

Work Task D13: Elf Owl System-Wide Surveys

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

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Start Date: FY13

Expected Duration: FY55

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 protocol were finalized under C36: Elf Owl Detectability Study in FY12 will determine how often surveys need to be conducted.

Previous Activities: New start in FY13.

FY12 Accomplishments: New start in FY13.

FY13 Activities: A long-term monitoring plan for system wide surveys will be developed. Sites will be selected using stratified random sampling. Habitat will be stratified using the most recent aerial imagery and habitat classifications. All equipment needed to implement the surveys will be purchased. Due to delays in finalizing the survey protocol, system-wide surveys will begin in FY14.

Proposed FY14 Activities: System-wide surveys will be implemented for the elf owl according to the monitoring plan finalized under this work task and the field protocol finalized under C36: Elf Owl Detectability Study. Implementation of system-wide surveys will increase costs in FY 14.

Pertinent Reports: N/A