



desert conservation
PROGRAM

Date: June 14, 2014

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION NOTIFICATION:

DEVELOPING HABITAT MODELS AND MONITORING TECHNIQUES FOR NINE (9) RARE BIRDS

2005-GBBO-581

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Please see the attached for all project related information.

The purpose of the above referenced project was:

In this six-year study, data was collected on the presence, abundance, and habitat characteristics of nine focal bird species, including six species covered by the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and three evaluation species. The work was done for the purpose of better informing land managers of the status and conservation needs of birds breeding in Clark County. The monitoring data were collected using standard methods similar to those used in the Nevada Bird Count, Great Basin Bird Observatory's state-wide monitoring effort. The six covered species included the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, Phainopepla, Summer Tanager, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Arizona's Bell's Vireo, and the three evaluation species included Bendire's Thrasher, Le Conte's Thrasher, and Gray Vireo.

The deliverables for the project attempt to estimate population sizes, habitat-specific densities, habitat use patterns, actual and predicted distributions, and predicted densities in spatial models of nine focal species of the Clark County. The population monitoring for these nine species consisted of a combination of point count transects and area searches. Point count transects are an extensive method, with more than 300 transects scattered across Clark County. Area searches are intensive surveys on randomly-selected survey plots to determine bird densities, obtain nesting data, and generate intensive inventory data for high priority

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sites. Double-sampling, using area searches and point counts, were another method used to estimate population densities across the landscape.

The major accomplishment or findings of this project include:

Accomplishment:

- Over the six years of this study, 1,045 visits to 316 mostly randomly-selected 10-point point count transects were conducted. Population size estimates for Clark County for each of the nine focal species were generated from the data.
- A list of all 229 species observed over all point count surveys conducted in Clark County was generated.
- Completed and submitted nine Predictive Habitat Models and Habitat Suitability Maps. The nine conceptual models focus on major stressors (threats) present in Clark County today, how they are expected to affect the primary habitat of the bird species, and what responses are expected from the bird species with regard to nesting, survival, and population ecology.
- Completed and submitted a Final Report that present population estimates, habitat suitability models, and spatial habitat models that describe the landscape and resource use of the nine focal species.

For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our website at: <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/dcp/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Mata at (702) 455-3964.

Sincerely,



Marci D. Henson
Program Manager

cc:

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Board of County Commissioners (7)
Permittees' Executive Committee
Permittees' Process Management Group



desert conservation

PROGRAM

Thomas Boldt, Purchasing
Catherine Jorgenson, District Attorney – Civil Division
Desert Conservation Program Community Advisory Committee
Desert Conservation Program Interested Parties List
Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Implementing Agencies
Science Advisor
SNPLMA Office (for SNPLMA projects)
Congressional Office
DCP Staff

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