

## Voluntary Best Management Practices for Solar Development Compatible with Conservation of Gopher Tortoises

### Preliminary Site Evaluation

Determine if the land has potential habitat for gopher tortoises or other at risk species:

- Is the site located within the range of the gopher tortoise?
- Is the site adjacent to an existing protected area?
- Does the site have sandy and well-drained soils?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, it is recommended that a preliminary survey for gopher tortoises and their burrows be conducted. Contact your state fish and wildlife agency for guidance and technical assistance about surveying and what to do if you find tortoises on the property.



**Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources**  
(334)242-3469;

<https://www.outdooralabama.com/nongame-wildlife-species-projects/gopher-tortoise-project>

**Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division;** (770)761-3035 or (478)994-1438; [www.georgiawildlife.org](http://www.georgiawildlife.org)

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Gopher Tortoise Management Program;** (850)921-1030 or (850)921-1031; <http://MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise>

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Heritage Program**

(225)765-2809 or (225)765-2800; [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program)

**Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Natural Heritage Program**

(601) 576-6046; <https://www.mdwfp.com/museum/seek-study/heritage-program/>

**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources**

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division; (803)734-3886; <http://dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/herps/turtle.html>

