

Opportunity for Bird Monitoring

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory –

Proposal to Evaluate Impacts of Riparian
Vegetation Management On Dolores River
Bird Communities

Why?

- Effective monitoring programs can
 - provide an understanding of how management actions affect populations
 - provide basic information on species distributions.
- Information on bird response to habitat enhancement projects associated with tamarisk removal is essential and will require monitoring

Background

- Long standing assumption among partners that removing tamarisk & restoring native vegetation will benefit birds, along with other native flora & fauna
- With lots of work now on the ground, more interest in quantifying benefits of the partnership's work
- Monitoring is part of the DRRP agreement/MOU
- OPPORTUNITY to build on bird monitoring already undertaken by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory & BLM in Grand Junction & Moab field offices – 2011 & 2013.

How?

- Contract with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO)
- Funding available in existing Assistance Agreement between DRRP & BLM

What is the Proposal?

- Monitoring methods that follow existing “Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions” protocols
- Six-year project, annual point counts
- Combined with existing regional data, and recent local data, project should leverage
 - an increase in the number of species for which we can make meaningful population estimates, and
 - Improve the precision of the estimates

How Much?

○ RMBO Full Time Staff (Science Director, GIS, IT, Biometrician, Project Leader)	\$18,522
○ Seasonal Staff – Field work & Data Entry	14,850
○ Travel Expenses – Vehicle rentals, gas	4,698
○ Supplies	1,200
○ Indirect Cost on Travel & Wages (22%)	8,639
○ Total - 2015	\$47,909
○ Six years – 3% annual inflation adjusted	\$309,897
○ Two Partner workshops 2017 & 2020 (\$6,654 x2)	\$13,308
○ Six Year Full Project Total	\$323,205

Year	Project Effort	Total Cost
2015	Avian Monitoring	\$47,909
2016	Avian Monitoring	\$49,347
2017	Avian Monitoring and Workshop	\$57,481
2018	Avian Monitoring	\$52,352
2019	Avian Monitoring	\$53,922
2020	Avian Monitoring and Workshop	\$62,194
	Total Project Cost (2015 - 2020)	\$323,205

Currently common in area



○ Yellow-breasted Chat



Yellow Warbler



Blue Grosbeak



Black-headed Grosbeak

Less common – habitat limited



Song
Sparrow



Gray
Catbird

Bullock's
Oriole



Western
Yellow-billed
Cuckoo (T)

Ranging northward



Black Phoebe

Lucy's
Warbler



Summer
Tanager?

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Photos from Cornell Laboratory of
Ornithology
<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide>