- Water development should be allowed consistent with the HCP protocol.[3]
- Firefighting should be allowed.
- Research which will not negatively influence the desert tortoise should be allowed.
- Non-consumptive recreation (e.g., hiking, birdwatching) should be allowed.
- Maintenance of existing utilities including roads should be allowed.
- Desert tortoise translocation should not be permitted except as authorized under approved translocation projects.
- The eventual reconstruction of Skyline Drive should follow the existing alignment as near as possible except where engineering and/or safety considerations require deviations. Biological review under this HCP will be necessary when deviating from the current alignment. From Skyline Drive, no general public access will be permitted into the reserve, except on designated trails. However, access to Skyline Drive will be available for private landowners until their property is acquired.

3.3.4 Zone 4: Babylon

3.3.4.1 Description

Zone 4 covers the area known as Babylon, bounded on the west by Interstate 15 and Quail Creek Reservoir, on the south by the Virgin River, and on the north and east by approximate limits of desert tortoise habitat. Table 3.5 presents land ownership information, and Figure 3.5 presents boundaries and general land ownership. This area includes 5,191 acres of BLM land and 6 acres of private land.

3.3.4.2 Management

Management of Zone 4 would be similar to the other zones of the reserve. Zone 4 will be evaluated as a possible translocation site. If it is determined that Zone 4 is a suitable translocation site then it would be managed accordingly. The following management regulations are recommended for Zone 4:

- Hiking, equestrian use, and camping should be allowed.

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[3] The HCP is aware that the City of St. George is considering permanently storing water behind City Creek Dam and constructing a pipeline from the dam to deliver the water. Should this proposal be formally submitted, it will be reviewed according to the protocols contained in this HCP as further explained in the Appendix.

- Research, including non-intrusive monitoring of desert tortoise population dynamics should be allowed.

- Non-consumptive recreation should be allowed.

- Desert tortoise translocation would not be permitted except as authorized under approved translocation projects.

- No grazing will be allowed in desert tortoise habitat.

Table 3.6. Parcel Information for Zone 5 of the Proposed Reserve.

Township	Range	Section	Parcel #	Owner	Acres
T.41S.	R.13W.	21	BLM	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	16.67
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	BLM	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	52.92
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-1200	GRANT & MARGARET BEATTY	68.00
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-1400	KENNETH ANDERSON	10.79
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-1402	KENNETH ANDERSON	19.35
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-2201	CITY OF HURRICANE	22.24
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-2203	MOUNTAIN FUEL SUPPLY COMPANY	0.05
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-2401	CITY OF HURRICANE	79.88
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-310-SA	MTN. STATES TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE	0.22
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-3201	CALVIN & MONA LOWE TRUSTEES	79.31
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-3401	CALVIN & MONA LOWE TRUSTEES	39.13
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-4201	CALVIN & MONA LOWE TRUSTEES	37.24
T.41S.	R.13W.	27	H-3-1-27-4201	CALVIN & MONA LOWE TRUSTEES	98.25
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	3305-TR	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	22.09
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	BLM	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	39.17
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-1201	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	6.66
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-1301	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	1.51
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-1401	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	7.93
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-2101	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	20.27
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-2201	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	40.06
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-2301	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	39.61
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-3101	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	22.22
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-3201	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	25.27
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-4101	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	18.63
T.41S.	R.13W.	28	H-3-1-28-4201	AR SPILSBURY F.E.	0.06

3.4 WATER DEVELOPMENT, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER UTILITY CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Of critical importance to the residents of Washington County is the ability to maintain existing utility corridors and facilities within the proposed reserve as well as having the option to construct new utility corridors and flood control projects consistent with reserve management guidelines. This section outlines some of the anticipated future projects as well as protocols for their implementation (see also Appendix A). Figure 3.7 represents a sampling of current and future utility corridors within and adjacent to the proposed reserve. All existing utility corridors are approved and recognized as existing uses, whether or not they are shown on Figure 3.7.

3.4.1 Water Development

The importance of water development to the residents and local governments in Washington County cannot be overemphasized. Much of the water development potential exists in the aquifers beneath desert tortoise habitat on State School Trust lands. There is serious concern that the ability of the cities to pursue water development may be seriously curtailed should this HCP be implemented. Of particular concern is how the Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit is treated once State School Trust lands are exchanged to the BLM. To alleviate this concern, the Steering Committee has developed a protocol for water development in non-take areas and within the HCP reserve. This protocol (contained in Appendix A) is designed to comply with the Act for water development and maintenance of water facilities on BLM and non-Federal lands, and was developed primarily to avoid take of desert tortoise. This protocol will apply to future Section 7 consultations for utility projects in the Upper Virgin River Recovery Unit.

3.4.2 Flood Control

This HCP recognizes the need for flood control and other water retention structures in the reserve. Where these structures require other Federal permits, separate Section 7 consultation will be required. The Washington County Water Conservancy District has identified the need for flood control structures on Cottonwood and Quail Creeks, and a de-silting pond near the Virgin River, within the reserve. The HCAC will review said proposals.

3.4.3 Other Utility Corridor Construction and Maintenance

Numerous utility corridors exist throughout the proposed reserve. While some of these are new, others are much older and will require replacement and upgrading in the future. Two utility protocols are contained in Appendix A: one for water exploration, construction, operation, and maintenance and another for electric distribution line construction and maintenance. These protocols will be followed for utility corridor work within the proposed reserve.

3.5 ROAD PROTOCOL

Within the proposed reserve are five paved roadways: Snow Canyon, Tuacahn, Highway 18, Cottonwood, and Skyline Drive. Tuacahn and Skyline are currently fenced. Highway 18 will be fenced on both sides, enclosing a right-of-way between 200 and 300 feet. The following activities will be permitted within the fenced Highway 18 right-of-way: road maintenance, reconstruction, and widening; utility maintenance and installation; and bicycle paths construction and maintenance. Agreed upon protocols will have to be followed to minimize potential impacts to the Mojave desert tortoise. Existing tortoise fencing along Skyline Drive will be upgraded within the reserve boundaries, with the same right-of-way restrictions that apply to Highway 18. Snow Canyon, Cottonwood, and unpaved roads in Ivins and Babylon within the reserve have not been identified for fencing. However, improvements or maintenance to these roads should also follow the HCP protocol.