



1
00:00:39,619 --> 00:00:37,340
the mohave desert one of the hottest

2
00:00:43,759 --> 00:00:39,629
driest and most barren deserts of North

3
00:00:45,979 --> 00:00:43,769
America Webster's dictionary wants to

4
00:00:50,359 --> 00:00:45,989
find desert as a desolate and forbidding

5
00:00:52,340 --> 00:00:50,369
prospect but on the contrary the Mojave

6
00:00:54,529 --> 00:00:52,350
Desert is a fragile place where a

7
00:01:01,039 --> 00:00:54,539
variety of plants and animals unique to

8
00:01:02,630 --> 00:01:01,049
this territory are commonly found the

9
00:01:04,999 --> 00:01:02,640
state of the desert tortoise however

10
00:01:07,340 --> 00:01:05,009
perhaps best of all represents the

11
00:01:14,910 --> 00:01:07,350
delicate balance of desert life and its

12
00:01:19,469 --> 00:01:17,039
the desert tortoise can be found in the

13
00:01:21,840 --> 00:01:19,479

western portion of Arizona southeastern

14

00:01:28,289 --> 00:01:21,850

California and a small area of southern

15

00:01:31,080 --> 00:01:28,299

nevada utah and mexico the tortoise

16

00:01:33,840 --> 00:01:31,090

family has been in existence for 175

17

00:01:36,060 --> 00:01:33,850

million years but a mere century or so

18

00:01:39,690 --> 00:01:36,070

of living with humans may be proving too

19

00:01:41,789 --> 00:01:39,700

much for them tortoises living in the

20

00:01:43,859 --> 00:01:41,799

mojave desert are generally found below

21

00:01:49,620 --> 00:01:43,869

the 4,000 foot level in joshua tree

22

00:01:55,320 --> 00:01:49,630

communities creosote bush and saltbush

23

00:01:56,880 --> 00:01:55,330

scrub habitats the burrows in which they

24

00:01:58,289 --> 00:01:56,890

live protect them from the extreme

25

00:02:00,779 --> 00:01:58,299

temperatures found in the desert

26
00:02:02,490 --> 00:02:00,789
environment the Halfmoon like appearance

27
00:02:04,800 --> 00:02:02,500
corresponds to the shape of their

28
00:02:11,670 --> 00:02:04,810
shelves and can be anywhere from six

29
00:02:15,449 --> 00:02:13,830
with the rebirth of spring Lee emerge

30
00:02:18,030 --> 00:02:15,459
from their burrows when a climate brings

31
00:02:24,750 --> 00:02:18,040
warmth and a feast of new annual plants

32
00:02:30,720 --> 00:02:27,539
in the wild desert tortoises can survive

33
00:02:33,390 --> 00:02:30,730
70 years or more and grow to over one

34
00:02:36,149 --> 00:02:33,400
foot in diameter reproduction of the

35
00:02:39,210 --> 00:02:36,159
tortoises doesn't begin until 15 to 20

36
00:02:42,110 --> 00:02:39,220
years of age the female lays between 1

37
00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:42,120
and 15 eggs and then abandons the nest

38
00:02:47,160 --> 00:02:44,500

these small hatchlings are born

39

00:02:48,930 --> 00:02:47,170

approximately 90 days later with very

40

00:02:51,119 --> 00:02:48,940

soft shells that will not become

41

00:02:53,580 --> 00:02:51,129

completely hardened for about five or

42

00:02:55,830 --> 00:02:53,590

six years and it is during this

43

00:02:58,830 --> 00:02:55,840

relatively defenseless stage that they

44

00:03:01,470 --> 00:02:58,840

fall prey to many animals consequently

45

00:03:03,479 --> 00:03:01,480

there's slow reproductive cycle delicate

46

00:03:06,089 --> 00:03:03,489

early years and destruction of their

47

00:03:16,349 --> 00:03:06,099

habitat make it difficult to save this

48

00:03:18,509 --> 00:03:16,359

frail species in 1990 the US Fish and

49

00:03:20,520 --> 00:03:18,519

Wildlife Service listed the desert

50

00:03:23,369 --> 00:03:20,530

tortoise has threatened under the

51
00:03:25,559 --> 00:03:23,379
Endangered Species Act this listing was

52
00:03:28,680 --> 00:03:25,569
prompted by severe population declines

53
00:03:31,409 --> 00:03:28,690
caused by the loss of habitat from

54
00:03:33,420 --> 00:03:31,419
off-road vehicles agriculture grazing

55
00:03:36,300 --> 00:03:33,430
animals and urbanization destroying

56
00:03:38,009 --> 00:03:36,310
their burrows and food supply people

57
00:03:40,470 --> 00:03:38,019
collecting these interesting creatures

58
00:03:44,550 --> 00:03:40,480
as pets exposing them to numerous

59
00:03:46,349 --> 00:03:44,560
diseases and predation by Ravens coyotes

60
00:03:56,500 --> 00:03:46,359
and Badgers are leading to their

61
00:03:56,510 --> 00:04:03,589
you

62
00:04:08,250 --> 00:04:06,539
since the early 19th century urban

63
00:04:11,100 --> 00:04:08,260

development has been deteriorating the

64

00:04:13,050 --> 00:04:11,110

desert tortoise habitat urbanization is

65

00:04:51,880 --> 00:04:13,060

expanding into regions of desert that

66

00:04:56,540 --> 00:04:54,350

since tortoises don't venture far from

67

00:04:59,030 --> 00:04:56,550

their original territory they are not

68

00:05:01,940 --> 00:04:59,040

likely to survive if relocated to areas

69

00:05:04,370 --> 00:05:01,950

adjacent to develop regions once their

70

00:05:07,520 --> 00:05:04,380

home is destroyed they too could perish

71

00:05:09,770 --> 00:05:07,530

and while progress is an undeniable part

72

00:05:11,930 --> 00:05:09,780

of our existence we still need to be

73

00:05:17,480 --> 00:05:11,940

aware of our desert ecosystem and the

74

00:05:19,280 --> 00:05:17,490

impact we are creating construction

75

00:05:21,310 --> 00:05:19,290

crews are being urged to watch out for

76

00:05:24,280 --> 00:05:21,320

the desert tortoise and other wildlife

77

00:05:26,510 --> 00:05:24,290

before any construction project begins a

78

00:05:28,430 --> 00:05:26,520

biological assessment is made in which

79

00:05:33,470 --> 00:05:28,440

areas to avoid are highlighted with

80

00:05:35,300 --> 00:05:33,480

ribbons and sometimes fencing crews are

81

00:05:37,640 --> 00:05:35,310

asked to limit the amount of disturbance

82

00:05:39,950 --> 00:05:37,650

within their project area check in

83

00:05:42,320 --> 00:05:39,960

trenches and holes for any animals that

84

00:05:44,030 --> 00:05:42,330

might have fallen in look under their

85

00:05:46,610 --> 00:05:44,040

vehicles for tortoises that like to

86

00:05:50,630 --> 00:05:46,620

escape from the Sun and discard all

87

00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:50,640

trash to keep predators away if a

88

00:05:54,920 --> 00:05:52,170

tortoise is spotted the project

89

00:05:57,500 --> 00:05:54,930

supervisor and a wildlife biologist must

90

00:05:59,990 --> 00:05:57,510

be notified immediately if a tortoise is

91

00:06:02,660 --> 00:06:00,000

killed accidentally or otherwise the

92

00:06:04,850 --> 00:06:02,670

project could be delayed following these

93

00:06:07,280 --> 00:06:04,860

simple guidelines could aid in saving a

94

00:06:11,650 --> 00:06:07,290

multi-million dollar project and an

95

00:06:17,870 --> 00:06:14,150

agriculture has also stripped away vast

96

00:06:19,250 --> 00:06:17,880

areas of desert environment and grazing

97

00:06:21,770 --> 00:06:19,260

livestock are competing with the

98

00:06:25,940 --> 00:06:21,780

tortoises food supply by feasting on the

99

00:06:31,770 --> 00:06:29,460

the Raven a species common to the Mojave

100

00:06:34,740 --> 00:06:31,780

Desert has become a major predator of

101
00:06:36,900 --> 00:06:34,750
the tortoise over the past 40 years the

102
00:06:39,270 --> 00:06:36,910
raven population has grown in response

103
00:06:44,520 --> 00:06:39,280
to urbanization and increased feeding

104
00:06:49,530 --> 00:06:44,530
opportunities at landfills many perceive

105
00:06:51,690 --> 00:06:49,540
the desert to be indestructible however

106
00:07:04,610 --> 00:06:51,700
the increasing popularity for desert

107
00:09:34,750 --> 00:09:27,430
you

108
00:09:37,510 --> 00:09:34,760
opportunity to watch a really unique

109
00:09:40,600 --> 00:09:37,520
animal in its natural environment watch

110
00:09:43,450 --> 00:09:40,610
what it does is it feeds is it is it

111
00:09:46,240 --> 00:09:43,460
seek shelter maybe even makes a nest or

112
00:09:47,890 --> 00:09:46,250
mates we would advise you to stay back

113
00:09:50,440 --> 00:09:47,900

and not interfere with the tortoises

114

00:09:53,250 --> 00:09:50,450

life pattern certainly we urge you not

115

00:09:56,170 --> 00:09:53,260

to pick it up or harass it in any way

116

00:09:58,240 --> 00:09:56,180

these animals are very delicate and and

117

00:09:59,980 --> 00:09:58,250

even though they're Hardy in the sense

118

00:10:05,830 --> 00:09:59,990

of being able to live in the desert they

119

00:10:07,570 --> 00:10:05,840

they don't do well when handle if you do

120

00:10:09,610 --> 00:10:07,580

happen to come across a tortoise that

121

00:10:15,270 --> 00:10:09,620

appears to be an immediate danger like

122

00:10:15,280 --> 00:10:20,880

note the direction in which it is moving

123

00:10:26,050 --> 00:10:23,650

gently pick it up placing your hand

124

00:10:31,230 --> 00:10:26,060

under the belly for support and be

125

00:10:37,090 --> 00:10:34,600

then approximately 100 feet off the road

126

00:10:45,570 --> 00:10:37,100

in a shaded area place the tortoise in

127

00:10:49,900 --> 00:10:47,740

protecting the desert tortoise and all

128

00:10:52,290 --> 00:10:49,910

life in the ecosystem from extinction is

129

00:10:54,580 --> 00:10:52,300

a responsibility we all must share

130

00:10:56,800 --> 00:10:54,590

developing an awareness of the various

131

00:10:58,510 --> 00:10:56,810

forms of life and existence is perhaps

132

00:11:01,480 --> 00:10:58,520

the first step in this conservation

133

00:11:06,590 --> 00:11:03,650

biological research has indicated that

134

00:11:09,170 --> 00:11:06,600

ecosystems can maintain themselves if we

135

00:11:10,970 --> 00:11:09,180

preserve them as complex systems this

136

00:11:12,800 --> 00:11:10,980

means all the parts of the system

137

00:11:15,620 --> 00:11:12,810

whether plant or animal are

138

00:11:46,949 --> 00:11:15,630

interconnected and must be preserved in

139

00:11:54,129 --> 00:11:50,590

the desert tortoise is only one animal

140

00:11:57,670 --> 00:11:54,139

in the desert however it's burrows

141

00:11:59,710 --> 00:11:57,680

provide habitat for other species it's

142

00:12:01,900 --> 00:11:59,720

been here a lot longer than the human

143

00:12:04,960 --> 00:12:01,910

race has probably dating back to the age

144

00:12:07,689 --> 00:12:04,970

of the dinosaurs it's an indicator that

145

00:12:09,639 --> 00:12:07,699

the health of the system is suffering

146

00:12:14,949 --> 00:12:09,649

when we see declines in an animal like

147

00:12:17,619 --> 00:12:14,959

this as we gain more insight into this

148

00:12:19,600 --> 00:12:17,629

diverse biological world we live in we

149

00:12:27,069 --> 00:12:19,610

also have the responsibility to preserve

150

00:12:30,179 --> 00:12:27,079

it progress and technology have advanced

151
00:12:33,040 --> 00:12:30,189
the human race to limitless capabilities

152
00:12:35,220 --> 00:12:33,050
but imagine if we started taking parts

153
00:12:37,989 --> 00:12:35,230
out of today's highly complex aircraft

154
00:12:40,059 --> 00:12:37,999
take away one part too many and the

155
00:12:43,509 --> 00:12:40,069
aircraft is destroyed in the mission

156
00:12:45,340 --> 00:12:43,519
lost so too with our environment if one

157
00:12:47,199 --> 00:12:45,350
part is missing like the desert tortoise

158
00:12:51,040 --> 00:12:47,209
then our mission of maintaining a

159
00:12:53,230 --> 00:12:51,050
healthy environment may be lost it is

160
00:12:56,829 --> 00:12:53,240
not too late if we all do our part in

161
00:12:59,049 --> 00:12:56,839
maintaining this delicate balance as we

162
00:13:00,939 --> 00:12:59,059
continue to explore the unknown our