



Nevada Fish & Wildlife Service  
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## **Avoid Construction Delays & Help us protect the burrowing owls**

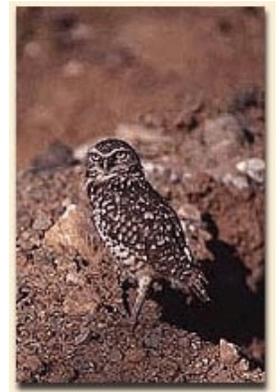
Here are some tips to avoid taking or killing burrowing owls and their eggs or young during construction activities on private land in Clark County:

### **Collapse burrows now, but check for owls first**

Burrowing owls often inhabit an abandoned desert tortoise burrow. To avoid harming these owls during their breeding season (March through August), collapse all burrows, holes, crevices, or other cavities on the construction site **BEFORE** the breeding season begins. This will discourage owls from breeding on the construction site. A fiber optic scope or remote mini camera may be used to look into a burrow to help determine the presence of a nest.

If burrowing owls are found, they may or may not be breeding. Please call the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 702-515-5230 to seek assistance in determining nesting status. You can also hire private environmental consultants who can assist in determining breeding status. If breeding behavior is observed, you should assume that an active nest is present and the area should be avoided until chicks fledge or it is determined that the nest failed.

If an owl is nesting, the entire site must be avoided until the chicks fledge to ensure that birds do not abandon the nest. The total nesting time is a minimum of 74 days during which time construction activity would need to cease on the site. Generally, eggs may be laid anywhere between mid-March and the end of May, and young may be present anywhere from mid-April through August.



A combination of the behaviors listed below may indicate the presence of an active nest:

A pair of owls is observed constantly at a site, then only one owl is seen. This is an indication that the pair may have chosen a nest burrow, and the female has gone down below to lay and incubate eggs. Once incubation begins the female rarely leaves.

An owl is frequently seen carrying food to the burrow. The male provides food for the female while she is incubating eggs. The best time of day to observe owls is dawn and dusk, but they can be active throughout the day. The male will most likely leave the food in front of the burrow and the female will come to the entrance to take the food. This is probably the best indication that the owls have an active nest.

Only one owl has been seen for awhile, but all of a sudden two owls are seen again. This would indicate that the eggs have hatched, and the female has emerged from the burrow to assist the male in hunting for food to feed the chicks. About 10 days later you may start seeing the chicks at the entrance of the burrow.

**Burrowing owls are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.**

**Please use caution to protect these birds.**

**If you find an injured burrowing owl, please call us at 702-515-5230**