

Winkelman NRCD Sonoran Desert Tortoise Plan Resolution

The Sonoran Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*) has long been a species of interest to the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District. The species is widespread throughout the district and shares its range with our cooperators' operations. The Meyer Study, which was conducted within our district across three grazing regimes, shows that the tortoise population is stable with good recruitment across all grazing regimes.

Nevertheless, questions are continually asked about the effects of livestock grazing in tortoise habitat.

Therefore,

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District, being a leader in habitat and species conservation, hereby adopts the Best Management Practices for Ranching in Sonoran Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*) *Habitat in Arizona* document as a basis for conserving and protecting the Sonoran Desert Tortoise and will include it in all ranch and farm Plans that we are asked to approve. We also hereby make it policy of the district to conduct at least bi-annual Tortoise Best Management Practices trainings for our producers and ask them to report to us in an annual survey of those best management practices they have utilized, on a voluntary basis.