebration – Community outreach event focused on gopher tortoise biology and conservation hosted by Chehaw Park in Albany, GA; approx. 300 people; April 10, 2024.

(2) Career Day and Gopher Tortoise talk – Harlem Middle School, Harlem, GA for STEM connections classes, approx. 60 students; March 11, 2024.

c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA

d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

(1) *A Tortoise Called Pumpkin Spice* – Kumkwat Productions, informational video funded by The Environmental Resources Network (TERN).

#### SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

a. Publications [signage, brochures];

b. Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];

Attended and provided update on gopher tortoise related activities in South Carolina at the Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting – November 2024

Numerous presentations on native reptile/amphibian laws and turtles/tortoises of SC

- c. Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- d. Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

Answered numerous media inquiries regarding the gopher tortoise status in SC and provided social media posts about gopher tortoises and their commensals on the SCDNR social media pages.

#### GEORGIA DOT

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

#### POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

#### AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer]; NA
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

#### LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; NA
- b) Workshops and events (date, location, audience, organizer); NA
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or NA
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] NA

JONES CENTER

- a) Publications [signage, brochures]; None
- b) Workshops and events (date, location, audience, organizer); None
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or None
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach] None

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

- a) Publications [signage, brochures];
- b) Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- c) Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- d) Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]



**RESEARCH STUDIES – CONDUCTED BY OR SUPPORTED BY AGENCY/ORGANIZATION (IF PUBLISHED, INCLUDE CITATION)**ARMY

None reported.

NAVY

None reported.

AIR FORCE

**AVON PARK:** Voves, Kameron C., and Betsie B. Rothermel. "Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) Densities and Habitat Suitability Across a Xeric-Mesic Gradient in Peninsular Florida, USA." *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 19.2 (2024): 336-350.

**MACDILL AFB:** The first-ever gopher tortoise LTDS effort was completed by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy in May 2024 and will be used to examine future population trends. LTDS results are included in our five-year threatened and endangered species survey report, currently at the second draft stage with the final draft available by the end of January 2025.

**MOODY AFB:** Four additional gopher tortoises were tagged and located weekly to study their movement on the installation. Currently, Moody has seven gopher tortoises who are being tracked using radio telemetry.

MARINE CORPS

None reported.

USFS

None reported.

USFWS

None reported.

ALABAMA DCNR

DWFF biologists assisted with ongoing gopher tortoise research at Geneva Wildlife Management Area. Research collaboration was with Auburn University (headstart research – Anet Filipova, PhD student under Dr. Tonia Schwartz) and Eckerd College (Population Management of Gopher Tortoises at a Key Alabama Property – Dr. Jeffery Goessling). Assistance included gopher tortoise monitoring, trapping, enclosure construction, data collection, collaborating with researchers, and site inspections.

Goessling, J.M. 2024. Population Management of Gopher Tortoises at key Alabama Property. ADCNR Section 6 Final Report.

## FLORIDA FWCC

In FY23, the FWC funded the development of a spatially explicit model and analytical framework for LTDS data collected on Gopher Tortoise Recipient Sites. The finalized recipient site-specific LTDS methodology and framework is available as of FY24 (<https://f50006a.eos-intl.net/F50006A/OPAC/Details/Record.aspx?BibCode=5997078>).

To promote actionable science, FWC is funding research annually using gopher tortoise mitigation contributions. In the fourth year (FY24), two research proposals were funded, including:

- *Assessing trauma, road mortality and decomposition in gopher tortoises from east Florida*, submitted by Megan Stolen, Blue World Research Institute.
- *Geographic predictors of pathogen presence and individual genetic diversity, and their post-translocation consequences for gopher tortoises*, submitted by Dr. Kevin Loope, Virginia Tech.

FWC-identified research priorities in the 2024 fiscal year include:

- Factors that enhance recipient site fidelity and overall translocation success
- Impacts of translocated gopher tortoises on natural and adjacent gopher tortoise populations
- Updated Florida-wide gopher tortoise population estimate
- Compatibility of solar sites with gopher tortoises
- Gopher tortoise disease outbreak
- Agricultural/Silvicultural best management practices efficacy
- Identifying mass mortality indicators
- Site fidelity of tortoises inhabiting burrows proximal to development and/or on preserves of developed property
- Methods to reduce road mortalities
- Efficacy of burrow survey methodologies
- Impacts of gopher tortoise translocation practices on other species, especially commensals/SGCN
- Shell disarticulation studies to predict time since death

## GEORGIA DNR

Georgia DNR continued support for a disease prevalence study of the Red Hills region of Georgia conducted by Tall Timbers Research Station.

## SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

**Restocking with Waifs** – evaluating using waif tortoises as a conservation tool – efforts in collaboration with Drs. Tuberville and Buhlmann (SREL) to continually assess using waifs to create an MVP at AGTHP.

## GEORGIA DOT

None reported

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

None reported.

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

None reported.

LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

None reported.

JONES CENTER

None reported

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

N/A.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

No report received.

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

None reported.

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

None reported.

**CCA AGENCY/ORGANIZATION CONSERVATION STRATEGY**

(see CCA Section 10.2)

ARMY

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy N/A
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy. N/A

NAVY

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy

AIR FORCE

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy

MARINE CORPS

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy N/A
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy N/A

USFS

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy N/A
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy N/A

USFWS

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy None

ALABAMA DCNR

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy None

FLORIDA FWCC

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy N/A
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy N/A

GEORGIA DNR

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy None

SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None to report.
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None

GEORGIA DOT

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None

LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    None

JONES CENTER

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    N/A
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy    N/A

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

- a) Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None
- b) New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy - None

## APPENDIX I

*Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement (GTCCA)*

**Reporting Period: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023**

**Report due to the CCA Gopher Tortoise Team (GTT) Chair: March 15, 2024**

**Annual Assessment Report for:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Organization/Agency name*

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Organization/Agency contact name*

*The Candidate Conservation Agreement for the Gopher Tortoise (GTCCA) was signed and implemented in December 2008. The Agreement requires an annual assessment report from each party to the agreement to document conservation activities occurring within the gopher tortoise' non-federally listed range. To facilitate the compilation of information, this report format should be followed by all CCA partners. The assessment report should include activities completed on an annual basis for the period covering October 1 – September 30. Not all sections included below will be applicable to each organization. If sections of this report are not applicable to your organization's gopher tortoise conservation activities or are not applicable for the current reporting period, please indicate so. Please do not report the same data/information more than 1 time in the submitted report. Tables are provided below to help data on acres, management of gopher tortoise habitat, habitat protected, population monitoring, and translocations be consistent and easy to track and compile. Please add a new row for each reporting year.*

*The annual assessment report will be submitted to the Gopher Tortoise Team Chair by March 15, 2024. The final CCA Annual report will be compiled and submitted by the Gopher Tortoise Team Chair to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Principals by April 19, 2024. The final report will also be posted to the GTCCA website.*

### I. Executive Summary

Provide a brief summary of activities completed during the current reporting year.

### II. Relevant Activities to Listing Factor A (The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of the species habitat or range).

*Complete the table below to provide information on acres and management of gopher tortoise habitat under your agency's authority or management. Please combine totals if reporting on multiple properties.*

**c) How much potential gopher tortoise habitat does the signatory agency directly own or manage?**

- i. Total estimated acreage of protected gopher tortoise habitat (either by public ownership, by easement, or covered under a management plan that provides for the conservation of the gopher tortoise)

Table 1. Acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat owned or managed by the signatory agency (put n/a if not applicable)

Report year	Protected lands (Public)	Protected lands (Private)	Other lands owned or managed by the agency
2009			
2010			
2011			
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
2022			

2023			
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**d) Provide a short narrative regarding the type of management activities that were completed on the signatory's lands or other lands during the year, including any challenges or successes.**

i. Total estimated gopher tortoise habitat acres managed on "owned or managed lands" or "other lands" for reporting agency/organization.

Table 2. Land Management (numbers reflect acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat)

Report year		*Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat	Acres burned - growing season (%)	Acres burned - dormant season (%)	Acres of invasive species treated	Acres managed (e.g., mechanical, longleaf planting)
2009	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2010	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2011	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2012	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2013	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2014	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2015	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2016	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2017	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					



2018	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2019	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2020	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2021	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2022	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					
2023	Owned or managed lands					
	**Other lands					

\*The *Total acres restored or maintained as GT habitat* should be the sum of the preceding 4 columns.

\*\*Other gopher tortoise habitat/lands can include ANY lands regardless of ownership, protection level, or agreement.

#### e) Land Conservation

- i) Describe the type of acquisitions, easements and other conservation protection of gopher tortoise habitat.

Table 3. New acres of potential gopher tortoise habitat protected

Report year	Public conservation lands	Private lands under permanent conservation easement	Military installation lands (buffer areas)	Other lands protected by short-term easement, MOU, or similar
2009				
2010				
2011				
2012				

2013				
2014				
2015				
2016				
2017				
2018				
2019				
2020				
2021				
2022				
2023				

- ii) Total acres of land/habitat loss due to development activities or habitat degradation (identify cause of loss and if permanent/temporary). If data is not available, enter “unknown”.

Table 4. Acres of land/ gopher tortoise habitat lost that is under the direct ownership of the signatory agency.

Report year	Acres lost	Cause	Permanent or Temporary
2009			
2010			

2011			
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
2022			
2023			

#### d) Gopher tortoise population monitoring

Table 5. Population survey data (if survey methodology was *not* Line Transect Distance Sampling, indicate what methodology was used)

Report year	Survey date	Property surveyed (name)	Acres surveyed	Population estimate	Trend (increase, decrease, juveniles, etc.)	Methodology (if not LTDS)	Viable, primary or secondary support population?
-------------	-------------	--------------------------	----------------	---------------------	---	---------------------------	--

2009							
2010							
2011							
2012							
2013							
2014							
2015							
2016							
2017							
2018							
2019							
2020							
2021							
2022							
2023							

**e) Relevant Activities to Listing Factor B (Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes)**

**a. Education and outreach specifically targeting any collection activities that may incidentally or intentionally have negative impacts on either tortoises or their burrows.**

- i. publications [signage, brochures];
- ii. Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
- iii. Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
- iv. Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]

**f) Relevant Activities to Listing Factor C (Disease or predation)**

- a. Disease and die-offs (date, property/location, cause if known, number of deaths)**
- b. Disease screening efforts**
- c. Predator control**

**g) Relevant Activities to Listing Factor D (Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms)**

- a. Legal protection measures (new, revised or expired legal protections that impact tortoises and/or their habitat)**
  - i. State laws, rules and regulations
  - ii. Agency policies/directives/compliance documents
  - iii. Permitted takes (property/location, number of takes permitted)

**h) Relevant Activities to Listing Factor E (Other natural or manmade factors affecting the species continued existence)**

- a. Describe type(s) of projects or actions that prompted the permanent translocation or temporary relocation of gopher tortoises (in narrative form)**

Table 6. Translocation

Report year	Total number of tortoises permanently translocated	Number of GTs to protected lands	Number of GTs to unprotected lands	Number of tortoises temporarily relocated	Were GTs released into soft enclosures and held for at least 6 months?
-------------	--	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	---	--

2009					
2010					
2011					
2012					
2013					
2014					
2015					
2016					
2017					
2018					
2019					
2020					
2021					
2022					
2023					

**i) All other education and outreach not mentioned in Section III., above.**

a. Publications [signage, brochures];

- b. Workshops and events [date, location, audience, organizer];
  - c. Public service broadcasts/announcements; or
  - d. Electronic media [website, Listserv, other internet-based outreach]
- j) **Research studies – Conducted by or supported by agency (if published, include citation)**
- k) **CCA Agency Conservation Strategy (see CCA Section 10.2)**
- a. **Deviations from CCA Agency Conservation Strategy**
  - b. **New goals and strategies not included under the CCA Agency Conservation Strategy**

## APPENDIX II

**DEFINITIONS** (please see the GTCCA for a full list of definitions):

**Habitat without a designated special protection status** – applies to lands that are included in a management plan: this could consist of state public lands under a state management plan; Department of Defense installations (with a signed/approved Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan - INRMP).

**Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)** - a document that supports the military mission by combining a series of component plans into an ecosystem management approach and is the primary tool for managing species and their habitat on military installations.

**Long-term protection (habitat)** – applies to either privately owned lands placed under a perpetual (i.e., endless duration) conservation easement, or publicly owned lands purchased for conservation purposes where either restrictions on the acquisition funding source or government commitment (through ordinances or other regulations) would prevent or prohibit the eventual sale or development of the property.

**Protected (habitat)** – applies to any land that is protected from any future development (i.e. take of habitat).

**Short-term protection (habitat)** – applies to either privately or publicly owned lands that have some enforceable protection commitment, but those commitments do not meet the definition of "long-term protection."

**Unprotected Site (habitat)** – applies to lands that do not have any enforceable protection commitments or use restrictions that would prevent them from being modified and made unsuitable for tortoises.