



# BLM Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management

300 S. Richmond Rd.

[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

Ridgecrest, CA 93555

## *Tortoise Awareness*

The Ridgecrest Field Office is home to the federally and State threatened desert tortoise. Please keep a few simple rules in mind when recreating in the area:

- Look out for tortoises on roads and trails, especially after rain events. Young tortoises are tiny and hard to see and can be out in the winter!
- Please pack out any trash and food items
- Tortoises rest in the shade, so check under vehicles before moving
- Remember as a protected species, you are not allowed to touch a wild tortoise; they might get startled, void their bladder, and dehydrate
- Please don't crush any burrows
- If you come across an injured or dead tortoise, or have any questions, please contact the BLM Wildlife Biologist at 760-384-5400.

If you are interested in adopting a captive tortoise, go to the Ridgecrest Chapter of the CA Turtle and Tortoise Club website: <https://tortoise.org/cttc/adoption.html>





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## *Mohave Ground Squirrel Awareness*

The Ridgecrest Field Office is home to the State threatened Mohave ground squirrel. This squirrel looks similar to the common species, the Antelope ground squirrel, but it does not have the white “racing” stripes down the sides.

Please keep a few simple rules in mind when recreating in the area.

- Look out for squirrels on roads and trails, they are most active in the Spring.
- Please pack out any trash and food items when you leave
- Please do not try to catch these squirrels as they are a protected species
- Please don't crush any shrubs or burrows, Mohave ground squirrels have small burrows that are usually tucked under bushes.
- If you come across an injured or dead squirrel, please contact the BLM Wildlife Biologist at 760-384-5400.

If you are interested in learning more about Mohave ground squirrels visit: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Mohave-Ground-Squirrel>

