



desert conservation
PROGRAM

Date: November 25, 2015

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION NOTIFICATION:
RELICT LEOPARD FROG CONSERVATION
2009-NPS-810A

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:

The purpose of this project was to provide conservation efforts towards the persistence of natural and established populations of the relict leopard frog (*Rana onca*) and towards the establishment of additional populations.

The major accomplishment or findings of this project include:

- Completed annual monitoring using nocturnal visual encounter surveys each spring and fall at all historical and experimental (translocation) sites occupied by relict leopard frogs (19 sites total during the spring 2015 field season).
- Completed diurnal visual encounter surveys each spring at occupied sites to assess breeding activity and to search for egg masses or tadpoles for headstarting (rearing) efforts.
- Conducted visual encounter surveys at one historical site where relict leopard frogs had been seen more than a decade ago and at a previously failed translocation site.
- Conducted field assessments of seven unoccupied springs for their potential as translocation sites.
- Completed five seasons of headstarting and translocations, releasing frogs and tadpoles to a total of 12 different sites, including augmentation of historical sites within the Northshore springs complex.
- Assisted with the establishment of five new experimental sites.
- Provided juvenile frogs from the headstarting program to the Las Vegas Springs Preserve as part of their public educational display, and to the University of Nevada,

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Las Vegas (UNLV) for research funded by the Bureau of Land Management into the effects of the pathogenic amphibian chytrid fungus.

- Completed a tadpole developmental study at an experimental site to test water quality.
- Assisted targeted field sampling, conducted by UNLV with funding predominantly from NDOW, to detect the presence of the pathogenic amphibian chytrid fungus at 11 sites associated with relict leopard frog conservation efforts.
- Assisted with a mark-recapture study conducted by UNLV under funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to estimate the overall population size of the relict leopard frog.
- Conducted maintenance actions of important breeding habitats at four sites and assisted federal agencies with habitat maintenance and restoration at five other sites; often actions at a particular site were repeated.
- Produced meeting minutes for the semiannual meetings of the Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Team, and coordinated and edited team reports.
- Increased the number of sites occupied by the relict leopard frog, as well as the overall abundance of these frogs.

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
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