

Work Task D13: Elf Owl System-Wide Surveys

FY13 Estimate	FY13 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY13	FY14 Approved Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate
\$60,000	\$31,431.21	\$31,431.21	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

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Start Date: FY13

Expected Duration: FY13

Long-term Goal: To detect trends in population estimates and distribution of elf owls within the LCR MSCP project area and adjacent upland area and on LCR MSCP Habitat Conservation Areas until FY55 (end of LCR MSCP program).

Conservation Measures: ELOW1, ELOW2, MRM1, MRM2, AMM1, AMM3.

Location: Habitat within and adjacent to the LCR MSCP Project area and LCR MSCP Habitat Conservation Areas.

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to provide information on trends in elf owl population and distribution within the LCR MSCP project area and adjacent areas and on LCR MSCP habitat conservation areas. This data can be used for a variety of purposes: 1) to determine location of new habitat conservation areas; 2) to assess effectiveness of habitat conservation areas in providing habitat for the elf owl; 3) to determine if there is an increase in the elf owl population within the project area as the LCR MSCP program progresses in time; 4) to identify populations of elf owls that can be used for the habitat modeling study (2014-2016) and 5) to contribute information to status assessments for the species across its range.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Baseline exploratory surveys for elf owls were implemented in 2008-2010 under D6. A field protocol based on quantitative data has been developed under C36. Information obtained through this work task will be used in conjunction with data collected during post-development monitoring of habitat conservation areas (F2).

Project Description: Single-species surveys for the elf owl are necessary due to the nocturnal nature of this species and its rarity along the LCR. Species-specific surveys for elf owls will be implemented in FY14 following the standardized monitoring plan and field protocol that will be finalized in FY13. The monitoring plan developed in FY13 under this work task and the field protocols were finalized under C36: Elf Owl Detectability Study in FY12 will determine how often surveys need to be conducted.

Previous Activities: None

FY13 Accomplishments: Existing data and current research projects with the elf owl were discussed. Goals for these surveys were reevaluated. Locations along the LCR where gilded flickers and elf owls were observed and locations with optimal habitat was visited in an attempt to confirm sightings and determine activity. A decision was made to discontinue the work task. The focus for now will be on research activities with the elf owl; finalizing the protocol and to better understand habitat requirements. Once these research questions are answered then surveys for elf owl's trends and distribution within existing habitat in the LCR MSCP program area will be reevaluated.

FY14 Activities: Closed in FY13.

Proposed FY15 Activities: Closed in FY13.

Pertinent Reports: N/A