9-30-2008


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Executive Summary

Project 1. Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring, Management, and Research
- Completion of translocation and augmentation efforts for 2008
- Summer egg mass surveys completed
- Coordination is ongoing to identify potential translocation sites near Moapa
- Habitat improvements coordinated for Bighorn Sheep Spring
- Annual Project Review Presentation provided to Clark County
- All milestones and deliverables associated with the MSHCP project are on schedule

Project 2. Bald Eagle Winter Monitoring and Evaluation
- Initial habitat suitability models and maps developed
- Annual Project Review and Presentation given to Clark County
- All MSHCP milestones and deliverables associated with this project are on schedule

Project 3. Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Evaluation
- Peregrine falcon monitoring for the 2008 season was completed
- Efforts associated with habitat modeling are underway
- Annual Project Review Presentation provided to Clark County
- The 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 completed; habitat assessments underway
- Surveys continuing at one site to better understand Le Contes’ thrasher breeding activity
- Thrasher habitat modeling ongoing; coordination with UNLV biostatistician on-going
- Compilation of historical location data for targeted songbird species continuing
- Annual Project Review and Presentation given to Clark County
- 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-four surveys were conducted on eight intensively monitored sites on Lakes Mead and Mohave
- Monitoring of snowy plover breeding sites was completed for this year

Project 7. Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Use Monitoring in Relation to Highway Development.
- Data processing and field components completed for this project
- Technical assistance not requested this quarter
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 September 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

We have continued an hourly contract for an undergraduate student to assist part-time with expanded efforts on songbird surveys. The student also assists researchers with data entry and field work associated with the other projects under this task agreement.

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.


The 2008 translocation program has been completed. A total of 394 frogs and 150 tadpoles were released at six translocation sites including one new location. As part of the adaptive management for this species, and in association with habitat management and research efforts, augmentation efforts at two existing populations were conducted. Three egg masses were collected from one of the sites yielding 378 frogs that were released back into the existing populations.


Efforts during this quarter included 14 diurnal surveys at 11 sites. Under this milestone, fall surveys will be conducted beginning in October, and expanded efforts for further egg mass surveys are planned.

Deliverable 5. Quarterly Progress Report
A quarterly report summarizing efforts through June 30, 2008 was submitted to Clark County.

**Deliverable 10. Annual Project Review and Presentation**

On August 14, 2008, a formal annual review presentation was provided to Clark County. This reported included summaries of survey results and translocation efforts.

**Other activities**

The following efforts fall under Milestones 5 and 19 to assist with efforts to identify and establish new sites for translocations. Representatives from RLFCT, including UNLV personnel, have been assessing areas near Moapa for potential sites for Relict Leopard Frog translocations. A field visit was conducted to potential sites on July 17, 2008 to determine the suitability of habitat and the presence of invasive potential predators/competitors before initiating further efforts.

Efforts were made this quarter to evaluate the potential for improving breeding habitat at the Pupfish Refuge site. These efforts have not yielded promising commitments at this time.

**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. The site was targeted for augmentation this quarter.

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

There are approximately 14 quarters (some partial) that constitute this project and 5 have been completed; therefore, approximately 36% 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 fourth quarterly report (Deliverable 6)
2. Translocation and augmentation efforts for 2008 (Milestone 8)
3. Field observations on the status of natural and experimental populations (progress towards Milestone 9)
4. Assistance provided towards the identification and compliance of future translocation sites (progress towards Milestone 19)
5. Annual Project Review Presentation (Deliverable 10)

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 5. Start of Assessment and Coordination of Compliance for Future Translocation Sites: completed (progress continuing)
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: completed
Deliverable 7. Quarterly Progress Report: in progress
Deliverable 8. Host RLFCT meeting: planned for December 2008
Deliverable 10: Annual Project Review Presentation: completed
Deliverable 11–34: 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-NPS-609B-P). These projects were initiated on January 2, 2008. The following 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 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 scheduled for this quarter have been accomplished, as summarized below.

**Deliverable 5. Quarterly Progress Report**

A quarterly report summarizing efforts for the period ending on June 30, 2008 was submitted to Clark County.

**Progress on Deliverables 5 and 6 for Project 609B – Habitat Suitability Model and Map**

As indicated in our previous report, efforts towards modeling of habitat suitability for wintering bald eagles on Lake Mead and Mohave have been a priority. Initial habitat suitability models and maps based on count data were developed this quarter. Final assessments and write up of these data are currently underway. Preliminary results, focusing mostly on data evaluation and assessments, were presented this quarter to Clark County (see below).

**Deliverable 8. Annual Project Review and Presentation (also D8 for project 609B)**

On August 14, 2008, a formal annual review presentation was provided to Clark County. This report included information on the annual winter count and provided preliminary results on our modeling efforts for habitat suitability based on existing location data collecting during counts.

**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. Three quarters have been completed; therefore, approximately 25% 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?**

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sensitive Wildlife at Lake Mead NRA • Quarterly Report
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: completed
Deliverable 6.  Quarterly Report: progress
Deliverable 8.  Annual Project Review and Presentation: completed
Deliverable 7,9–25:  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 5.  Habitat Suitability Model: progress
Deliverable 6.  Habitat Suitability Map: progress
Deliverable 8.  Verbal Report (if requested): completed
Deliverable 3,4,7:  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 covers actions conducted on the associated...
project, 2005-NPS-609C-P, which 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 first quarter of 2008, and continued throughout the previous quarter. Monitoring was completed during this quarter on July 9, 2008. Throughout the course of the breeding season, 241 total surveys (comprising both active and passive methods) were conducted at 49 total sites. Additional visits were conducted this quarter to all 22 known nest sites in order to collect field measurements for the modeling efforts.

**Other Activities**

As part of an extended effort to better document peregrine falcon habitat use during the non-breeding portion of the year, monthly monitoring efforts at five territories begun in August 2008, and will continue through the initiation of the 2009 breeding season.

As part of the associated efforts on habitat modeling, several meetings have been held between UNLV researchers and NPS GIS/data management staff to develop strategies and identify variables associated with the modeling efforts. Work was also conducted on a draft conceptual model associated with the modeling effort. In addition, development has begun on a new Geospatial Database for this project.

**Deliverable 5. Quarterly Progress Report**

A report for the quarterly period ending on June 30, 2008 was submitted to Clark County.

**Deliverable 7. Annual Project Review Presentation (also D6 ‘Oral Report’ in 609C)**

On August 14, 2008, a formal annual review presentation was provided to Clark County.

**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.

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 three quarters have been completed; therefore, approximately 33% 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 third quarterly report (Deliverable 5)
2. Completed observations on peregrine falcon breeding (Milestone 4)
3. Annual Project Review Presentation (Deliverable 7)
4. Draft Conceptual Model (Deliverable 3; project, 2005-NPS-609C-P)

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: completed
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: completed
Deliverable 6. Quarterly Progress Report: in progress
Deliverable 7. Annual Project Review Presentation: completed
Deliverable 8–21: 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. Draft Conceptual Model: in progress
Deliverable 6. Oral Report: completed
Deliverable 4,5,7–10: 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 5. Complete Intensive Area Surveys (2008 season)

At the end of June, weekly intensive area surveys for springtime nesting birds were completed at four sites. Data for these surveys have been entered into databases as defined in the Data Management Plan for this project. A quality assurance of these data is currently being conducted.

Additional on-going efforts to gain a better understanding of Le Conte’s thrasher breeding activity have been initiated at one site dominated by Salt Desert Scrub habitat preferred by this species. Several territories and nest sites have been identified and are being monitored. To date, 22 surveys have been completed at this site, and the plan is to continue surveys through this year.

Deliverable 7. Quarterly Progress Report

A quarterly report summarizing efforts for the period ending on June 30, 2008 was submitted to Clark County.

Deliverable 8. Annual Project Review and Presentation (also a deliverable for project 609A)

On August 14, 2008, a formal annual review presentation was provided to Clark County. This report included information on intensive area surveys, on data mining efforts for historical songbird locations, and on modeling efforts.

Other activities

Efforts have continued on the compilation of historical location data from published literature, museum records, and data archives (work associated with M3 and M12). Search efforts along with results are being recorded in databases established for these purposes. A summary of these efforts was provided this quarter at the Annual Project Review and Presentation.

As part of the habitat-modeling portion of this project, collaboration continues with a UNLV biostatistician on data analysis. The statistical models created for the thrasher species will be used to inform the design of predictive habitat maps, as well as to aid in the development of GIS based habitat suitability models.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly, describe those problems and how they were dealt with?
No 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, 4 quarters have been completed; therefore, by this assessment approximately 31% 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 7)
2. Annual Project Review and Presentation (Deliverable 8, also a deliverable for project 609A)
3. Data from intensive area monitoring at 4 sites (Milestones 5)
4. Historical locations data on targeted songbird species (work associated with Milestones 3 and 12)

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contract Award and Mobilization</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Project Kickoff &amp; Training Meeting</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Begin Review and Compilation of Historical Data</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Begin Intensive Area Surveys</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Complete Intensive Area Surveys (2008 season)</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-15</td>
<td>Not initiated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Annual Work Plan &amp; Detailed Timeline</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Data Management Plan</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Quarterly Progress Report</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Draft Detailed Field Study Design and Protocol</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Final Detailed Field Study Design and Protocol</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Quarterly Progress Report</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Quarterly Progress Report</td>
<td>completed</td>
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</table>
Deliverable 8. Annual Project Review and Presentation: completed
Deliverable 10-30: Not initiated

For Project 2005-NPS-609A-P

Deliverable. Data Management Plan: completed
Deliverable. Verbal Report (if requested): 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 eight intensively monitored sites on Lakes Mead and Mohave throughout the quarter with a total of 24 surveys completed (Table 1). The intensively monitored sites now include the addition of the Black Canyon site (added in January 2008). All data collected during these surveys were entered into a database.

**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 – Jun. 08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lake Mead</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Bay</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddy River</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin River</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Wash</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonelli Bay</td>
<td>12</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>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada Bay</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Beach</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Canyon</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. sites</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monitoring of snowy plover breeding activities** – Monitoring efforts for snowy plover breeding activities were completed with the last survey being conducted in early July.
Water Grab samples – No water samples were requested this quarter.

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

Major elements of this project in the form of data retrieval, data management, and associated field efforts, have been completed. A meeting has been requested by Mr. Haley to include PLI personnel, LAME GIS/data management staff, and NDOW partners in order to discuss potential products that could be derived from these data. This meeting has not yet been called, but efforts under this task agreement will be limited to providing only technical assistance for these efforts.

Other Activities Conducted Under or Associated With the Task Agreement

Technical Assistance and Regional Coordination –

Dawn Fletcher (Research Assistant) assisted with restoration efforts on a LAME project to monitor illegal ground disturbance in response to management actions. For this project, she ‘adopted’ a road that she helps to monitor once every quarter. The road is hiked to access disturbances from off-road vehicles as well as missing road signs and barricades.

Dawn Fletcher has been coordinating with LAME Fire Program personnel to help ensure that proper compliance procedures for wildlife are followed in areas scheduled for prescribed burns.

Professional papers accepted by scientific journals this quarter authored by individuals associated with this task agreement (underlined); data and efforts may not be directly associated with this task agreement –


Personnel Development –

Dr. Jaeger was an invited manuscript reviewer for Journal of Herpetology.

Mr. Barnes attended the 2008 Raptor Research Foundation Conference in Missoula, MT on September 24-28, 2008.

Submitted by: 09/30/2008
Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator Date