

**Summary of Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines revisions (January 2017)**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Proposed revision</b>	<b>Result of change</b>	<b>Stakeholder input/notes</b>
1	<b>Introduction</b>	Revised the word "advisory" to "assistance" in paragraph 4 on pg. 1 in the sentence "Proposed changes...will be reviewed by FWC and a public stakeholder assistance group."	<i>Clarification</i>	No input
9	<b>Burrow Structure Protection permit</b>	Eliminated the \$25 mitigation requirement.	<i>Adds flexibility and eliminates a potential barrier</i>	Some stakeholders thought we should continue to charge \$25, but at the end supported staff suggestion to eliminate.
18	<b>Authorized GT Agent authorizations</b>	Added authorization to transport gopher tortoises to a recipient site when capture is authorized on the agent's permit.	<i>Adds flexibility and eliminates an unintentional barrier</i>	This action occurs but isn't specified in the permit authorization, and will now be included with no additional requirements from the permittee.
25, 110-111	<b>Public lands recipient/restocking site requirements</b>	Revised the land lease requirement for public lands as recipient/restocking site per the Department of Environmental Protection's letter to FWC (March 7, 2016).	<i>Adds clarification for public land managing agencies</i>	No input
46	<b>Recipient site permit application requirements</b>	Clarified "title search/commitment" to say "title search (not older than 180 days)" (per DEP policy)	<i>Adds flexibility - applicants have been providing both a search and a policy commitment when only a title search is needed</i>	No input
94, 98	<b>Nonnative species that use gopher tortoise burrows</b>	Revised handling and euthanasia requirements for certain nonnative species removed and captured from gopher tortoise burrows during relocations shall be euthanized unless otherwise authorized by FWC (includes all members of the following families: Pythonidae, Boidae, Varanidae, Iguanidae, and Teiidae.)	<i>Clarifies how to handle certain nonnatives found in burrows during capture activities</i>	Significant input from stakeholders to ensure this isn't too cumbersome to those trapping tortoises. Worked with FWC and revised per stakeholder input to specify which nonnatives <u>shall be euthanized</u> , v. which <u>should</u> (i.e. greenhouse tree frog).
10, 11, 12, 69	<b>Timing of site clearing and the need for additional surveys post-gopher tortoise capture/relocation</b>	Added a requirement that if tortoises are captured and relocated but land development/clearing does not commence within 90 days of last gopher tortoise survey, a re-survey of the project site must be conducted to ensure no tortoises have moved in.	<i>Adds flexibility for permittees to use other types of local government approvals (e.g., ERPs) for commencing capture and relocation activities.</i>	This revision was proposed by stakeholders and vetted thoroughly with GTTAG. This will minimize GTs potential violations if GTs re-occupy a development site if the project is delayed.