

MOJAVE DESERT TORTOISE RECOVERY

Gopherus agassizii

PRESENTED BY:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Workshop Agenda

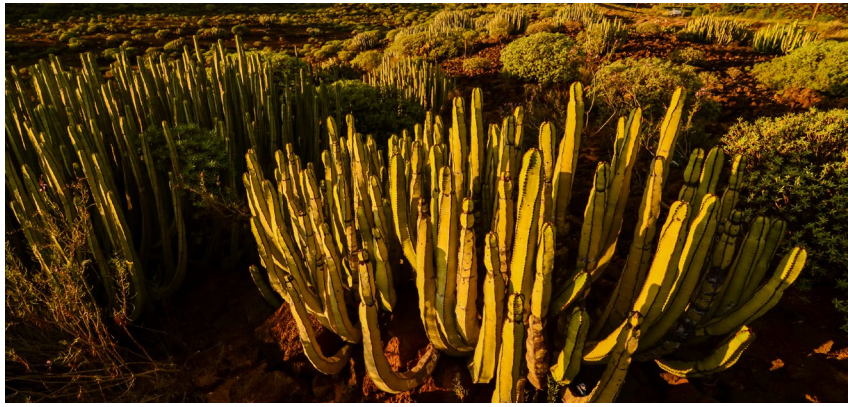
- Mojave Desert Tortoise
- Funding Overview
- Program Requirements
- Application Process
- WebGrants
- Q&A



Our Mission

To manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public.





Mojave Desert Tortoise

- Recently uplisted to endangered status under the California Endangered Species Act.
- Federally threatened under the ESA
- Occurs in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts
- California State Reptile



Mojave Desert Tortoise Threats

- Significant Population declines due to…
  - Habitat fragmentation
  - Road and vehicle strikes (paved and off-highway)
  - Disease
  - Predation, both natural and human subsidized predators
  - Invasive species and fire
  - Drought



Funding

- Senate Bill 111 amended the Budget Act of 2026.
- $2 million allocation of General Fund to CDFW to support the recovery of Mojave Desert tortoise.
- Grants must be executed spring 2027.
- Complete all grant funded project work and submit deliverables/final invoice by March 15, 2029.



Solicitation and Timeline

Activity	Dates (Subject to Change)
Consultations	Open
Application Opens	October 21, 2026
Application Workshop	November 9, 2026
Application Deadline	December 3, 2026
Awards Announcement	Spring 2027
Grants Commence	Spring 2027
Complete all grant funded project work and submit deliverables/final invoice	March 15, 2029

Eligible Applicants



- State and local government agencies
- Special districts
- California Native American Tribes
- Public entities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Land trusts operating within the priority areas

Eligible Project Activities

- Managing habitat connectivity and linkage protection.
  - Maintenance & installation of fencing along roads.
  - Installing & improving culverts, underpasses or overpasses.
- Cumulative-impact monitoring and data infrastructure (e.g. centralized geospatial tracking system for surface disturbance, remediation effectiveness, and translocation outcomes).
- Supporting on-the-ground efforts to improve habitat conditions affected by adjacent development including:
  - Addressing surface hydrology disruptions.
  - Predator monitoring and control.
  - Habitat restoration and enhancement actions.
  - Nonnative removal and control to benefit population recovery.
- Activities to support population augmentation.

Eligible Project Costs



- On-the-ground implementation
- Strategic population augmentation
- Adaptive management
- Partnerships & coordination costs

Priority Area

Projects should be located within the range and recovery units of the Mojave Desert tortoise, including, but not limited to, the following California counties:

- Imperial
- Inyo
- Kern
- Los Angeles
- Riverside
- San Bernardino



Application Documents

- Apply through CDFW's WebGrants portal
- Attachments
  - Project location and map
  - Excel budget template
  - Environmental Compliance and Permitting Questionnaire
  - Engineering plans and a Basis of Design, if applicable
- Additional documents are required for:
  - Acquisition projects
  - Projects that will change water rights, involve water diversion, or address stream flows or water use

Application & Review Overview



Grant Agreement Basics



- Successful applicants will receive a CDFW commitment letter.
- Grant Provisions will be provided at the time of award and are part of the executed agreement.
- Grantees work with their assigned CDFW Grant Manager to develop the grant agreement.
  - Much of the agreement is boilerplate language.
- Funds can only be disbursed once there is an executed grant agreement.
- Eligible expenses are reimbursed in arrears.

Pre-Agreement Documents

- The forms below can be found on the CDFW Grantee Resources page:
  - Drug-Free Workplace Certification (STD. 21)
  - Payee Data Record form (STD. 204) and/or Payee Data Record Supplement (STD. 205)
- 501(c)(3) Determination Letter (for non-profit organizations)
- An authorizing resolution from your governing body that confirms its approval of the projects and grant monies (if applicable).
  - Resolution should include: the agency's name, project name, language stating the agency is entering into a grant agreement with CDFW and receiving funds from CDFW, the CDFW award among, the position title that is authorized to sign the agreement for the agency.
- A Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for grant agreements with California Native American Tribes.

WebGrants Overview





All applications must be submitted via WebGrants

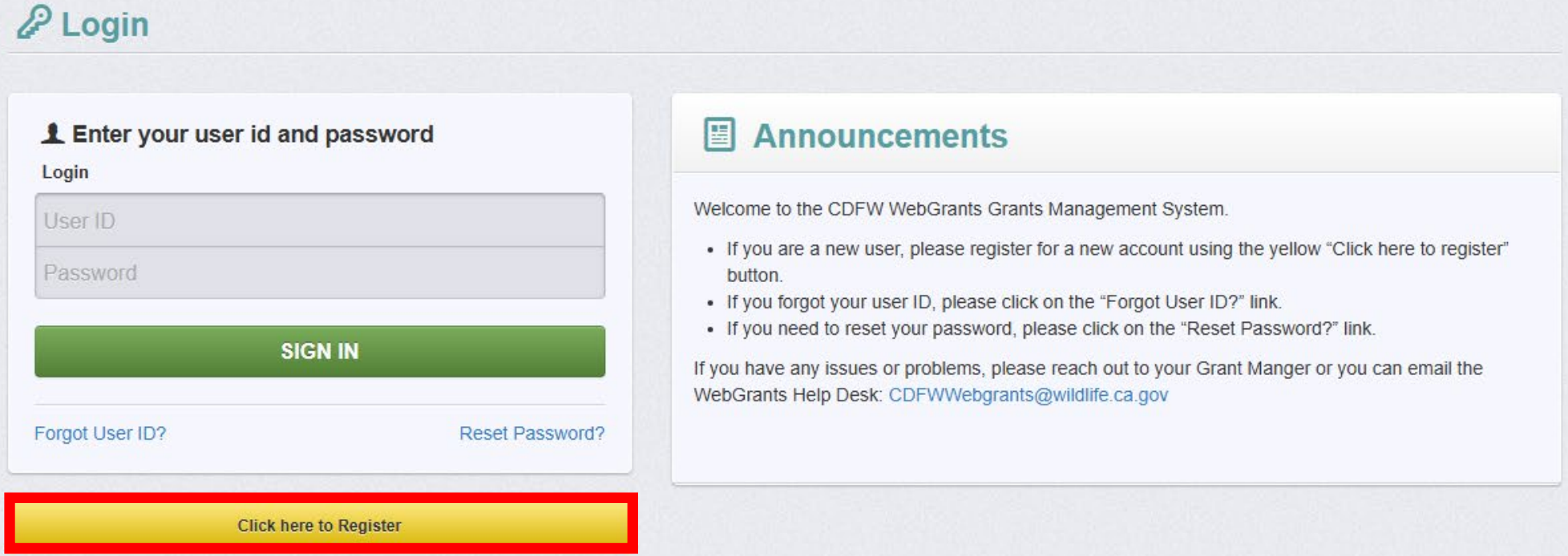
Submission Deadline:
4:30 PM (PST) December 3, 2026

WebGrants User Accounts

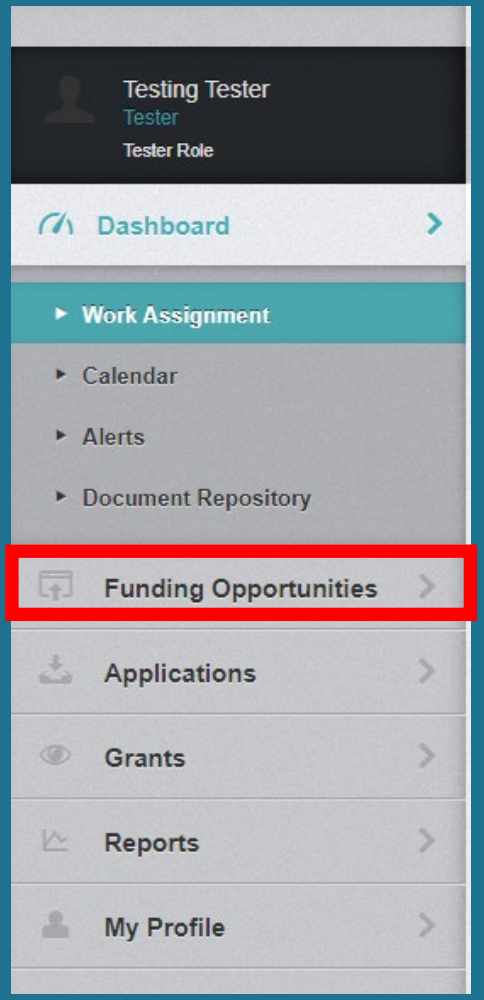
- Applicants need an active WebGrants user account.
  - Multiple users can work on the same application but must have their own user accounts that are designated as an additional contact on the application.
- Returning Applicants – Do not re-register. Use your existing user ID and password.
- New to WebGrants? – Please register to create an account.

How to Register for a WebGrants Account

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

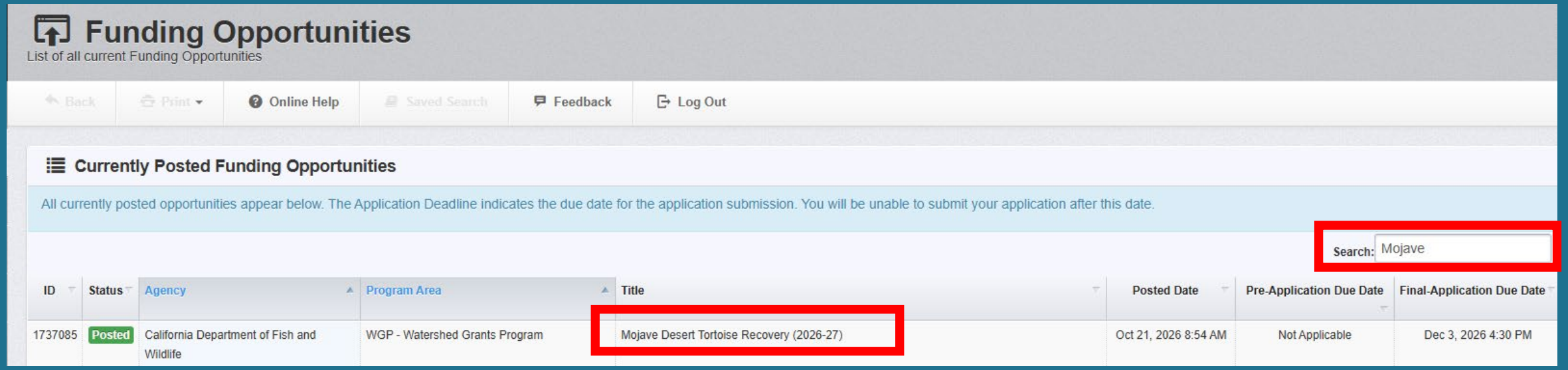


WebGrants Funding Opportunities



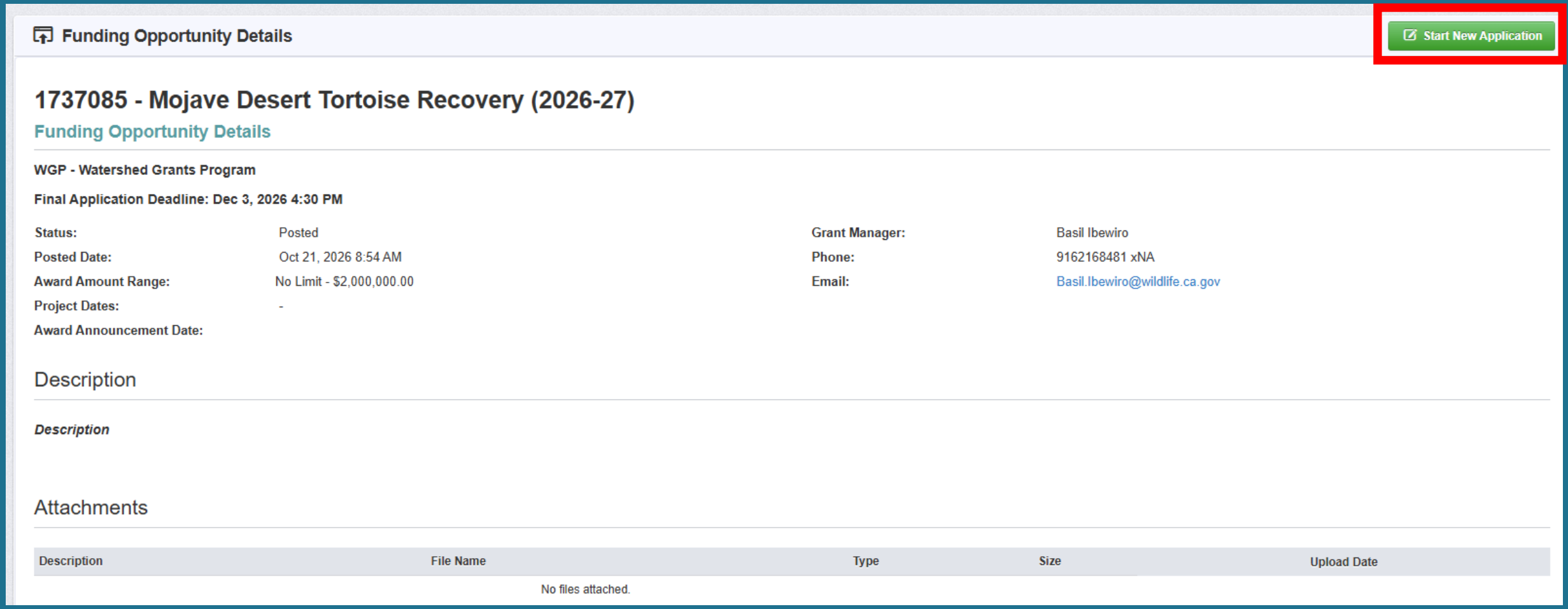
- Once your account is active:
  - Log in
  - Select "Funding Opportunities" from the menu on the left

Accessing the WebGrants Application



- This will take you to a list of all current funding opportunities.
- Use the search field on the right side to enter “Mojave” and filter the opportunities.
- Select “Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery (2026-27).”

Starting a New Application



Contact Us

WebGrants or Application Questions:

CDFWWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov
Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

General Questions or Consultation Requests:

WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov