

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Bird Inventory and Monitoring in Montana

**Type of Project:** Research  
**Discipline:** Natural Resources  
**Funding Agency:** Bureau of Land Management  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 5/1/2013 - 4/30/2018  
**Funding Amount:** \$204,000 [FY14: \$123,000; FY13: \$81,000]

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The Madison-Missouri River system is the largest river-riparian system in Montana. At least 134 of Montana's 245 species of breeding birds use riparian areas during all or part of the year. This riparian system has several dams administered by Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) and the Bureau of Reclamation. The BLM has worked with PPL for over a decade on projects that address the effects of flow regulation from dams on habitat and populations (birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians). Specifically PPL and BLM have co-funded riparian and bird monitoring projects. Projects have included baseline monitoring, mitigation for flow regulation activities, and monitoring in response to specific land use management actions (e.g. Russian Olive Removal in the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument). Throughout the Montana/Dakotas BLM lands there are management actions occurring in riparian areas and beyond. This agreement will allow BLM to work proactively to understand the effects of these management actions.

The Avian Science Center at the University of Montana will work with the BLM to easure population status and trends for riparian bird species, evaluate riparian habitat conditions for bird communities, and provide land managers with recommendations on how to conserve bird habitat and bird communities in relation to BLM management actions.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** April 30, 2018

**Keywords:** Bird, inventory and monitoring, Madison-Missouri River, Bureau of Land Management, Avian Science Center, University of Montana.