



desert conservation  
PROGRAM

Date June 14, 2011

TO: DISTRIBUTION

RE: DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION NOTIFICATION:  
**Relict Leopard Frog Monitoring & Management (Rana Onca)**  
**2005-NPS-476**

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Please see the attached for all project related information.

**The purpose of the above referenced project was:**

The purpose of this project was to implement actions described in a voluntary conservation agreement and strategy for the Relict Leopard Frog (*Rana onca*) to prevent the listing of the frog on the Federal Endangered Species list. The project involved managing these rare frogs through a cooperative interagency program designed to increase both overall numbers, as well as number of populations in a defined region of southern Nevada and adjacent areas. Efforts under this project included: population monitoring, habitat improvements, establishment of new populations, and augmentation of existing ones.

Coordinate meetings of the Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Team.

**The major accomplishment or findings of this project include:**

- Monitored populations at eight natural and seven experimental translocation sites during the spring and fall field seasons.
- Conducted additional surveys at two previously occupied sites (now extirpated) and at potential experimental sites.
- Conducted numerous additional diurnal surveys at several sites to better assess breeding phenology and to search for egg masses under urgent efforts to augment populations.
- Conducted minor habitat maintenance of important breeding pools and coordinated with field crews conducting habitat actions at sites.
- Released frogs and tadpoles to establish one new site.
- Augmented populations at five existing experimental sites. Conducted emergency augmentation at three natural sites. Collected egg masses from native populations were reared in captive settings through development to later-stage tadpoles or young frogs. These animals were then released at suitable sites.

**respect, protect and enjoy our desert!**



## desert conservation PROGRAM

- Completed three seasons of translocations using animals reared at two facilities. Stopped augmentation at two sites over the course of the project to allow for the evaluation of long-term sustainability.
- Initiated sampling for a pathogenic fungus that causes chytridiomycosis.
- Facilitated semiannual Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Team meetings.
- Subcontracted with the Public Lands Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our website at:

<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/dcp/Pages/CurrentProjects.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Bickmore at (702) 455-2972.

Sincerely,

Marci D. Henson  
Program Manager

cc:

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Board of County Commissioners (7)  
Permittees' Executive Committee  
Permittees' Process Management Group  
John Hill, Purchasing  
Catherine Jorgenson, District Attorney – Civil Division  
Desert Conservation Program Community Advisory Committee  
Desert Conservation Program Interested Parties List  
Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Implementing Agencies  
Science Advisor  
SNPLMA Office (for SNPLMA projects)  
Congressional Office  
All Environmental Management Staff Distribution

**respect, protect and enjoy our desert!**

333 North Rancho, Suite 625, Las Vegas, NV 89106 • Phone (702) 455-0374 • Fax (702) 382-4593