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GOPHERUS BERLANDIERI (Texas Tortoise). MORTALITY.

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GOPHERUS BERLANDIERI (Texas Tortoise). **MORTALITY.** During mammalian wildlife research on ranches in Webb County, Texas (Engeman et al. 2002. Wildl. Res. 29:85–90), we observed two common sources of mortality for *Gopherus berlandieri* (listed as a threatened species in Texas) based on locations of shell remains. First, the ranches had a network of primary dirt roads crisscrossed by smaller one-lane roads/tracks. Shell remains (often in poor condition) were frequently discovered adjacent to the roads in this network, suggesting collisions with vehicles as the source

of mortality. Vehicles have been well-documented as hazards for the related *G. agassizii* (e.g., Luckenbach 1982. *In* Bury [ed.], North American Tortoises: Conservation and Ecology, pp. 1–38, USFWS Wildl. Res. Rpt. 12; Boarman and Sazaki 1996. *In* Evink et al. [eds.], Trends in Addressing Transportation Related Wildlife Mortality, pp. 179–184, State of Florida Dept. Transportation, Tallahassee, Florida). The other common location for discovery of tortoise shell remains was along fences constructed with woven field fencing at the bottom. The tortoises apparently became entangled in the fence wires and were unable to free themselves. We observed no shell remains away from these human constructions, despite extensive work in natural habitat.

Submitted by **RICHARD M. ENGEMAN** (e-mail: Richard.M.Engeman@aphis.usda.gov) and **MICHAEL J. PIPAS**, USDA/Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, 4101 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2154, USA; and **HENRY T. SMITH**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service, 13798 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455, USA.

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