

Work Task C36: Elf Owl Detectability Study

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

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Start Date: FY10

Expected Duration: FY12

Long-term Goal: To determine modifications needed to the current tape-playback presence/absence elf owl survey to make it more efficient and effective.

Conservation Measures: MRM1 (ELOW)

Location: Bill Williams River

Purpose: To conduct a detectability study on a known population of elf owls that breed in riparian habitat. There is lack of data to support the current presence/absence elf owl survey protocol, and this study will fill that gap. The information will be used to modify the existing tape-playback presence/absence elf owl survey protocol.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This study will be used to modify the survey protocol used for system wide and post-development (F2) presence/absence elf owl surveys.

Project Description: Data to support the current tape-playback presence/absence elf owl survey protocol is lacking. A detectability study will be conducted on a known population of elf owls that breeds in riparian habitat along the Bill Williams River. If the population is not large enough, then other populations, away from the LCR region, but within other desert riparian areas in the Southwest may be studied.

Factors that affect the detection of elf owls include distance between survey points, length of time and frequency the call is played at each point, frequency that each point is surveyed in a season, and decibal level of recorded calls. Data from this study will be used to modify the existing elf owl presence/absence survey protocol.

Previous Activities: This is a new start in FY10

FY08 Accomplishments: This is a new start in FY10

FY09 Activities: This is a new start in FY10

Proposed FY10 Activities: A scope of work for the project will be developed and a study will be initiated.

Pertinent Reports: None