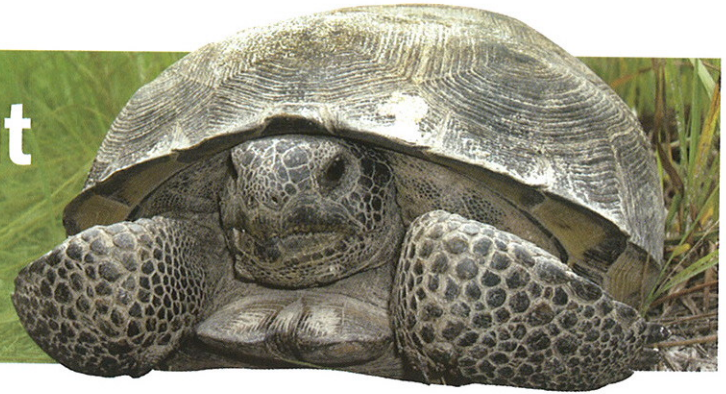


Get The Facts About Gopher Tortoises:

Permitting and Mitigation



FWC's new permitting process includes . . .

- a simple permit for relocating a small number of tortoises.
- a conservation permit that replaces the former standard relocation and incidental take permits.
- a mitigation contribution to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).
- a Web-based permit application system that will expedite all gopher tortoise permit applications.

Permits are not required for . . .

- vegetation maintenance along linear utility lines and highways, agricultural or silvicultural activities or activities conducted to improve habitat for wildlife. However, a permit would be required if these activities are directly related to or in preparation for development and impact gopher tortoises or their burrows.
- development that occurs more than 25 feet (radius) from the entrance of a gopher tortoise burrow.

Permits are required if . . .

You cannot avoid development within a 25-foot radius of the entrance to a burrow. In this case, you must obtain a permit for any gopher tortoise capture, relocation and release prior to initiating any land clearing, grading or other development activities.

When should you apply for a permit?

The FWC has 90 days from the receipt of a completed application to issue a permit; however, the FWC tries to issue them within 45 days. It is advisable to submit completed applications to the gopher tortoise permit coordinator at least 90 days prior to the time needed.

How can I apply or get more information?

More permitting information, including the online permit application system and application forms, is available at MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise or contact the gopher tortoise permit coordinator at 850-410-0656, Ext. 17327.

Which permit do you need and how much will it cost?

PERMIT TYPE	MITIGATION CONTRIBUTION
Authorized Agent*	\$500 (one time contribution)
Recipient Site	\$500 per site (one time contribution)
10 or Fewer Burrows impacted <i>tortoises are relocated on-site or off-site*</i>	\$200
Conservation* - more than 10 burrows impacted and relocation to a protected area	\$200 for first five tortoises \$300 each additional tortoise
Conservation* - more than 10 burrows impacted and relocation to a short-term protected area	\$200 for first five tortoises \$3,000 each additional tortoise
Conservation* - more than 10 burrows impacted and relocation to an unprotected area	\$3,000 each tortoise

*Authorized agent permits are required for capture, relocation and release activities associated with any off-site relocation.



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com