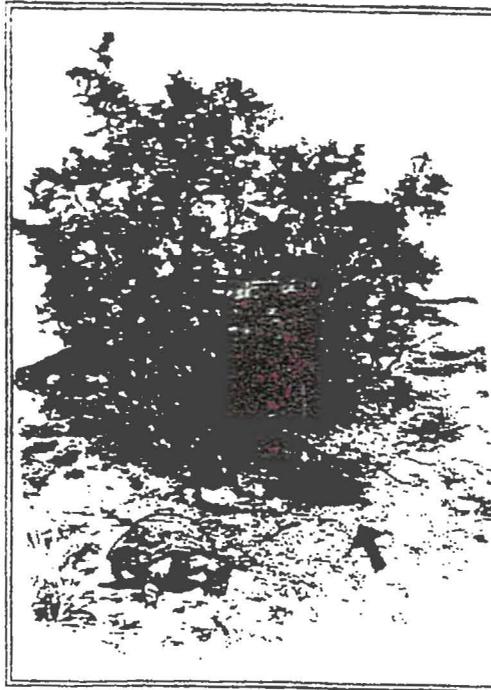


FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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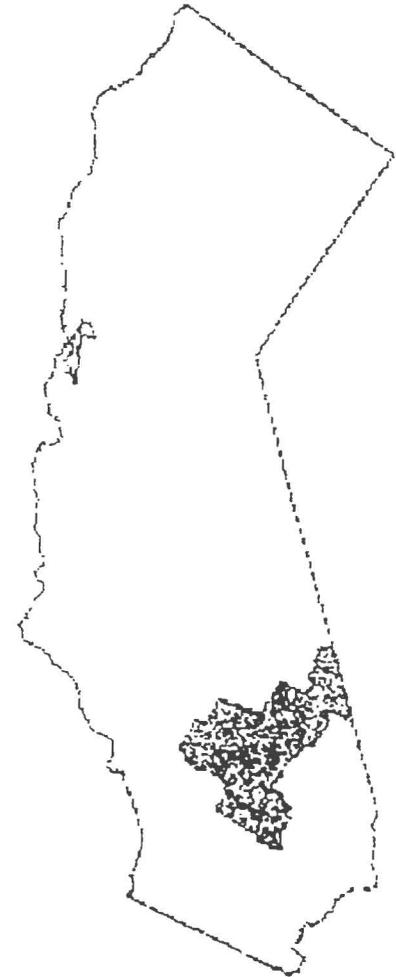


Desert Tortoise in front of tortoise burrow at the base of a creosote bush, a desert perennial.



Illustration borrowed from Bury, R. Bruce (Editor),
North American Tortoises: Conservation and
Ecology (United States Department of the Interior,
Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Research Report
12, Washington, D.C.), 1982 Page 17.

Casual Use Mining Guidelines



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Casual Use Mining Guidelines in the Barstow Resource Area

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing a multitude of uses on public lands within the Barstow Resource Area. Some uses, such as mining activity, compete with other uses. The mining laws allow an operator to conduct activity on public lands under the United States mining laws. Surface-disturbing activities are reviewed and monitored by the BLM to minimize, to the extent possible, impacts with other resources, without unreasonably interfering with mineral development, in order to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation to public lands. Regulations at Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3809, require mining operators to notify the BLM of certain actions that constitute a level of activity that would cause more than "negligible" surface disturbance. Activity only causing negligible disturbance is considered casual use.*

* "Casual use" is defined in the regulations pertaining to surface management of public lands on mining claims as "Activities ordinarily resulting in only negligible disturbance of the Federal lands and resources. For example, activities are generally considered casual use if they do not involve the use of mechanized earth moving equipment or explosives or do not involved the use of motorized vehicles in areas designated as closed to off-road vehicles as defined in sub-part 8340 of this title". 43 CFR Ch. II (10-1-95 Edition), 3809.0-5 Definitions.

Because there has been significant interest in casual use (recreational) mining in the Coolgardie and Ord Mountain areas, BLM has determined that guidelines are necessary to assure that casual use activity is conducted in a manner that does not cause unnecessary or undue degradation to public lands. Mining operators who adhere to the following guidelines are considered casual use (recreation) miners, and will not be required to file notice or a plan of operation for review with the Barstow Resource Area Manager:

1. Excavation and processing will be limited to hand tools, such as a pick, shovel, drywasher, or related implement.
2. Site clean-up will occur on a daily basis. All trash and food items that may attract ravens or other animals will be kept in closed containers and will be removed in a timely fashion.
3. Vehicular travel is restricted to signed open or designated routes of travel. Maps of open routes are available to look at or to purchase from any California Desert District BLM office.
4. Perennial vegetation and desert tortoise burrows are not to be disturbed. Due to the difficulty in distinguishing between desert tortoise burrows and those of other animals, all wildlife

burrows should be avoided.

5. Pits and trenches are to be constructed so that they will not entrap the desert tortoise or other wildlife. A small, earthen ramp can often be constructed in pits, allowing animals to escape.
6. Handling of desert tortoises is prohibited by law, unless a tortoise is in imminent danger.
7. All pets will be restrained or confined.
8. Recreational (casual use) miners will limit their stay to 14 days, or less, per visit.
9. Prior to leaving the area, all disturbed areas will be backfilled, recontoured, and raked.



NOTE: Any activity that exceeds the above guidelines must be conducted under an approved plan of operations.