



Natural Resources Conservation Service
5820 S. Pecos Rd., Suite 400
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120

July 21, 2011

Mr. David Spicer
STORM-OV, Inc.
PO Box 278
Beatty, NV 89003

Dear Mr. Spicer:

Subject: Innovative Conservation Accomplishments with Techniques Developed by
STORM-OV for the Amargosa Toad in Oasis Valley, Nye County, Nevada

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been working with various partners in the Oasis Valley to help stabilize and enhance Amargosa toad habitat with limited success. After working with STORM-OV, the NRCS found that conservation techniques implemented on the Boiling Pot Ranch and the Torrance Ranch are having a profound positive impact on toad habitat.

The NRCS partnership with STORM-OV for an Amargosa toad habitat enhancement project funded through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) on the Boiling Pot Ranch will decrease habitat fragmentation, provide new breeding areas, new foraging areas, and provide better water control for producing desirable habitat for the toad. Invasive brush species will be controlled and there will be an increase in desirable forage for livestock. Grazing will be controlled to increase plant and animal health and vigor, and spring water distribution will be maximized for wildlife and livestock.

In particular, STORM-OV has demonstrated that a 'hands off' approach in managing the riparian and wetland corridors can have a negative effect on toad habitat. STORM-OV has shown that grazing livestock in the Oasis Valley can be a compatible and beneficial tool for improving toad habitat where properly managed. STORM-OV has also developed techniques to distribute spring water over a larger area to decrease habitat fragmentation and increase breeding and foraging areas for the toad. The positive effects of these techniques have been demonstrated through population surveys for the toad that are conducted twice a year in the Oasis Valley.

The work that STORM-OV has conducted in the Oasis Valley has no doubt helped keep the toad from becoming listed federally as a threatened or endangered species. The NRCS applauds the efforts made by STORM-OV to help perpetuate this species. The NRCS looks forward to continue working with STORM-OV and other partners in the Oasis Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jarrod Edmunds".

Jarrod Edmunds
Mojave Special Projects Office Leader