PIF MEETING Notes Fall 2021

## Day 1: September 21, 2021

Introductions

**Kevin DesRoberts:** FWS,Co-coordinator of PIF

**Elisabeth Ammon:** Co-coorinator of PIF, Executive Director GBBO

* Updates on NV projects

**Becky Lausch:** Biotech at Moapa Wildlife Refuge

* Works at Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

**Chris Doge:**  USBR, Wildlife Biologist for Lower Colorado Multi Species Conservation Plan

* Motus working with Edwin Jaurez

**Rob Vinson:** FWS

* MAPS project
* 71 new banded birds in Moapa
* 300 birds over the course of 2 nights at Stillwater

**Bethany Chagnon:** FWS, Stillwater Wildlife Refuge

* Fall shorebird surveys went well with the help of a large volunteer effort

**Heather Beeler:** FWS

* Regional Migratory Bird Program and Eagle Permit Coordinator
* USFWS intern to create summary reports for 3 birds of conservation concern

**Christa Weise:** Deputy program leader at FWS

**Joe Barnes:** Non- game division NDOW

* Will provide NDOW, NV specific projects on Thurs.

**Julie Bless:** NDOWStatewide education and volunteer coordinator

**Andrew Delcalzo:** BLM, Caliente

* Mentioned possible funding for Joe Barnes

**Ali Chany:** Nevada National Heritage Program

**Dan Dewey:** Wildlife Ruby Lake Wildlife Refuge

**Kelly Colegrove:** Project Manager Great Basin Bird Observatory

* Mortality surveys at Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project

**Kristen Szabo:** Nevada Division of National Heritage

Updates:

**Joe Barnes NDOW**

Update on White-Faced Ibis Study with Patrick Donnelly with Intermountain West Joint Venture and grad student. Will be available online soon.

* Study focused on wetlands that had breeding white-faced ibis. Data looking at perspective habitat, but not population dynamics.
* 28 sights evaluated in Nevada looking at historical changes with modeling of predictive changes.
* Direct applicability to white-faced ibis and other shorebirds moving through NV that utilize these habitats.

NDOW Updates:

* Pacific Flyway- just had late Summer/Fall meeting in August
* Multi-state possibilities: major funding source= competitive state wildlife grants, required to be multi state (at least 2). Emphasis on direct conservation targeting on the ground habitat improvements/population improvements.
* 2 possible projects- MOTUS, using the flyway to get a competitive state wildlife grant. Ability to collect full lifecycle data on birds would be highly valuable.
* Need flagship projects to generate momentum for the proposal.
* Shorebird effort- shorebird effort lead by point blue and national Audubon society
* Competitive Yellow-billed Cuckoo state wildlife grant accepted. AZ, UT, CA heavily involved. NV, ID, MT- pledged support, but not active participants on the grant.

Discussion on competitive state wildlife grants focus

* 30-year re-visit of shorebird status and conservation (intermountain west effort) vs. regional MOTUS network.
* MOTUS could have more lasting impacts in NV.
* Rob Vinson- talking about starting a Motus Phalarope Project.
* Impacts on wetlands from current mega drought. Shorebirds could be higher conservation priority to study habitat and changes over time, critical habitats birds are using now and will be using in the future.
* MOTUS can help inform and gather data, but may not generate results quickly enough to meet short term needs for shorebirds. What has changed in the last 30 years and how do we protect habitat?
* Shorebird work could potentially target and highlight locations to focus on for MOTUS stations and inform how to build Motus network.

**Chris Dodge, USBR Update:**

* Motus Tower on Cibola National Wildlife Refuge installed by Wild at Heart (NGO out of AZ). There is money for another Motus tower in AZ. Possible tower Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, but not confirmed.
* Hopes for funding for nanotags, focus would be on species BOR is tasked with covering. Better tracking of location of birds, pick up any other nano tagged species passing through. Test nano tags on non-sensitive species, get experience and hopefully do this work next season.
* Partner in Colorado River Delta in Mexico putting in Motus stations to look at shorebirds, also running maps station. Looking at where to put Motus towers.
* Goals: Start tagging SWIFLS in the future.

**Kevin DesRoberts, Motus Update**

* 1 station on Desert Wildlife Refuge went up earlier this year.
* Motus stations in Pahranagat, Moapa, and Ash Meadows will be put up this winter. Volunteer effort in place for Nov. to assist.
* Next step putting together research proposal for birds that will be tagged, discuss how to do that through southern Nevada.

Comments on Nevada Strategy for Motus

* Lower Colorado River/ whole flyway should be part of the conversation. Can be a starting point on where to build the network for land bird monitoring.
* Use Motus to monitor shorebirds in NV, continue efforts and move forward without any major funding package. Ruby Lake, Pahranagat, Stillwater, Carson Lake and other parts of the state where there is a priority.
* Shorebirds could have more tangible short-term results to inform Motus development.

## Day 2: September 22, 2022

Attendees (not present yesterday):

**Debbie Vandooremolen: Environmental Biologist SWNA**

-YBCU, SWIFL, Yuma Ridgeway’s Rail

**Dawn Fetcher, Project Manager GBBO**

-LCR, desert thrashers

**Lauren Harter: Project Manager GBBO**

-LCR, desert thrashers

**Jenni Jeffers: NDOW**

-Major focus, shorebirds

Updates:

**Debbie Vandooremolen**

* Starting stabilization initiative on lower Las Vegas wash, installing up to 6 erosion control
* Contracted with SWCA and did WIFL and YBCU surveys, SNWA did Yuma Ridgeway’s Rail surveys. All species were identified in the area.
* Nesting SWIFL territory and several YBCU detections with possible breeding territory
* Surveys above lake Las Vegas- confirmed 5 Yuma Ridgeway’s Rail, 4 within Clark County wetlands park

**Jenni Jeffers**

* Carson Lake and Pasture transfer to NDOW from BOR complete
* Working on transcript with National Audubon on 34 years of data of Lahontan Valley shorebird complete and accepted to western birds- covering conservation and habitat recommendations to be included in management plan
* Application for funding accepted for effective management for shorebird habitat in Lahontan valley
* Changes in monitoring protocol for shorebirds
* 10,000 shorebirds at Carson Lake for first fall survey, 2nd survey approx. 5,000, and 8,000 in Sept.

**Lauren Harter**

* Desert Thrasher working group, surveys in NV, AZ, CA, NM, and Sonora, Mexico (First surveys in NV in 2018, first year ever surveying in Mexico)
* Surveyed 94 plots, almost all surveyed three times
* 12 plots with Le Conte’s Thrasher, 24 detections, but no nests or nesting evidence, no Bendire’s Thrashers detected

Motus

* GBBO is planning a Motus Webinar in November, details TBA
* Possible demo at Corn Creek with partners
* Interest in studying nightjars

PIJA Working Group (update from John Boone, GBBO)

Links

* Motus tag guide: <https://docs.motus.org/tagguide/>  tag deployment methods: <https://motus.org/data/download/tag_deployment_methods.pdf>
* <https://celltracktech.com/a-long-term-research-project-gets-a-telemetry-upgrade/>
* <https://partnersinflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/WWG-Motus-prospectus_20181010.pdf>
* GBBO PIJA citizen science/Survey123 link: <https://www.gbbo.org/citizen-science>