

# Tucson Herpetological Society

Wednesday May 17 2017 – 7:15 PM

Tucson City Council Ward 3, 1510 E Grant Road

## The Desert Tortoise – The Challenges of Conservation

Bruce Palmer, Chairperson of the Desert Tortoise Council



The mission of the Council is to assure the perpetual survival of viable populations of the desert tortoise represented throughout its historical range. The Council hosts symposia and workshops, reviews projects to provide science-based comments, and raises funds in support of the mission. However, most tortoise populations throughout the Mojave Desert continue to decline, and increasingly more habitat is being lost. Threats to desert tortoises have never been greater. Threats to the tortoise are complex and difficult to address at a landscape level.

As a private, non-profit organization how can the Council influence federal and state agencies to allocate limited staff and budgets to tortoise projects and to prioritize the tortoise in working with development projects? We will discuss the challenges and opportunities involved in advancing our mission.

With degrees from Elmhurst College, Illinois and Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff Bruce worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department as the first Nongame Habitat Specialist and participated in tortoise surveys and demographic monitoring studies. He developed a statewide tortoise distribution map. In 1992, Bruce joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Phoenix, as an ecologist working with Arizona's rare and endangered plants, and then as supervisor of the USFWS Bird and Mammal consultation and recovery program for Arizona. He coordinated the USFWS California Condor Recovery Program. For 10 years Bruce has been working in the private sector, currently at Jacobs Engineering in Phoenix, assisting clients with environmental compliance obligations and advancing responsible land and natural resource management.

### **NOTE – CHANGED VENUE**

**Pre-meeting gathering:**

**5:30 at Rubio's  
2906 N Campbell**

