

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
CLARK COUNTY
MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN AMENDMENT**

Agency/Organization: WRA Inc.

Project Name: HCP Consultant for Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Project Number: 2019-WRA-1970b

Reporting Period: January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024

Project Contact Name and Information:

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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?

During this quarter, WRA prepared for and participated in the monthly progress meetings as well as the quarterly meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). WRA also submitted four deliverables, Deliverable 32 (Quarterly Progress Report and Schedule Update), Deliverable D54 (Chapter 8 Costs and Funding, Draft 1), Deliverable 58 (Seed Collection Protocol, Draft 2), and Deliverable 59 (Chapter 4, Draft 4). Following the acceptance of the first draft of Chapter 8, WRA has now prepared a complete draft of the MSHCP Amendment. Other deliverables focus on incorporating new information or feedback from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and the manner in which they were dealt.

No significant problems were encountered. Similar to previous reports, additional revisions to draft chapters will depend on the legislation being passed and further discussion with BLM and the Service. Increased staff capacity at BLM allowed quarterly meetings to resume, with the first quarterly meeting of this year occurring on January 31, 2024.

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.

Deliverable 50 (Draft Ridgway's Rail Safe Harbor Agreement) was cancelled and replaced by D57 (Ridgway's Rail Meetings and Decisions Memo). The potential Permittees agreed to not conduct activities during nesting season and other measures that would avoid take. This decision will be memorialized in D57 due in early April. Additionally, Deliverable 20 (Chapter 5, Draft 2) was submitted on April 4, as there were delays in completing this deliverable related to figure/model revisions.

The following deliverables for the reporting period were submitted.

- D32, D54, D58, D59, M45, M46, M47, M48

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

95% of the expected work for the reporting period was completed with one deliverable delayed to Quarter 2 of 2024. Approximately 90% of the overall project to draft the MSHCP Amendment 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 new items that have not been previously discussed are foreseen. WRA will continue to coordinate with the County to update chapters and our approach as information becomes available and feedback is received. But finalization of this legislation, approval in Congress, and its timing could have an impact on completion of the draft MSHCP Amendment and Incidental Take Permit application submittal. As a result of this issue, WRA will move forward with an Alternative Strategies Memo (Deliverable 62) to identify potential other pathways for the County to receive an Incidental Take Permit. This may be through reduction in Covered Species, permitted activities, Plan Area, or other strategies, but any alteration will likely result in significant changes to the existing draft MSHCP Amendment. Feedback from the Service on draft chapters to date has also been minor and not substantive for a large-scale MSHCP. WRA will continue to push for feedback from the regional office and other experts to ensure thorough review of the draft prior to submittal of the application. The Service is anticipated to confirm the other additional reviewers that may need to be involved in draft reviews which may help reduce concerns on application submittal. This and the timeline for the NEPA process may delay the application submittal timeline, but WRA will maintain close and regular coordination with the County on the aforementioned through progress meetings and/or other meetings as needed.

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

Similar to previous quarterly reports and meetings, we are still not able to finalize the Conservation Strategy as it depends on BLM coordination. A draft MSHCP Amendment is completed awaiting incorporation of new species information and Service comments. To date, the legislation has not yet been re-introduced during the current session, and it is not known if or when the legislation will be passed. With the success of legislation still unknown for the Conservation Strategy, alternative options to have a new ITP in place when the existing one expires may need to be considered. The County has acknowledged this potential need, and D62 has been authorized to begin those discussions. Another alternative that has been discussed is coordination with BLM on incorporating the Conservation Strategy into the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP). The BLM is proposing to create a new programmatic EIS for updates to all RMPs in the state of Nevada which could delay the timeline for submittal of the MSHCP if coordination with BLM and the RMP is the pathway to approval of mitigation on federal lands. The timeline for the programmatic RMP update is still unclear but we will continue discussion and updates with the quarterly agency meetings which include BLM.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

Completed deliverables:

- D32 (Quarterly Progress Report and Schedule Update)
- D54 (Chapter 8 Costs and Funding, Draft 1)
- D58 (Seed Collection Protocol, Draft 2)
- D59 (Chapter 4, Draft 4)

- M45 (Monthly Progress Call)
- M46 (Quarterly Agency Coordination Meeting)
- M47 (Monthly Progress Call)
- M48 (Monthly Progress Call)

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.

The attached GANTT schedule reflects WRA's current understanding of the Permittee review schedule for draft chapters and anticipated deliverable dates for information required to update and finalize chapters. Based on this information and the schedule for final habitat distribution models to be received in spring of 2025, the Incidental Take Permit application may not be submitted until November or December 2025. This assumes the Service reviews the current draft of Chapter 3 in order to have a final MSHCP upon completion of the second draft of Chapter 3. Any further delays in review time, deliverables which WRA will require to complete the MSHCP, or conservation strategy route as described above, will most likely result in a delay in the application submittal timeline. The timing for a NEPA consultant to begin preparation of the EIS should also be continued to be discussed as this could affect the application submittal date.



