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Lake Mead National Recreation Area Monitoring and Evaluation of Sensitive Wildlife: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2010

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending December 31, 2010

Cooperative Agreement Number: H8R07060001
Task Agreement Number: J8R07060012

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sensitive Wildlife at
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Executive Summary

Project 1. Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring, Management, and Research

- Final milestones and deliverables for this project were completed this quarter.
- Fall monitoring surveys were completed at all sites.
- Habitat actions to improve breeding pools were conducted at one site.
- Data and associated metadata were compiled and quality assured.
- Final and annual reports were written and submitted in required formats for Clark County and the Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Team.

Project 2. Bald Eagle Winter Monitoring and Evaluation

- This project was previously completed and all associated deliverables met.
- Efforts were provided this quarter in support of the 2011 winter count.

Project 3. Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Evaluation

- This project was previously completed and all deliverables met.
- A draft manuscript on call-broadcast protocol was completed this quarter.

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

- Final milestones and deliverables for this project were completed this quarter.
- Data and associated metadata were compiled and quality assured.
- Final models, maps, and summary reports were completed and submitted.

Project 5. Desert Tortoise Monitoring and Management

- This project was previously completed.

Project 6. Shorebird Monitoring on Lakes Mead and Mohave

- Field efforts under the shorebird project were previously completed.
- Efforts continued on final summary reports.

Project 7. Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Use Monitoring in Relation to Highway Development

- This project was previously completed.

Program Activities

The Task Agreement was awarded to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) on October 1, 2006. As modified, this task agreement was to end on December 31, 2010, but has now been extended to March 31, 2011 to facilitate NPS reporting requirements. Research, monitoring, and management activities are conducted primarily by UNLV Public Lands Institute (PLI) employees.

During the quarter ending on December 31, 2010, 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). In the past, to assist the NPS with reporting requirements, the reporting on several of these projects was formatted to match Clark County quarterly report requirements. All quarterly reporting to the county has been completed; accordingly, the associated county formatting has been dropped from this report.

Project 1. Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring, Management and Research

Efforts under this task agreement to meet deliverables for the MSHCP project titled ‘Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring and Management’ (2005-NPS-476-P) were completed this quarter. On the ground efforts included completion of fall monitoring surveys at all active sites, habitat improvements at one site, and the facilitation of the fall Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Team (RLFCT) meeting. A final report covering three-years of effort under this project was written in a format required to match Clark County reporting requirements. Data with associated metadata were compiled and quality assured. An annual report for efforts in 2010 was completed in a format required by the Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Team.

Project 2. Bald Eagle Winter Monitoring and Evaluation

Efforts under this task agreement to meet deliverables for the MSHCP projects titled, ‘Bald Eagle Monitoring’ (2005-NPS-476-P) and ‘Bald Eagle Modeling’ (2005-NPS-609B-P) were previously completed. However, assistance was provided this quarter to coordinate the upcoming bald eagle winter count, which has been set for January 06, 2011 with a backup date on January 10th.

Project 3. Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Evaluation

Efforts under this task agreement to meet deliverables for MSHCP projects titled ‘Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Evaluation’ (2005-NPS-475-P) and ‘Peregrine Falcon Modeling’ (2005-NPS-609C-P) have been completed. Additional efforts have focused on public dissemination of information, and a draft manuscript on the call-broadcast protocol was developed this quarter.

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

Efforts were completed this quarter under this task agreement to meet deliverables for 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). Final models, maps and summary reports were completed in formats needed to meet Clark County reporting requirements. Data with associated metadata were compiled and quality assured. No further activities for these projects are planned under this task agreement.

Project 5. Desert Tortoise Monitoring and Management

Deliverables and reporting for compliance monitoring described for Phase I of the task agreement were previously completed. No further activities for this project are planned under this task agreement.

Project 6. Shorebird Monitoring on Lakes Mead and Mohave

The field component has been completed for this project. This quarter, work continued on a final summary report.

Project 7. Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Use Monitoring in Relation to Highway Development

Efforts for this project were previously completed. No further activities for this project are planned under this task agreement.

Other Activities Conducted Under or Associated With the Task Agreement

Student Opportunities

During this quarter, one undergraduate student assisted part-time with efforts under this Task Agreement.

Mr. Barnes continued working on his M.S. program with the School of Live Science at UNLV. He presented a public defense of his thesis (November 17, 2010); this presentation was well attended by NPS personnel.

Technical Assistance and Regional Coordination:

Upon request of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Dr. Jaeger participated in a working group with Ross Haley focused on the state Wildlife Action Plan (October 12 & 13, 2010).

Upon request of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. Jaeger participated in the Amargosa Toad Working Group Meeting (October 28, 2010).

Dr. Jaeger continued with his voluntary efforts to coordinate the California-Nevada Amphibian Population Task Force Meeting planned for January 2011.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

12/31/2010

Date