

# Designated Biologist

Goal - Streamline the Process?

# Background - Acronyms

- Authorized Biologist = AB - Federal Designation for Biological Opinions (BO)
- Designated Biologist = DB - State Designation for Incidental Take Permits (ITP aka 2081)
- MOU = Memorandum of Understanding
- Mohave Ground Squirrel = MGS
- Desert Tortoise = DETO

# The Road to Designated Biologist

- Project is in MGS and/or DETO habitat
- Permittee obtains an ITP (Take Permit)
- Permittee hires prime contractor
- Prime typically hires potential Designated Biologist
- Potential DB submits documents to prime contractor
- Prime submits documents to permittee
- Permittee submits documents to CDFW
- CDFW responds to permittee (Approve, Deny, Request more info)
  - This process can take 3-6 months or longer especially if additional info is needed.
  - Information requests and approval time vary from region to region.

# Argument for Streamlining

- Saves a lot of time and paperwork for everyone
- Efficient = less \$\$
- Developers can plan their project with less unknowns. Many times they can not start until a DB is approved.
- Windows for clearing & grubbing can be as short as one month!-November. Approval process needs to be quick
  - Nesting bird season
  - Burrowing owl season
  - Active tortoise season
  - Desert kit fox pupping season
  - MGS active period
- Biologists can be assured they have been approved and that there are sufficient DB on site.
- New agency personnel, unfamiliar with biologists, would not have spend time reviewing qualified personnel.

# Discussion

## How Do We Streamline The Process?

- Internal CDFW list of approved Designated Biologists?
- All MOU holders = potential DB?
  - MOU holders have already been vetted
- MGS qualification form?