

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Wildlife Surveys for Grand Canyon National Park Fire and Aviation Program

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University

Effective Dates: 4/1/2004 - 2/15/09

Funding Amount: \$340,514

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: David W. Willey, Montana State University, Department of Ecology, 310 Lewis Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717, (406) 994-5319, willey@montana.edu

Project Abstract:

This is a multi-year project to collect and report field data on the presence or absence and reproductive status of Mexican spotted owls (MSO) and northern goshawks (NOGO) in Grand Canyon NP. Surveys will be conducted in 7 prescribed fire burn units and 2 mechanical fuel reduction projects on the North Rim of the park and 2 burn units on the South Rim for a total of 14,157 acres. Surveys will be performed to the specifications identified in federal and NPS protocols.

Surveys will be performed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act Section 7 (a)(2), and in accordance with the National Park Service 2001 Management Policies (www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html) chapter 4.4.2 (Management of Native Plants and Animals) and chapter 4.4.2.3 (Management of Threatened or Endangered Plants and Animals).

Grand Canyon National Park will work with the cooperator who will provide manpower, equipment, and services to perform all tasks necessary for the completion and documentation of Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk surveys for the Fire and Aviation program.

Grand Canyon National Park requires wildlife surveys on 10,725 acres of spruce-fir, mixed-conifer, and ponderosa pine forested habitats on the North Rim and on 3,432 acres of ponderosa pine forested habitat mixed with some pinyon-juniper habitat on the South Rim of the park. These surveys will follow federal and NPS protocols which the park will provide to the cooperator. While the purpose of the surveys is to meet Section 7 consultation requirements, the cooperator will not be required to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- Provide bi-weekly progress reports while field work is on going that include: 1) completed survey stations with actual start and completion dates, 2) planned survey start and completion dates, 3) Results of surveys plus any other additional findings, especially the date, UTM locations, and reproductive status (if known) of any MSO or NOGO detected.
- Provide 2 copies of all field data and maps in binders to be deposited in the Park.
- Provide an ArcView 3.2a Project and corresponding shape files which show project boundaries, survey stations, and locations of species of concern (all raptors detected).
- Prepare a draft and subsequent final report that contains a description of the project, analysis of the results, and discussion of the material, in a format acceptable to the NPS (interim reports are due at the end of year project year; the final report is due by February 5, 2008).

Keywords: Mexican spotted owl, northern goshawk, wildlife survey, prescribed fire, Grand Canyon National Park, Montana State University, threatened and endangered species

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received: