



## Gopher Tortoise Habitat Management Assistance Funding Requirements

The Gopher Tortoise Management Plan places great importance on the ability of protected lands to support gopher tortoise populations at levels that will ensure the long-term security of the species. FWC is requesting projects from local governments which will optimize gopher tortoise carrying capacity on protected lands through appropriate habitat management. Requests must be for active management of potential gopher tortoise habitat. Management activities may consist of prescribed burning, fire line installation, mechanical treatments, chemical treatments, fuel reduction, native planting, and/or exotic removal. Requests for assistance must manage at least 25 acres of gopher tortoise habitat, cannot include permitted gopher tortoise recipient sites or sites with a submitted recipient site application (excluding waif recipient sites), and cannot exceed \$15,000 per project. Projects with additional funding sources may still apply. Requests must include an aerial map, soils map, FLUCCS map, and a burrow survey. Burrow surveys should consist of an assessment of at least 15% of the potential habitat for sites that include less than 50 acres of gopher tortoise habitat, and 5% of the potential habitat for sites larger than 50 acres. **The burrow survey must be conducted according to the survey protocol included in Appendix 4 of the Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines (January 2017),** though surveys do not have to be completed by an Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent. Surveys must have been conducted within the last two years.

In an effort to minimize the potential loss of tortoises associated with previously-issued incidental take permits (ITPs), and to restock populations where depleted, applicants may apply for assistance funding for the installation of silt fencing constructed for the soft-release of gopher tortoises associated with incidental take permits. Requests for financial assistance with silt fencing installation must be for properties that include at least 100 acres of gopher tortoise habitat. To qualify for this funding, the applicant shall provide the FWC with a letter of agreement stating that the project property is willing to accept ITP gopher tortoises, and that it will be managed for gopher tortoises for the foreseeable future. The applicant must also provide a burrow survey map that assesses at least 15% of the potential gopher tortoise habitat. If the property is under conservation easement, please provide a copy of the easement as well. Contact Alex Kalfin at [Alex.Kalfin@MyFWC.com](mailto:Alex.Kalfin@MyFWC.com) for more information.

Additionally, the FWC is now providing assistance funding for the installation of silt fencing for the soft-release of gopher tortoises at waif recipient sites. Waif recipient sites provide refuge for displaced gopher tortoises that are not associated with permitted development projects. Requests for financial assistance with silt fencing installation for waif recipient sites must include a scientific collecting permit application, submitted previously or concurrently with the assistance application. There is no cost for a scientific collecting permit. The permit must be issued prior to receiving a reimbursement for silt fence installation, and any other management activities included in the assistance application.

**Project proposals must be received by FWC no later than Friday, August 21, 2020.** Recipients of funding assistance will be notified by Friday, September 18, 2020. Projects may begin upon issuance of the FWC purchase order and must be completed with a final invoice and project completion report submitted to FWC by **Friday, May 14, 2021.** Assistance will be prioritized based on cost per acre managed and plans for ongoing habitat management on the property. Local governments may submit multiple, concurrent applications for different projects. Submission of a request does not guarantee assistance from FWC. Assistance will be provided as cost reimbursement which must be invoiced as total cost. Projects shall be submitted to the attention of Alex Kalfin by either e-mail, [Alex.Kalfin@MyFWC.com](mailto:Alex.Kalfin@MyFWC.com) or ground mail, 620 S. Meridian Street, MS-2A, Tallahassee, FL 32399. Please use additional pages as needed. For additional information, contact Alex Kalfin at (850) 921-1145.

**Contact Information** (all entities must be registered in [MyFloridaMarketPlace](#) and contact info below must match My Florida Market Place registration information):

Local Government: \_\_\_\_\_ Department/Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
FEID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Site Information:**

Owner/Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parcel ID (please list all): \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_  
Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the project site under conservation easement or designated as public conservation lands? Please describe any other long-term protections.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of most recent gopher tortoise burrow survey (must be within the last two years): \_\_\_\_\_

Are gopher tortoise burrows located within the proposed project area(s) (i.e. area in which management activities will occur)?

Please check one

a. Yes \_\_\_\_ b. No \_\_\_\_

Estimated number of tortoises in project area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number of tortoises in all potential habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Total \*Potentially Occupied Burrows) x (0.50) = Tortoises/Acre (estimated)**

**\*Potentially Occupied Burrows includes all Active and Inactive burrows**

**(Tortoises/Acre) x (Acres of Potential Gopher Tortoise Habitat) = Estimated Number of Tortoises**

Have gopher tortoises been relocated to the property in the past (i.e. those associated with incidental take permits or standard relocation permits)? \_\_\_\_\_

For **each** proposed management activity, list the number of acres that will be managed and total funds requested:

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**Example:**

**50-acre prescribed burn completed by third party contactor for \$3,000**

**25-acre mechanical treatment via rollerchopper by third party contractor for \$4,500**

**3-acre native herbaceous groundcover planting for \$2,500**

**Total Amount Requested: \$10,000**

Estimated project start date: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated project completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total acres of site: \_\_\_\_\_

Total potential gopher tortoise habitat acres on site: \_\_\_\_\_

Total acres of project area(s) (i.e. total acreage to be managed using funding): \_\_\_\_\_

Total acres of gopher tortoise habitat within project area: \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost per acre of **gopher tortoise habitat** managed (i.e., Cost/acre for the management activity(s) proposed based on acreage of potential/occupied gopher tortoise habitat, not total property acreage):

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What is the direct benefit to gopher tortoises from the proposed management activities? \_\_\_\_\_

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Will other wildlife species benefit from the project? If so please explain.

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Is there a management plan for this property? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe any plans for continued future management. \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you learn of this habitat management assistance opportunity? \_\_\_\_\_

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Required attachments for habitat management activities:

\_\_\_Aerial Map\* \_\_\_FLUCCS Map\* \_\_\_Soils Map\* \_\_\_Burrow Survey\*

Required attachments for silt fence installation for ITP tortoises:

\_\_\_Letter of agreement to accept ITP gopher tortoises \_\_\_Aerial Map\* \_\_\_FLUCCS Map\* \_\_\_Soils Map\*  
\_\_\_15% Burrow Survey\*\*

Required attachments for silt fence installation for waif tortoises:

\_\_\_Scientific Collecting permit application/permit number \_\_\_Aerial Map\* \_\_\_FLUCCS Map\* \_\_\_Soils  
Map\* \_\_\_Burrow Survey\*\*

**\* Maps must include the overall property boundary and the location of all proposed habitat management activities and ITP recipient site/silt fence installation.**

**\*\*15% burrow survey for ITP recipient site application must be completed within 90 days of application.**