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Executive Summary

Project 1. Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring, Management, and Research
- Translocation program completed this quarter at current active translocation sites.
- Egg mass surveys at Blue Point Spring conducted approximately weekly; two additional egg massed collected from site for head-starting.
- Frogs released at Blue Point and Rogers from egg masses collected at Blue Point in March and April, further augmentations planned.
- Spring nocturnal surveys completed.
- Coordination for potential translocation sites on BLM lands ongoing.
- Habitat improvements coordinated and conducted at one new translocation site on BLM lands in the Gold Butte; site received frogs in April.
- All milestones and deliverables associated with the MSHCP project are on schedule.

Project 2. Bald Eagle Winter Monitoring and Evaluation
- Work progressing on assessment to quantify habitat selection; associated literature reviews and preliminary statistical analyses underway.
- All MSHCP milestones and deliverables associated with this project are on schedule.

Project 3. Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Evaluation
- Peregrine falcon monitoring for this season is nearing completion with 137 surveys conducted at 34 different sites.
- The associated MSHCP projects are on schedule for all milestones and deliverables.

Project 4. Assessment of Six Covered and Three Evaluation Bird Species
- Field surveys of four intensive area search plots to meet MSHCP project requirements completed; habitat assessments of sites underway.
- Surveys continuing at one intensive area site to better understand Le Contes’ thrasher breeding activity.
- Thrasher habitat modeling ongoing; meetings with UNLV biostatistician conducted.
- Data-mining to determine historical locations for targeted songbird species is progressing.
- Project on schedule for all associated MSHCP milestones and deliverables.

Project 5. Desert Tortoise Monitoring and Management
- Efforts for this project have been completed under this task agreement (as modified).

Project 6. Shorebird Monitoring on Lakes Mead and Mohave
- Twenty-one surveys of monitored sites on Lakes Mead and Mohave were conducted.
- Monitoring of snowy plover breeding sites initiated in May.
Project 7. Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Use Monitoring in Relation to Highway Development.
   - Efforts to retrieve GPS collars have been essentially completed.
   - Technical assistance not required this quarter, but a meeting has been tentatively scheduled for this next quarter to determine final products.

Program Activities

The task agreement was awarded to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) on October 1, 2006. Research, monitoring, and management activities are conducted primarily by UNLV Public Lands Institute (PLI) employees. During the quarter ending June 30, 2008, activities that have occurred toward meeting actions in the statement of work are described below.

Note that several of the projects cover agreements between Clark County and Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAME) under the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). To assist the NPS with reporting requirements and in consultation with Mr. Ross Haley (Task Agreement ATR) and Mr. Kent Turner (LAME Resource Management Chief), the format for reporting on several of these projects has been modified to match Clark County quarterly report requirements.

Hiring and Student Opportunities

An undergraduate student was hired part-time this spring to assist with conducting intensive areas surveys for songbirds will be retained through this summer to assist with data entry and field work associated with expanded efforts to determine breeding activities of Le Contes’ thrashers.

The three-month contract expired at the end of this quarter (as planned) for the seasonal field technician hired to assist with intensive area surveys.

Project 1. Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring, Management and Research

The MSHCP project titled ‘Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring and Management’ (2005-NPS-476-P) was initiated on September 4, 2007. The following information has been formatted to meet Clark County quarterly report requirements.

QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

This quarterly report describes milestones and deliverables as identified and numbered in the Annual Timeline and Work Plan for this project. All milestones and deliverables for this quarter have been accomplished, as summarized below.


Substantial progress was made on the 2008 translocation program this quarter. Tadpoles and frogs reared from partial egg masses collected from natural sites in the Black Canyon this winter were released at five existing translocation sites, and at a newly approved site in the Gold Butte area. A total of 539 tadpoles and frogs were released. In association with habitat management and research efforts at the complex of springs along the Northshore of Lake Mead, 284 frogs have been released to date to augment existing populations. Two additional
small egg massed were collected from this area in April and May, and animals from these eggs will be released shortly.


Springtime diurnal egg mass surveys and nocturnal population surveys at natural and translocation sites have been completed for this field season. Under this milestone, fall surveys are still required, and expanded efforts for further egg mass surveys are planned.

Deliverable 5. Quarterly Progress Report

A quarterly report summarizing efforts was submitted to Clark County by the due date of April 1, 2008.

Other activities

The following efforts fall under Milestones 5 and 17 to assist with efforts to identify and establish new sites for translocations. Representatives from BLM, UNLV, EPA, AZGFD and NPS visited a potential site in Arizona currently under restoration to review it for possible translocation of Relict Leopard Frogs, and to provide insights into habitat improvements at the site. The site visit was conducted on April 30, 2008, and recommendations were provided.

Representatives from BLM and AZGFD have surveyed springs in the Black Mountains, Arizona for potential sites to be reviewed for translocation. A field visit to the most promising site was provided to RLFCT members, including UNLV personnel on January 17, 2008, and compliance activity for this site is currently underway by BLM personnel.

Representatives from BLM and NDOW have identified areas near Moapa for potential sites for Relict Leopard Frog translocations. A nocturnal field visit was conducted to two of these sites by representatives from the RLFCT, including UNLV personnel on May 20, 2008, to determine presence of invasive potential predators/competitors before initiating further efforts.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and how they were dealt with.

No problems were encountered this quarter.

QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.

Efforts to estimate populations at Rogers Spring have been suspended because no frogs were encountered despite additional field surveys this spring.

QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?

There are approximately 14 quarters (some partial) that constitute this project and 4 have been completed; therefore, approximately 29% of the project has been completed.

QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?
Identification of appropriate translocation sites within the Potential Management Zone for the Relict Leopard Frog has been a continuing challenge because of the limited availability of appropriate sites. Coordination and collaboration through the RLFCT with cosignatory state and federal agencies to the Conservation Assessment Strategy is continuing.

**QUESTION 6:** Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?

No.

**QUESTION 7:** What was produced during the reporting period?

1. The third quarterly report (Deliverable 5)
2. Tadpoles and frogs were translocated (progress towards Milestone 9)
3. Observations on the status of natural and experimental populations (progress towards Milestone 10)
4. Assistance provided towards the identification and compliance of future translocation sites (progress towards Milestone 17)
5. Introduction of Relict Leopard Frogs at a new translocation site (progress towards Milestone 17)

Please report on the status of each Milestone and Deliverable, indicate whether they are not started, in progress, or completed and provide comments on the status as necessary:

- **Milestone 1.** Contract Award and Mobilization: completed
- **Milestone 2.** Project Kick-off and Training Meeting: completed
- **Milestone 3.** Start of Coordination of Habitat Management Activities: completed
- **Milestone 4.** Start of Collaboration and Oversight of Population Estimation at Targeted Springs: completed
- **Milestone 5.** Start of Assessment and Coordination of Compliance for Future Translocation Sites: completed (progress continuing)
- **Milestone 6.** Start of Translocation Program (2008) Field Season: completed
- **Milestone 7.** Start of (2008) Monitoring Survey Field Season: completed
- **Milestone 8.** End of (2008) Translocation Program Field Season: progress made
- **Milestone 9.** End of (2008) Monitoring Survey Field Season: progress made
- **Milestone 10–21:** Not initiated

- **Deliverable 1.** Quarterly Progress Report: completed
- **Deliverable 2.** Annual Work Plan and Detailed Timeline: completed
- **Deliverable 3.** Data Management Plan: completed
- **Deliverable 4.** Quarterly Progress Report: completed
- **Deliverable 5.** Quarterly Progress Report: completed
- **Deliverable 6.** Quarterly Progress Report: in process
- **Deliverable 7–34:** Not initiated

**Project 2. Bald Eagle Winter Monitoring and Evaluation**

A summary of products for this project as described in the task agreement are provided below. The milestones and deliverables for this project are associated with the MSHCP projects titled, ‘Bald Eagle Monitoring’ (2005-NPS-476-P) and the associated project ‘Bald Eagle Modeling’ (2005-
QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

This quarterly report describes milestones and deliverables as identified and numbered in the Annual Timeline and Work Plans for the project, Bald Eagle Monitoring. Also included herein is reporting on milestones and deliverables for the associated project, Bald Eagle Modeling (2005-NPS-609B-P) that covers technical aspects of the overall project. All milestones and deliverables for this quarter have been accomplished, as summarized below.

Deliverable 4. Quarterly Progress Report

A quarterly report summarizing efforts was submitted to Clark County by the due date of April 1, 2008.

Other Activities

As part of the habitat assessment for this project, PLI personnel met with GIS data management staff at LAME and a UNLV biostatistician this quarter to discuss data development and analysis for the eagle habitat modeling. Work has been progressing on data-mining required to identify preliminarily parameters that may quantify habitat selection. Literature reviews were also undertaken to characterize regional migration patterns to determine potential sources for the bald eagles using Lakes Mead and Mohave. Preliminary statistical analyses have been undertaken to evaluate whether adult and immature bald eagles are using these lakes in a spatially similar fashion, such an analysis is required prior to modeling general habitat use.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly, describe those problems and how they were dealt with?

No problems were encountered during this quarter.

QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.

As defined in the Annual Timeline, all scheduled activities were completed this quarter.

QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?

This project has approximately 12 quarters. Two quarters has been completed; therefore, approximately 17% of the project has been completed.

QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?

No problems are foreseen at this time.
QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?

No.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?


Please report on the status of each Milestone and Deliverable, indicate whether they are not started, in progress, or completed and provide comments on the status as necessary:

For Project, 2005-NPS-540-P

Milestone 1. Contract Awards and Mobilization: completed
Milestone 2. Project Kickoff & Training Meeting: completed
Milestone 3. Conduct 2008 Bald Eagle Count: completed
Milestone 4–5: Not initiated
Deliverable 1. Work Plan: completed
Deliverable 2. Detailed Timeline: completed
Deliverable 3. Data Management Plan: completed
Deliverable 4. Quarterly Report: completed
Deliverable 5. Quarterly Report: in progress
Deliverable 6–25: Not initiated

For Project, 2005-NPS-609B-P

Milestone 1. Contract Awards and Mobilization: completed
Milestone 2: Not initiated
Deliverable 1. Detailed Timeline: completed
Deliverable 2. Data Management Plan: completed
Deliverable 3–8: Not initiated

Project 3. Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Evaluation

The MSHCP projects titled ‘Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Evaluation (*Falco peregrinus*)’ (2005-NPS-475-P) and the associated project ‘Peregrine Falcon Modeling’ (2005-NPS-609C-P) were initiated on March 3, 2008. The following information has been formatted to meet Clark County quarterly report requirements.

QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

This quarterly report describes milestones and deliverables as identified and numbered in the Annual Timeline and Work Plan for this project and describes actions conducted on the...
associated project, 2005-NPS-609C-P, that covers technical aspects of this project. All
milestones and deliverables for this quarter have been accomplished, as summarized below.

**Milestone 4. Complete Peregrine Falcon Monitoring**

Monitoring of peregrine falcons during the breeding season began in the previous quarter and has been ongoing in order to document nesting success. The majority of work under this milestone has been completed at this time with 137 surveys conducted at 34 different sites. The survey efforts have been split between the passive and active methods. Surveys to document fledging will continue into July.

**Deliverable 1. Quarterly Progress Report**

A quarterly report summarizing initial efforts was submitted to Clark County by the due date of April 1, 2008.

**QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and how they were dealt with.**

No problems were encountered this quarter.

**QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.**

As defined in the Annual Timeline and Work Plan, all scheduled activities were completed this quarter.

**QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?**

There are approximately 9 quarters (some partial) that constitute this project and two quarters has been completed; therefore, approximately 22% of the project has been completed.

**QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?**

No problems are foreseen.

**QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?**

No.

**QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?**

1. The second quarterly report (Deliverable 5)
2. Observations on peregrine falcon breeding (progress on Milestone 4).

Please report on the status of each Milestone and Deliverable, indicate whether they are not started, in progress, or completed and provide comments on the status as necessary:

Project, 2005-NPS-475-P
Milestone 1.  Contract Award and Mobilization: completed
Milestone 2.  Project Kick-off and Training Meeting: completed
Milestone 3.  Begin Peregrine Falcon Monitoring: completed
Milestone 4.  Complete Peregrine Falcon Monitoring: in progress
Milestones 5-7: Not initiated

Deliverable 1.  Quarterly Progress Report: completed
Deliverable 2.  Annual Work Plan: completed
Deliverable 3.  Detailed Timeline: completed
Deliverable 4.  Data Management Plan: completed
Deliverable 5.  Quarterly Progress Report: in progress
Deliverable 6–21: Not initiated

**Project, 2005-NPS-609C-P**

Milestone 1.  Contract Award and Mobilization: completed
Milestone 2: Not initiated

Deliverable 1.  Detailed Timeline: completed
Deliverable 2.  Data Management Plan: completed
Deliverable 3–10: Not initiated

**Project 4. Assessment of Six Covered and Three Evaluation Bird Species**

The following information summarizes efforts under the MSHCP projects titled ‘Historical and Current Assessment of Six Covered and Three Evaluation Bird Species’ (2005-NPS-542-P) and the associated project ‘Conceptual and Habitat Models for Six Covered and Three Evaluation Bird Species’ (2005-NPS-609A-P). The information has been formatted to match the quarterly report requirements of the Clark County MSHCP.

**QUESTION 1:** What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

This quarterly report describes milestones and deliverables as identified and numbered in the Annual Timeline and Work Plan submitted for this project. Also reported here are actions conducted on the associated project, 2005-NPS-609A-P that covers technical aspects of the overall project. All milestones and deliverables identified for this quarter have been accomplished, as summarized below.

**Milestone 4. Begin Intensive Area Surveys**

Weekly field surveys associated with this project were initiated in early April. Surveys were conducted at four intensive survey areas described in the Study Design and Field Protocols for this project. These surveys were conducted to document all bird species observed or heard within the specified study plots and to determine breeding activity. By the end of this quarter, the intensive area surveys will be completed with each site visited the required 8-10 times. Data are being entered into databases as defined in the Data Management Plan for this project.
Efforts to conduct the associated habitat assessments at each site have been initiated and will be completed shortly.

Additional efforts to gain a better understanding of Le Conte’s thrasher breeding activity have been initiated at one site. This site is in Salt Desert Scrub habitat preferred by this species, and several territories and nest sites have been identified. To date, 16 surveys have been completed at this site, and the plan is to continue surveys through this year (past the required time period for intensive area monitoring).

**Deliverable 6. Quarterly Progress Report**

A quarterly report summarizing efforts was submitted to Clark County by the due date of April 1, 2008.

**Other activities**

Efforts on data mining to identify historical locations of targeted songbirds were continued this quarter.

**QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly, describe those problems and how they were dealt with?**

No unexpected problems were encountered.

**QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.**

As defined in the Annual Timeline and Work Plan, all scheduled activities were completed this quarter.

**QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?**

This project has approximately 13 quarters, 3 quarters have been completed; therefore, by this assessment approximately 23% of the project has been completed.

**QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?**

No problems are foreseen at this time.

**QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?**

No.

**QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?**

1. Quarterly Progress Report (Deliverable 6)
2. Data from intensive area monitoring at 4 sites (Milestones 4 and 5)
Please report on the status of each Milestone and Deliverable, indicate whether they are not started, in progress, or completed and provide comments on the status as necessary:

For Project 2005-NPS-542-P

Milestone 1. Contract Award and Mobilization: completed
Milestone 2. Project Kickoff & Training Meeting: completed
Milestone 3. Begin Review and Compilation of Historical Data: initiation completed
Milestone 4. Begin Intensive Area Surveys: completed
Milestone 5. Complete Intensive Area Surveys (2008 season): in progress
Milestone 6-15: Not initiated

Deliverable 1. Annual Work Plan & Detailed Timeline: completed
Deliverable 2. Data Management Plan: completed
Deliverable 3. Quarterly Progress Report: completed
Deliverable 5. Final Detailed Field Study Design and Protocol: completed
Deliverable 6. Quarterly Progress Report: completed
Deliverable 7. Quarterly Progress Report: in progress
Deliverable 8-30: Not initiated

For Project 2005-NPS-609A-P

Deliverable 1. Data Management Plan: completed

Project 5. Desert Tortoise Monitoring and Management

Deliverables and reporting for compliance monitoring described for Phase I of the task agreement have been completed. No other activity for this project is planned under the task agreement (as modified).

Project 6. Shorebird Monitoring on Lakes Mead and Mohave

The following information summarizes products as described in the task agreement. This is not an MSHCP project, thus the information herein is not presented in the format associated with those reporting requirements.

Monthly inventory and monitoring surveys – Ongoing monthly surveys were conducted on the regular seven intensively monitored sites on Lakes Mead and Mohave throughout the quarter with a total of 21 surveys completed (Table 1). Monthly surveys in Black Canyon from the Willow Beach Fish Hatchery north to Hoover Dam are being continued in order to better characterize this area’s importance to aquatic birds; surveys here will continue monthly at least through the end of 2008. All data collected during these surveys were entered into a database and have been shared with the GBBO.
Table 1. Survey sites and numbers of surveys conducted for aquatic and shorebirds on Lakes Mead and Mohave since March 2004 and during the current quarter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake and Site</th>
<th>Number of Surveys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 04 – Mar. 08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lake Mead</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Bay</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddy River</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin River</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Wash</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonelli Bay</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. sites</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lake Mohave</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Bay</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Bay</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Beach</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Canyon</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. sites</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monitoring of snowy plover breeding activities – Snowy plover breeding activities at Lake Mead are being monitored throughout the 2008 breeding season. Surveys at the two breeding areas identified in 2007 (Muddy River Delta, Sand Island; Table 2) adhere to the International Snowy Plover Survey Protocol. In addition, exploratory shoreline surveys have been conducted along nearly 17 km of suitable shoreline along Lake Mead, but only one snowy plover was detected during the effort this year.

A new development in 2008 was the discovery of snowy plovers nesting in an overflow parking lot near the Overton Boat Ramp. This area was added to the more typical plover habitat that is surveyed regularly at the Muddy River Delta. The deleterious effects of large numbers of grazing cattle, encroachment of exotic vegetation, and rapidly dropping lake levels seem to be affecting snowy plover breeding efforts at the Muddy River Delta, although some young birds have been observed. It appears that double clutching in 2008 will be minimal, if any. There did not appear to be any initial nesting success at the Sand Island site, with no additional nesting attempts detected in the last survey.

Table 2. Survey sites and results of surveys conducted for snowy plovers within Lake Mead NRA in the 2008 breeding season (through June 23).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Dates Surveyed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5/17/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddy River Delta</td>
<td>25 adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Island</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water grab samples – No water samples were requested this quarter.

Project 7. Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Use Monitoring in Relation to Highway Development.
The following information summarizes products as described in the task agreement. This is not an MSHCP project.

GPS location data from collars on sheep will be downloaded weekly and converted into a format recognized by ArcGIS – GPS collars were released in November. Although some data is still received from Argos, at this time, these efforts have been completed.

Field retrieval of collars will be attempted on all dead animals – Efforts to retrieve collars from the field continued into the early part of this quarter, but at this time, further efforts to retrieve collars are not expected.

Provide technical assistance for project assessments and report – This past quarter no technical assistance was provided on this project. As part of the final project wrap up, a meeting has been requested by Mr. Haley to include PLI personnel, NPS GIS/data management staff at LAME, and NDOW in order to discuss the products that will be created from this data. This meeting has been tentatively scheduled for sometime in early August.

Other Activities Conducted Under or Associated With the Task Agreement

Technical Assistance and Regional Coordination –

Dawn Fletcher (Research Assistant) attended a Nevada Partners in Flight meeting on May 5-6, 2008 at the Southern Nevada Water Authority building in Las Vegas. Conservation priorities were discussed and plans made to incorporate changes into the revised version of the Bird Conservation Plan Nevada Partners in Flight.

Dana Drake (Research Assistant) participated in the 2008 Lower Colorado River Basin Riparian Revegetation Workshop at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve held May 7-9, 2008.

At Mr. Turner’s request, Mr. Barnes (Research Assistant) presented the discovery of snowy plovers nesting on the Overton Boat Ramp overflow parking lot at the NPS Staff Management meeting on May 20, 2008. The meeting resulted in having the Maintenance Division block the lot to visitor vehicle traffic in an effort to protect the plover breeding.

Professional presentations given this quarter by individuals associated with this task agreement (identified by underlining) –


**Personnel Development** –

Ms. Drake was an invited manuscript reviewer for Herpetological.

Mr. Barnes attended the Climate Change Workshop in Laughlin, NV on April 9-10, 2008.

Mr. Barnes assisted raptor specialist, Gene Jacobs on studies of breeding Red-shouldered Hawks and American Kestrels in central Wisconsin, during personal time on June 2-7, 2008.

Submitted by: 
Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator  
07/01/2008 Date