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Award Number: P11AT10625 RMBCP-17

Park/NPS Unit: NCPN

Title of Project: Monitoring Landbirds in NCPN Park Units

Administered through the:

- Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement Number H1200-09-0005
 Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement Number H1200-10-0001
 Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement Number H1200-09-0004

CESU Partner:

Project Contacts

Principal Investigator: Tammy VerCauteren, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 1232, Brighton, CO 80601, phone – 303-659-4348, FAX – 303-659-0791, Tammy.VerCauteren@rmbo.org

Co-Investigator (if appropriate): David Hanni, 230 Cherry St., Fort Collins, CO 80521, phone – 970-482-1707, david.hanni@rmbo.org

Partner Administrative Contact: Tammy VerCauteren, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 1232, Brighton, CO 80601, phone – 303-659-4348, FAX – 303-659-0791, Tammy.VerCauteren@rmbo.org

NPS Certified ATR: Dustin Perkins, Program Manager, Northern Colorado Plateau Network, Curecanti National Recreation Area, 102 Elk Creek Road, Gunnison, CO 81230. Tel:970-589-1474, Fax: 970-641-3127, dustin_w_perkins@npa.gov

Funding Information:

Amount Funded: \$43,810

NPS Account Numbers (amounts in parentheses):2118-1202-NII

Fund Source (e.g., ONPS, FLREA, CRPP, CESU, etc.): I&M

NPS Funding

Is this funded using a reimbursable account number? If yes, IMR contracting needs a copy of the Interagency Agreement.

Project Dates:

Start Date: August 1, 2011

Any Other Product Milestone Dates you need to include: Progress report on field season due October 31, 2012

End Date: August 30, 2013

NPS Administrative Contacts

CESU Coordinator: Judy Bischoff, CPCECU Research Coordinator, NAU P.O. Box 5765, Flagstaff, AZ 86011, 928-523-6638, Fax: 928-523-2014, judy_bischoff@nps.gov

Intermountain Region Administrative Contact: Jenny Sommer, Grants and Agreements Specialist, National Park Service, 12795 West Alameda Pkwy, Lakewood, CO 80228 Phone: 303-969-2392 Fax: 303-969-2992 Email: jenny_sommer@nps.gov

FINAL INVOICES ARE PAYABLE ONLY IF THE REPORTS AND/OR PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND APPROVED BY THE NPS CERTIFIED ATR AND RECEIVED BY THE APPROPRIATE CESU COORDINATOR. 10% OF PROJECT FUNDS WILL BE WITHHELD UNTIL AFTER ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL REPORT. NO INVOICES SMALLER THAN \$500 WILL BE PAID EXCEPT FOR THE LAST INVOICE TO CLOSE THE PROJECT ACCOUNT.

Reporting & Invoicing Requirements for All Agreements:

Required of all agreements:

Invoice Payable up to 90% - Draft Final Report – March 15, 2013.

Invoice Payable up to 100% - Final Report – April 15, 2013.

Project End Date – August 30, 2013.

Final Invoice – November 30, 2013

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Project Start Date – August 1, 2011

Progress Report on field Activities (one page) – October 31, 2012

Database, Collections/Specimens, Archives, and Maps Provided to Key Official – March 15, 2013

Final Report – April 15, 2013

CESU REQUIRED PRODUCTS (may be different from those products required by the ATR – See Statement of Work for Products required by the NPS unit):

The Principal Investigator will prepare a brief report abstract suitable for public distribution and two hard copies and an electronic version (in PDF file format) of the final report and mail all to Judy Bischoff, CPCESU Research Coordinator, NAU P.O. Box 5765, Flagstaff, AZ 86011.

PROJECT ABSTRACT:

The NCPN has identified land birds as a vital sign for long-term monitoring. Land birds have important functional roles in ecosystems and are considered useful indicators of ecosystem integrity. The NCPN will collaborate with a regional effort that monitors breeding birds among various habitats. The utility of NCPN parks as representative of reference conditions and the contribution of information from park units to a much larger program are desirable aspects of such collaboration. This project will allow NCPN and RMBO to conduct land bird monitoring in selected park units of the NCPN.

SCOPE OF WORK:

Background and Objectives

The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) is organized and maintained in the State of Colorado to conduct a program of research, conservation, and education designed to benefit all people of the intermountain west including owners, operators and users of recreational areas. The Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN) and RMBO are mutually interested in conducting professional studies (specifically bird monitoring studies) for park management in units of the national park system. Such studies will be valuable and necessary for the protection and management of the areas and resources under NPS jurisdiction.

The RMBO is uniquely qualified in programs related to regional bird monitoring studies and is willing to develop such studies for the NCPN. The NCPN and RMBO desire to build upon RMBO's extensive bird monitoring expertise and studies in the region by undertaking a joint program of study for their mutual benefit.

The project will be carried out cooperatively between NCPN, RMBO, and NCPN parks. Tammy VerCauteren and David Hanni with RMBO will direct the project as Co-Principal Investigators (PI). The PI will work with Dr. Dustin Perkins, NCPN Program Manager, to ensure project success.

This task agreement is for \$43,810 for monitoring work in Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013. The objective of this project is to 1) Conduct bird monitoring at NCPN park units according to the NCPN protocol (Daw et al. 2004).

Statement of Work

NCPN Monitoring Work – The NCPN has identified land birds as a vital sign for long-term monitoring. Land birds have important functional roles in ecosystems and are considered useful indicators of ecosystem integrity. The NCPN will collaborate with a regional effort that monitors breeding birds among various habitats. The utility of NCPN parks as representative of reference conditions and the contribution of information from park units to a much larger program are desirable aspects of such collaboration. This statement of work describes a plan for the RMBO to conduct land bird monitoring in 12 selected park units of the NCPN.

The monitoring methods highlighted below are further detailed in the NCPN Land Bird Monitoring Protocol (Daw et al. 2004). Bird monitoring will comply with the study design and methods described in the protocol, including the following:

- The specific monitoring objective is to determine the status and trends in breeding-bird species density in sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, and riparian habitats.
- Monitoring sites have been selected by NCPN and RMBO as detailed in the protocol and SOP #4 therein.
- Monitoring will occur from approximately mid-May to mid-July, including transects in each habitat type over several NCPN parks at 46 sites with two surveys at each site.
- Surveys will include one transect with approximately 15 point-count stations at 250 meter interval at each monitoring site per site visit. Bird observations will be recorded at each point count station and along each transect. Slightly altered methods will be used at Pipe Spring National Monument according to that park specific SOP.
- Habitat data will be collected at each point-count station.

Planning for the 2012 field season will begin in August, 2011. Depending on general climate and local weather conditions, field work will commence on this project about 15 May, 2012 and will continue through about 15 July, 2012.

Field Season Preparation

RMBO is responsible for the training of field personnel conducting the monitoring.

Documentation and Data Management

At the conclusion of each field season, after data have been entered, verified and validated by RMBO, all records entered to date for survey locations within NCPN park units will be provided to NCPN in an MS Access database.

Research Permits

The NPS requires that a research permit be issued for on-the-ground inventory work in park units. The RMBO will complete all necessary documentation for the research permit process through the NPS website (<http://science.nature.nps.gov/research>). The permit request will be go through the Northern Colorado Plateau Network process as agreed to by network parks. In addition the investigator will provide a summary of research work accomplished in the Investigators Annual Report format by the required NPS deadline.

PRODUCTS:

The work will be accomplished during federal Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013. Detailed project planning and scheduling will be ongoing via telephone and e-mail communications between RMBO, NCPN staff, and NCPN parks.

Reports will be submitted in printed and electronic form in MSWord. The final report will also be submitted as a PDF (Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format). Data associated with the project will be provided in the MS Access database previously mentioned.

Annual Report and Products

1. Report of findings, including:

- A summary of observations and abundances for the year, and NCPN specific population trend analyses.
- A short description of noteworthy findings where such were found;
- If possible, photographs of noteworthy findings and/or examples of field work.

2. Recommendations for revision of the protocol, field forms, data dictionaries, etc.

3. Access to NCPN data in RMBO databases.

Literature Cited

Daw, S., M. Beer, and S. L. Garman. 2004. Land Bird Monitoring Protocol for the Park Units in the Northern Colorado Plateau Network, Version 1.0. National Park Service, Inventory and Monitoring Program, Northern Colorado Plateau Network; Moab, UT. 102 p.