

| Memorandum

Date: March 1, 2010

To: Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area Scientific Review Committee

cc: Sandra Rivera

From: Jesse Schwartz & Doug Leslie

Subject: **Small Bird Carcass Removal Data from the American Kestrel-Burrowing Owl Study**

During the past two weeks we updated and re-factored the data tables and records associated with the American Kestrel-Burrowing Owl / 48-hour Search Interval Study. The purpose of this work was to develop a comprehensive, organized, and easily accessible data set that would allow SRC members and others to review the small bird carcass removal information and reproduce our analytical results or produce alternative analyses, if desired. This revised data set is intended to replace KB and small bird scavenging data that has been previously posted to the internet and circulated for review.

Previous data sets were developed by creating a record for each separate body part associated with each fatality. Although the database includes some algorithms for determining whether a fatality was still observable and valid, we found that it was not practical to reliably estimate the condition of the fatality through time. In addition, the previous data structure made it difficult to determine if a fatality was abandoned by the monitoring team, pulled from the site, or actually removed by scavenging or other forces such as weathering or wind.

The new data set and structure was developed by reviewing the data sheets for all KB and small-bird scavenging study records that met our criteria (carcass was fresh or presumed fresh because it was found only after two previous searches) for inclusion in this analysis. These records comprise all small birds, both raptors and non-raptors that were discovered by the KB monitoring team, the regular 30-day search interval monitoring team, or were incidental observations and that were tracked by the KB monitoring team. Each record in the data set has a valid fatality number that accurately cross references to Table_Fatalities where the meta-data for the fatality can be found.

There is a single record in the data set for each observation of a fatality that includes a determination as to whether the fatality was observed (found at follow-up), whether the evidence observed was a valid fatality (met our criteria for a fatality based on the nature of evidence), and whether the evidence was pulled from the field by the field crew. The determinations were taken directly from the data sheets based on the notations contained therein. The corresponding data sheets have been posted in PDF form for review if questions arise.

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The was included with this memo in an Excel workbook containing the raw data, summaries of the information, and the meta-data for each fatality from the All Fatalities table in the database. This information should be sufficient for evaluating the analytical approach used in our previous memos. In addition the data should be sufficient for generating removal curves using the methods we have previously described in M32 and elsewhere.