

Technical Committee Recommendation
Determination of Compensation Ratio for Mitigation, Assignment #2
September 2016

Assignment: To determine mitigation ratio for habitat loss and fragmentation from the proposed project, BLM access right-of-way in Diamond Valley

Background: Kirk Willey is proposing a private two-lane paved access road w/ a center median through the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. This access road would extend from SR-18 east to his 400 acre proposed residential community located south of Diamond Valley and north of Winchester Hills. An easement would be required for utilities (e.g., gas, sewer, and possibly water) which would be installed under the roadway. The project proponent anticipates high traffic flows for this parcel (700+ households on 400+ acres). The TC has requested formal guidance from the HCAC regarding a potential road project (since a new road would be unprecedented); however, in the event that the HCAC asks the TC to take on this assignment, a mitigation ratio has been determined.

TC recommendation:

The TC reviewed the Management Oversight Group Compensation document and calculated the ratio at a 1:5 acre compensation rate with lands adjacent to the Reserve . The calculations are described below.

Code	Factor	Explanation	Score
C	Category of habitat	Tortoise sign was present on site and a recent survey identified the area contained tortoise habitat (e.g., shelters, diverse vegetation, etc.). The area is identified as FWS critical habitat and is within the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve.	2.0
T	Term of effect	The effects of the proposed project are expected to be long term (> 10 years).	1.0
E	Existing disturbance on site	There is little or no existing habitat disturbance and plant diversity is high (> 30 plant species recorded). There is one old rocky dirt road that runs through the property.	1.0
G	Growth Inducing Effects	The proposed action will have growth inducing effects as 700+ homes are planned on the private property adjacent to the Reserve.	0.5
A	Adjacent Habitat Impacts	The proposed project will receive direct or indirect deleterious impacts as the proposed road will fragment habitat, increase the potential of direct mortality through road kills, and attract predators such as ravens.	0.5
	Total		5.0

