

A Monitoring Strategy for the Western Population of American White Pelicans: 2018 Revision



Photo Credit: Colleen Moulton

Inquiries about this monitoring strategy may be directed to member states of the Pacific Flyway Council or to the Pacific Flyway representative, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11 Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232. Information regarding the Pacific Flyway Council and management plans can be found at www.pacificflyway.gov/Management.asp.

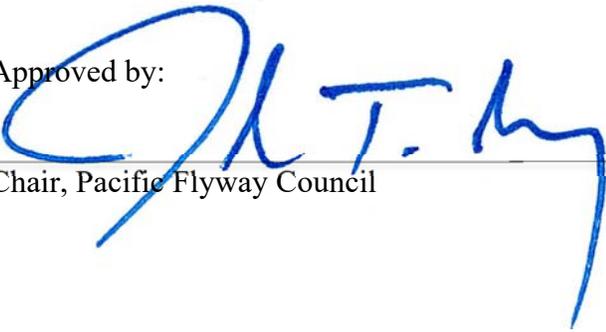
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A Monitoring Strategy for the Western Population of American White Pelicans: 2018 Revision

Prepared for the
Pacific Flyway Council
by the
Pacific Flyway Nongame Technical Committee
as directed by the
American White Pelican Subcommittee

September 2018

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. T. King', written over a horizontal line.

Chair, Pacific Flyway Council

9/28/18
Date

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This monitoring strategy was prepared by the Pacific Flyway Nongame Technical Committee as directed by the American White Pelican Subcommittee. Josh Dooley served as primary author on the original 2013 Strategy and coordinated with the subcommittee to prepare drafts and compile reviews. Updates to the 2018 revision were completed by the Pacific Flyway Nongame Technical Committee. Members of the Subcommittee and others who contributed significantly to this revised plan include:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Localized depredation issues prompted the Pacific Flyway Council's Nongame Technical Committee to develop a management framework for the American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*; herein pelican). In July 2012, *A Framework for the Management of American White Pelican Depredation on Fish Resources in the Pacific Flyway* was approved and adopted by the Pacific Flyway Council (Pacific Flyway Council 2012; herein Framework). The highest priority strategy under the Population Assessment Objective in the Framework called for developing and implementing a monitoring strategy for pelicans at the flyway scale to guide and assess management actions.

In 2013, the Pacific Flyway Council adopted *A Monitoring Strategy for the Western Population of American White Pelicans within the Pacific Flyway* (herein Strategy). The goal of the Strategy is to establish a coordinated, long-term monitoring effort to estimate the breeding population size, trend, and distribution of the western population of pelicans. Since the adoption of the Strategy, a subsequent analysis of population dynamics in western pelicans (Moulton et al. 2018) revealed a need to revise the recommended survey timing due to strong population density-dependence. The original Strategy recommended surveys once every three years; however, to appropriately assess abundance and trends in a density-dependent population, surveys in consecutive years are necessary. In addition, a revised power analysis that incorporated more data than available in 2013, indicated a need to revise the original monitoring objective from having the ability to detect a 5% change/year, to having the ability to detect a 6% change/year. This change remains comparable to other monitoring efforts for waterbird species in the West.

In sum, the objective of this Strategy is being revised to detect a 6% change/year with 80% power ($\beta = 0.20$) and a 10% Type I error rate ($\alpha = 0.10$) over a 10 year period. A power analysis was conducted to determine the most cost effective sampling scheme to achieve the revised monitoring objective. Monitoring will now occur in two consecutive years with a two-year break for 10 years (i.e., 2017-2018, 2021-2022, 2025-2026).

Monitoring following the revised schedule began in 2017 and 2018. Three breeding sites (Neponset in Utah, Padilla Bay in Washington, and Puntzi Lake in British Columbia) have been added since the original 2013 Strategy, where 18 known active breeding colonies were within the western population. All sites, including any new sites discovered, will be monitored under the revised Strategy.

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BACKGROUND

Localized depredation issues prompted the Pacific Flyway Council's Nongame Technical Committee (NTC) to develop a management framework for the American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*; herein pelican) in 2012. *A Framework for the Management of American White Pelican Depredation on Fish Resources in the Pacific Flyway* (herein Management Framework) was approved and adopted by the Pacific Flyway Council in 2012 (Pacific Flyway Council 2012). The goal of the Management Framework was to maintain pelicans as a natural part of the waterbird biodiversity of the Pacific Flyway, while minimizing negative ecological, economic, and social impacts of pelican depredation. The Management Framework included a synopsis of species' biology and status, descriptions of resource conflicts, management options, regulatory requirements, and recommended management strategies. The highest priority strategy under the Population Assessment Objective in the Management Framework called for developing and implementing a monitoring strategy for pelicans at a flyway scale to guide and assess management actions.

In 2013, *A Monitoring Strategy for the Western Population of American White Pelicans within the Pacific Flyway* (herein Strategy) was written and subsequently adopted by the Pacific Flyway Council as the first coordinated monitoring strategy for pelicans in the Pacific Flyway (Pacific Flyway Council 2013). Since the adoption of the Strategy, a subsequent analysis of population dynamics in western pelicans (Moulton et al. 2018) revealed a need to revise the recommended survey timing due to strong population density-dependence. Further power analysis showed the need for higher frequency sampling to achieve acceptable trend detection levels. The 2013 Strategy anticipated the need for subsequent plan review and revision if indicated by new data or analyses; this revision is a result of that review process. The primary changes to the original document include an updated power analysis, a revised monitoring objective, and a new recommended survey schedule using two consecutive years of surveys, followed by a two year gap, for a minimum of 10 years (i.e., through 2026).

Scope

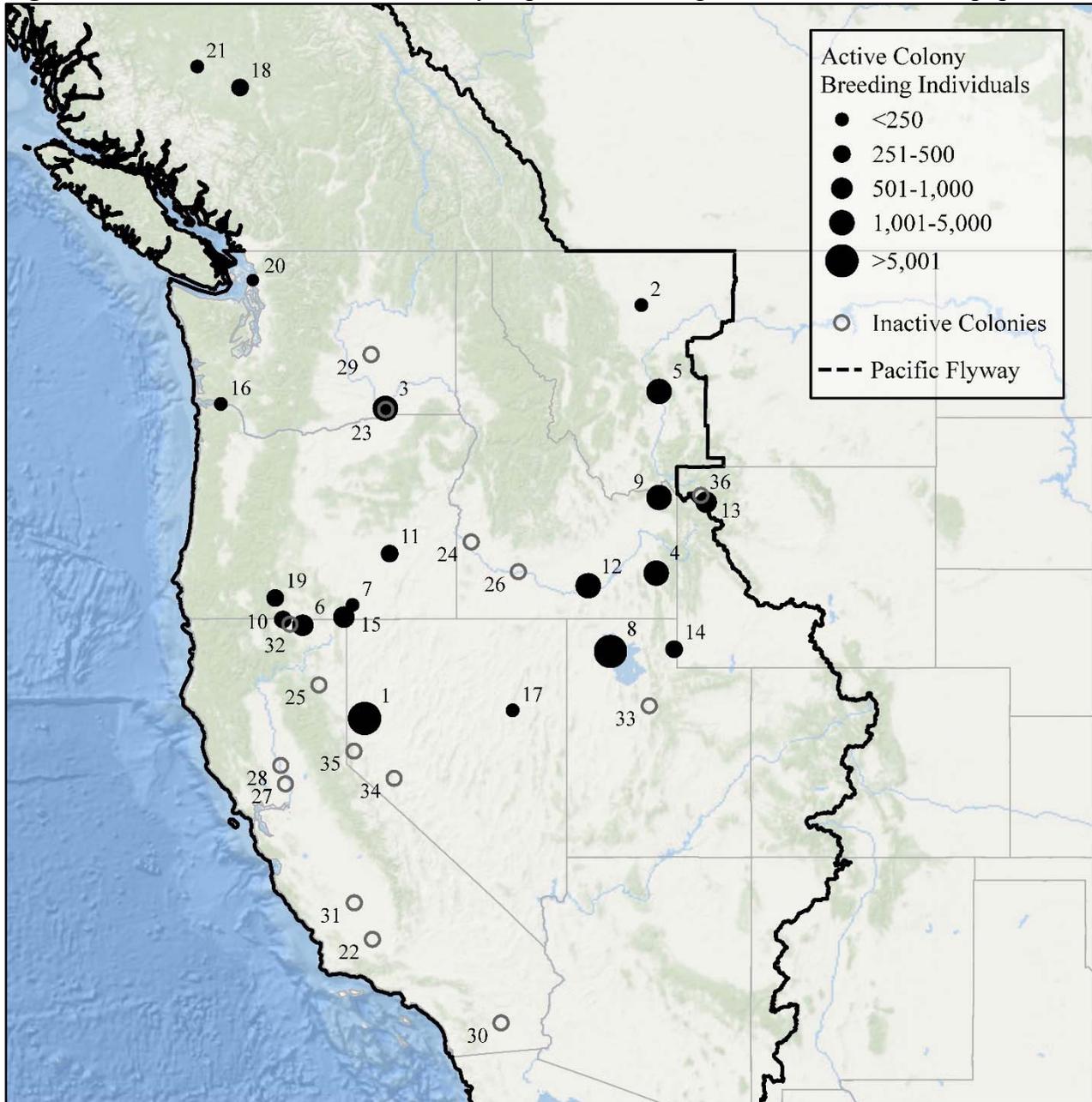
Spatial — The Strategy pertains to the western population of pelicans, which includes all pelicans known to breed west of the continental divide and the pelicans within the colonies at Molly Islands of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, and Canyon Ferry Lake and Arod Lake, Montana. Within this population, pelicans breed at over 20 colonies within eight states and British Columbia (Fig. 1, Table 1).

Temporal — Monitoring began in 2014 and was repeated in 2017 according to the original 2013 Strategy. Recent analyses (Moulton et al. 2018) indicated a strong density-dependent population; the breeding population size in a particular year appears to be negatively influenced by the breeding population size in the prior year (Fig. 2). To properly monitor this type of population, back-to-back survey years are necessary.

Therefore, all breeding colonies will be surveyed in two consecutive years with a two year gap (i.e., 2017-18, 2021-22, and 2025-26). As a result of ongoing pelican management actions and needs, it is anticipated that monitoring will need to continue beyond this timeframe. The NTC will, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), continue to evaluate the Strategy's effectiveness, and make modifications as needed to extend monitoring as necessary.

Focus — Monitoring will provide information about the breeding population status and trends of the western population of pelicans. Monitoring the breeding population is sufficient to track trends, and the information is commonly used to inform management decisions. The primary component of this

Figure 1. Size, location, and current activity of pelican breeding colonies in the western population.



Active Colonies

- 1. Anaho Island NWR
- 2. Arod Lake
- 3. Badger Island
- 4. Blackfoot Reservoir
- 5. Canyon Ferry Lake
- 6. Clear Lake NWR
- 7. Crump Lake
- 8. Gunnison Island WMA
- 9. Island Park Reservoir

Inactive Colonies

- 10. Lower Klamath NWR
- 11. Malheur NWR
- 12. Minidoka NWR
- 13. Molly Island
- 14. Neponset Reservoir
- 15. Pelican Lake
- 16. Rice Island/Miller Sand Spit
- 17. Ruby Lakes NWR
- 18. Stum Lake
- 19. Upper Klamath NWR

Active Colonies

- 20. Padilla Bay
- 21. Puntzi Lake
- 22. Buena Vista Lake
- 23. Crescent Island
- 24. Deer Flat
- 25. Eagle Lake
- 26. Glenns Ferry
- 27. Lone Tree Island
- 28. Lower Sacramento Valley

Inactive Colonies

- 29. Moses Lake
- 30. Salton Sea
- 31. Tulare Lake
- 32. Tule Lake
- 33. Utah Lake
- 34. Walker Lake
- 35. Washoe Lake
- 36. Yellowstone Lake

Table 1. The number of breeding individuals at pelican breeding colonies in 2017 for the western population.

Colony ^a	Breeding Individuals ^b	Year	Source ^c	Survey Method
British Columbia				
Stum Lake	77	2017	FLNRO – Natural Resource Operations	Boat
Puntzi Lake	232	2017	FLNRO – Natural Resource Operations	Within-colony
California				
Clear Lake NWR	868	2017	OSU, 2017 Final Report to ODFW	Aerial (Photo Count)
Lower Klamath NWR	466	2017	OSU, 2017 Final Report to ODFW	Aerial (Photo Count)
Idaho				
Blackfoot Reservoir	1,232	2017	IDFG, unpubl. data	Within-colony
Minidoka NWR	2,118	2017	IDFG, unpubl. data	Within-colony
Island Park Reservoir	1,650	2017	IDFG, unpubl. data	Within-colony
Montana ^d				
Arod Lake	332	2017	MFWP, USFWS, unpubl. data	Perimeter
Canyon Ferry Lake	3,276	2017	MFWP, unpubl. data	Perimeter
Nevada				
Anaho Island NWR	20,860	2017	NDOW, USFWS, unpubl. data	Aerial (Photo Count)
Ruby Lakes NWR	0	2017	NDOW, USFWS, unpubl. data	Perimeter
Oregon ^e				
Crump Lake	0	2017	OSU, 2017 Final Report to ODFW	Aerial (Direct Count)
Malheur NWR	0	2017	OSU, 2017 Final Report to ODFW	Aerial (Direct Count)
Upper Klamath NWR	470	2017	OSU, 2017 Final Report to ODFW	Aerial (Photo Count)
Pelican Lake	674	2017	OSU, 2017 Final Report to ODFW	Aerial (Photo Count)
Miller Sand Spit/Rice Island	204	2017	OSU, 2017 Final Report to ODFW	Aerial (Photo Count)
Utah				
Gunnison Island WMA	8,342	2017	UDWR 2017	Aerial (Photo Count)
Neponset Reservoir	916	2017	UDWR 2017	Aerial (Direct Count)
Washington				
Badger Island, McNary NWR	3,770	2017	BRNW	Aerial (Photo Count)
Unnamed Island, Padilla Bay ^f	36	2017	OSU, Citizen Scientist	Boat
Wyoming ^d				
Molly Lake, Yellowstone NP	560	2017	WGFD, unpubl. data	Aerial (Photo Count)
TOTAL	46,083			

^a States/provinces not listed have no known breeding population; NWR= National Wildlife Refuge; NP = National Park

^b In most cases, the number of nests or breeding pairs was multiplied by two to derive the number of breeding individuals.

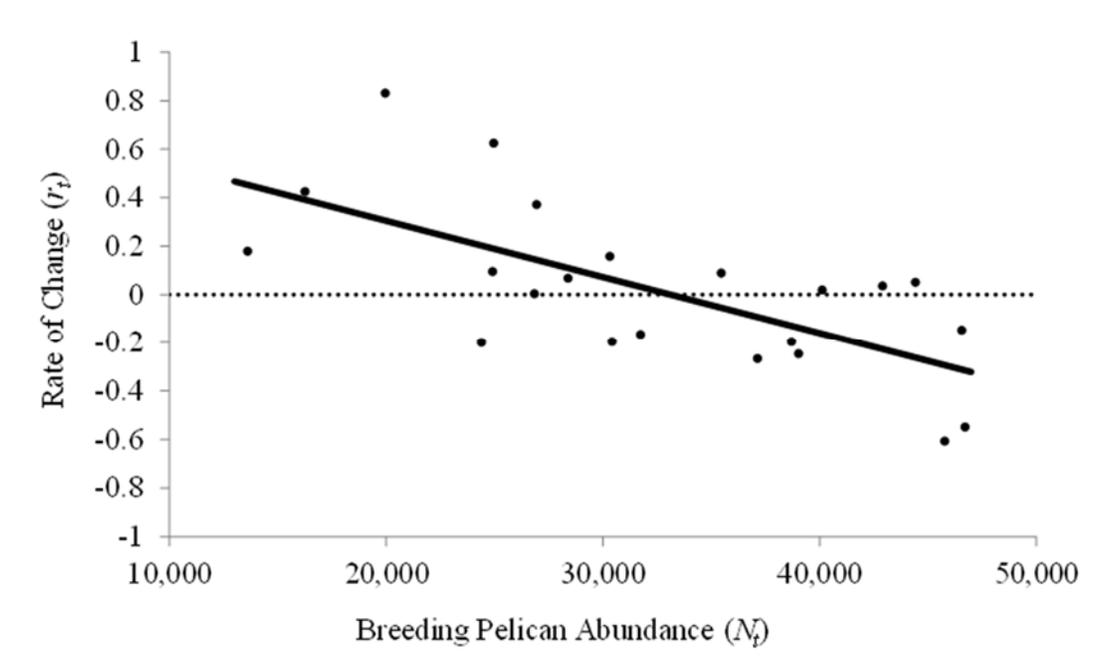
^c BRNW=Bird Research Northwest; IDFG=Idaho Department of Fish and Game; FLNRO= FL Natural Resource Operations; KBO=Klamath Bird Observatory; MFWP=Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; NDOW=Nevada Department of Wildlife; OSU = Oregon State University; UDWR=Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; USFWS=U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; WGFD=Wyoming Game and Fish Department

^d Only counts for colonies considered part of the western population are provided for Montana and Wyoming, not all colonies statewide.

^e At some sites, exact colony location differed minimally from location name due to local water conditions.

^f Colony was first established and documented in 2017.

Figure 2. Relationship between annual rate of change (r_t) and breeding pelican abundance (N_t) in the western pelican population (Moulton et al. 2018). Smaller, more recently established colonies are experiencing positive growth rates, while larger older established colonies are not.



Strategy is nest counts at breeding colonies. However, because of high variability in nest success, and the longevity of this species, productivity counts (i.e., counts of pre-fledged young) are also recommended (Moulton et al. 2018). The Strategy does not include a monitoring component for the non-breeding segment of the population because it is prohibitively costly to monitor non-breeders, and non-breeders are difficult to distinguish from breeders using standard monitoring techniques (e.g., aerial surveys).

Not all monitoring needs pertaining to pelicans and depredation issues are covered by this Strategy. For example, depredation permits may require documentation of impacts to fish resources, additional monitoring of local pelican populations, and measuring the effectiveness of management actions. Guidelines and procedures to address pelican depredation issues are described in the Impact Reduction Objective in the Management Framework. States and other entities may have research and management priorities that require additional monitoring and data collection beyond what is included in this Strategy. These efforts should be conducted as necessary and coordinated within the Pacific Flyway, where practical. Protocols for additional monitoring efforts are not included within this document.

Goal

The goal of this work is to establish a coordinated, long-term monitoring strategy to estimate the breeding population size, productivity, trend, and distribution of the western population of pelicans. This information is fundamental for developing effective management recommendations, and for guiding and assessing management actions pertaining to pelican depredation of fish resources.

Monitoring Objective

The original 2013 monitoring objective was to be able to detect a 5% change/year in the pelican population with 80% power ($\beta = 0.20$) and a 10% Type I error rate ($\alpha = 0.10$) in 10 years. At that time, the NTC determined this level of monitoring was appropriate given the conservation status of pelicans,

management considerations, and monitoring objectives for other species of similar conservation status. A revised power analysis (Appendix A) shows a 5% change/year is not possible with 80% power even if colonies are surveyed annually. The objective has therefore been modified to provide the ability to detect a 6% change/year with 80% power ($\beta = 0.20$) and a 10% Type I error rate ($\alpha = 0.10$) over a 10-year period.

Although this modified objective is less stringent than monitoring objectives for other species of greater conservation concern, it is similar to monitoring standards for seabirds to detect a 50% decline in 10 years (6.7% change/year) with 90% power ($\beta = 0.10$) and a 5% Type I error rate ($\alpha = 0.05$; Hatch 2002). Commonly used values of α range from 0.001 to 0.10, and β range from 0.01 to 0.20 (Gibbs and Ene 2010). For Breeding Bird Survey and other long-term landbird monitoring programs, Bart et al. (2004) recommended an accuracy target of 80% power to detect a 50% decline over a 20-year period, using a 2-tailed test with a significance level of 0.10 and incorporating effects of potential bias into the analysis. The Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) has a similar monitoring standard that includes 80% power to detect a 50% decline over a 20-year period using a 2-tailed test and a significance level of 0.15 (Skagen et al. 2003).

MONITORING STRATEGY

Definition of Terms

Active Breeding Colony — A breeding colony that contains \geq five active nests or 10 breeding individuals at least one time during the past five years.

Active Nest — A nest that contains a pelican egg(s) or fledgling(s) or with at least one adult in direct attendance, either incubating or standing directly on a nest.

Breeding Population — The number of individual pelicans nesting in a given year.

Non-breeding Population — The number of individual pelicans that do not nest in a given year.

Productivity — The number of chicks that reach 8-10 weeks of age (pre-fledglings) per active nest in a given year.

Sampling Approach

Years to Monitor Breeding Colonies — The adjusted monitoring schedule began in 2017: surveys will occur in two consecutive years, followed by a two year gap for a minimum of 10 years (i.e., through at least 2026: 2017-18, 2021-22, 2025-26). Ideally, some colonies are surveyed annually; however, the goal of this Strategy is to conduct a comprehensive standardized monitoring effort of the entire western population during the years specified. The monitoring interval was based on results from the population analysis (Moulton et al. 2018) and the power analysis (see below and Appendix A) conducted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. For the power analysis, we evaluated eight temporal sampling schemes, where monitoring occurred annually, for 3-10 years in a row, and back-to-back years with one, two, and three year gaps in between (Appendix A). The most cost effective temporal sampling scheme (i.e., the fewest number of total sampling units) that achieved the monitoring objective was to monitor back-to-back years with a two year gap in between for a 10-year duration.

Locations to Monitor — All known breeding colonies within the western population will be monitored (i.e., a census of known colonies) according to the intervals noted in the Strategy, even if no breeding is reported for a given year. New breeding colonies will be monitored during the year they are discovered, when possible, and for the remainder of the Strategy even if no breeding is reported for a given year. There are currently 21 active pelican breeding colonies in the western population. Summary statistics of the breeding colonies and the four breeding colony size classes are given in Appendix A, Table A1.

Conducting a census of all breeding colonies will provide the best understanding of pelican population dynamics. When sampling, it is not possible to determine whether a decrease in abundance at a colony reflects an actual decrease in the metapopulation, or is potentially complemented by an increase at another colony. Additionally, since there are few breeding colonies, monitoring all colonies will ensure the best chance of detecting a population trend. If it is not possible to conduct a census, monitoring priority should be given to the largest colonies since they have the largest influence on determining trend.

Timing of Breeding Colony Monitoring — For nest counts, the mid- to late-incubation period is the ideal time to survey breeding colonies as peak counts occur during this time (Steinkamp et al. 2003, Jones 2008). Pair formation and nest site selection begin soon after arrival of adults to the nesting grounds. Egg laying starts approximately 4-5 days after nest site selection (Knopf and Evans 2004), and hatching occurs approximately 30 days after laying (Knopf 1979). Because chicks will fledge and leave the colony at 10-11 weeks of age (Knopf and Evans 2004), productivity counts should be conducted approximately 8-10 weeks after the nest count. Suggested monitoring dates for nest counts at breeding colonies within Pacific Flyway states/provinces are given in Table 2. These dates provide a tentative guideline but may be subject to change given local or annual environmental and colony conditions.

Table 2. Suggested monitoring dates for Pacific Flyway states/provinces.

State/Province	Time Period		Reference
	Nest Counts	Productivity Counts	
UT	late Apr–mid May	late June–mid Jul	Knopf 1979
CA and southern OR	early May	early Jul	Shuford and Gardali 2008
NV	early–mid May	early–mid Jul	Wiemeyer et al. 2007
B.C.	mid May	mid Jul	Dunbar 1984
WY	mid May–early Jun	mid Jul–early Aug	Baril et al. 2010
MT	late May–early Jun	late Jul–early Aug	MFWP, unpubl. data
ID	late May–early Jun	late Jul–early Aug	IDFG 2009
WA and northern OR	late May–Jun	late Jul–early Aug	Roby et al. 2012

MONITORING TECHNIQUES

Overview

Air-, water-, and ground-based techniques can be used to monitor pelicans (Steinkamp et al. 2003, Jones 2008). However, we recommend aerial flights, where photos or videos are taken for subsequent analysis, over other methods described in this document. If aerial counts are not feasible, within-colony ground counts are an appropriate alternative. If neither of these methods is feasible, perimeter or boat counts may be conducted. Aerial counts can be implemented using manned (e.g., fixed-wing or helicopter) or unmanned (e.g., drone) flights. Although total counts of all colonies should be conducted when possible, partial counts of colonies may be necessary if access is limited. Conducting multiple counts of a breeding colony during a monitoring year is strongly recommended to estimate peak abundance and variability. This is particularly important for large colonies that may have asynchronous sub-colonies, or for colonies that fail and restart. Note these counts are different than the repeat flights required for some aerial monitoring methods that seek to separate loafers from breeders. Multiple counts are the best approach for areas where pelicans nest in vegetation that may hinder detectability. If adults show evidence of breeding in an area (e.g., carrying food, mating, or distraction displays) but there are no confirmed active nests or fledglings observed, sites should be revisited at a later date to confirm the breeding status of the colony. When conducting nest counts, detection probability and sampling variance should be estimated when possible. This can be achieved in many ways, including the same or different observer(s) recounting the same location or photograph multiple times, conducting trials to estimate detection probability for an observer(s) or area(s) and then applying the correction thereafter, or using double-observer sampling approaches (Nichols et al. 2000, Steinkamp et al. 2003).

Pelicans are sensitive to disturbance, and nest monitoring techniques should be conducted in a manner that reduces the amount of disturbance to the colony. Adult pelicans can destroy eggs and injure/kill young nestlings when flushing, and may abandon nests if disturbed repeatedly (BCME 1998, Knopf and Evans 2004, Jones 2008). Surveyors should be particularly cautious of disturbance in newly established breeding colonies as pelicans may abandon the area if disturbance levels are too high. Adults should not be off the nest >10-30 minutes (Jones 2008). Additionally, caution should be exercised when: 1) wind chill temperature is <65°F, 2) it is sunny and air temperature is >80°F, 3) it is cloudy and air temperature is >90°F, 4) it is raining or there is a high probability of rain, 5) egg or chick predators are present and are able to approach exposed nests, and 6) the majority of the colony is in the nest-building or early incubation stage (Jones 2008).

There are currently no established protocols for assessing productivity at pelican colonies. Therefore, only general guidelines for these types of surveys are provided. Efforts are currently underway by USFWS, Point Blue Conservation Science, and members of the NTC to develop a standardized productivity protocol framework (Nur, personal communication). Initial analyses indicate that two nest counts followed by a single pre-fledging count is adequate for assessing productivity. Results of that effort should guide productivity counts recommended in this Strategy in the future.

Aerial Counts

The current method used to monitor most active breeding colonies within the western population is counting nests from photographs or video taken during aerial flights, either manned or unmanned. Aerial photography reduces the amount of disturbance to the breeding colony, and is more accurate than conducting direct aerial counts as direct aerial counts are highly unreliable. Recommended flight altitudes are between 150-400m above the colony for manned flights, and 150-250m using unmanned

aircraft. However, altitudes may need to be adjusted to comply with local regulations or to avoid disturbance to the colony.

Manned aircraft — Aerial imagery can either be: 1) a single photo of an entire island or nesting colony, 2) overlapping photos of colonies, or 3) video. When enumerating nests from photographs, ≥ 2 independent counts of the image should be made. Unless there is site-specific knowledge of the ratio of incubating adults to tending mates and/or loafing birds, counts of adults from aerial photos will be multiplied by 1.5 to derive the number of active nests. If the breeding status of pelicans cannot be determined from aerial photographs, the location should be visited to verify breeding status. Photographs or video shot at an oblique angle (adults can be distinguished from young by leg and bill color) can be used for counts of pre-fledged young.

Unmanned aircraft — Using unmanned aircraft (e.g., drones) to survey pelican colonies is a relatively new technique, and standardized protocols are being developed (i.e., Dulava 2016). When planning to use drones for monitoring pelican colonies, close pre-survey coordination is needed with wildlife agencies and the landowner to obtain the required permissions, including Federal Aviation Administration, USFWS (e.g., Special Use Permit, Airborne Hunting Act), and the state wildlife agency. Similar to manned aircraft, aerial photographs taken from drones can either be: 1) a single photo of an entire island, or 2) multiple overlapping photos that are combined to create one image of the nesting area. Initial work indicates that comparison of two images, taken 4-24 hours apart, yields more accurate nest counts than a single photo. Presumably, this would also be the case for photos taken from manned aircraft, but this has not been tested. Similar to manned aircraft, a single image taken at an oblique angle may also be used for assessing productivity. Video footage taken from drones may be used alone as a method to count nests, adults, or young, or as a reinforcement to counts obtained by photographs.

Ground Counts

If aerial counts are not possible, ground-based monitoring can occur from the perimeter of the colony or within the colony. To improve accuracy, within-colony total nest counts are preferred. However, if within-colony counts are conducted, efforts should be made to reduce disturbance by minimizing noise, the time spent within the colony, and the proportion of the breeding area disturbed.

Perimeter Counts — Perimeter counts involve monitoring a colony from survey points on the periphery of a colony. The number and location of survey points depend upon the unique characteristics of each colony. Survey points should be close enough to count individual nests, but far enough away so that individuals do not flush. Survey points should be spaced appropriately to count the maximum number of nests without double counting. To avoid double counting nests, a unique and specific segment of the colony should be surveyed from each survey point. Identifying unique landmarks or distinguishing features within the colony help delineate the survey area for a particular survey point. Perimeter counts should only be conducted when all nests are visible from the perimeter of the colony.

Within-Colony Total Counts — Within-colony total counts involve counting all nests within the colony boundary. Counts should be conducted when there are < 500 nests/observer for ground nesting colonies (Jones 2008). If the colony is small (< 50 nests) or located along a narrow corridor, a single unmarked transect can be walked and every nest counted. If all nests are not visible from a single transect, the colony should be delineated into strips (i.e., strip transects) using flagging or other markers. Nests are counted within each strip, and the strip totals are combined to provide a colony total. The width and number of strips will depend upon site-specific characteristics, but should ensure that every nest within the strip can be viewed without double-counting nests within other strips. Total counts on larger colonies can be achieved relatively quickly by having a line of multiple observers walk side-by-side within a strip

transect. Each observer uses a clicker and communicates with their neighbor to assure nests are not missed or double-counted.

Within-Colony Partial Counts — To conduct a partial count, the total area occupied by the colony needs to be determined first by mapping the colony boundary. A proportion of the total area is sampled using transects, quadrants (i.e., squares), or circles. When using sampling circles, GPS points within the colony are first determined. An observer places a pole at that point with an attached piece of string or rope (10-20m typically). The observer then surveys all nests within the area of the circle created by the length of the string or rope. Sampling transects, quadrants, or circles should be randomly placed within the colony, and, if there are known differences in habitat or nest density within the colony, a stratified random sampling approach is used. The sampled area should encompass 20-40% of the entire colony and sampled areas should not overlap; 40% is preferred under most circumstances. Once the total number of nests is determined for the sampled area, these estimates are extrapolated to the remaining proportion of the colony not sampled to estimate a total colony nest count. Partial counts can also be used for perimeter, boat, and aerial counts, using the same estimation techniques (i.e., surveying a known proportion of the colony, then extrapolating those counts to estimate the entire colony).

Boat Counts

Boat counts can be used to monitor colonies proximal to water. If anchoring the boat is possible, colony counts can be conducted similar to perimeter counts (see above). If breeding is more dispersed, Trocki et al. (2010) recommended boat speeds of approximately 5 km/h. Boats should be kept at a distance where safe boat operation is feasible and disturbance to the colony is minimal. Photographs or video can also be taken from the boat to later determine nest counts.

IMPLEMENTATION

Each state's NTC member will facilitate reporting and sharing of data with the USFWS. The data sheet for collecting and reporting data is provided in Appendix B. Data will be housed and managed within the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management Region 1 office. Region 1 will provide status reports concerning data gathered from this Strategy to the states within the Pacific Flyway, and other interested entities, while the NTC explores other centralized database options (e.g., Avian Knowledge Network). The USFWS liaison to the NTC will coordinate interactions between the NTC and the USFWS. The NTC will periodically review and revise the Strategy, evaluate its effectiveness, and brief the Pacific Flyway Council on any necessary revisions.

BUDGET

This Strategy leverages existing efforts by states and provinces within the Pacific Flyway to achieve its objective at the lowest cost. Estimating individual costs per colony for each survey period, however, is beyond the scope of this document as these values fluctuate over time, and are anticipated to do so dramatically as new survey methods and technologies (e.g., drones) rapidly mature. The USFWS and participating states and provinces may choose to incur the total costs of this monitoring, or states may request an assessment from the Pacific Flyway Council. The NTC, in coordination with the USFWS, will evaluate the costs for implementing this Strategy one year prior to the next monitoring period and inform the Pacific Flyway Council on areas where resources are limited.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Sampling Approach

Summary — We recommend a two years on / two years off sampling schedule for all known colonies in the western population of American White Pelicans through 2026. This approach will have the ability to detect a 6% / year change rate with a Type I error probability of 0.1 (alpha) and a Type II error probability of 0.2 (beta). The recommended minimum power remains the same at 0.8 (1-beta). It will also allow for the analysis of population density-dependence, and aligns well with the frequency for the proposed productivity protocol framework under development by USFWS and Point Blue Conservation Science (Nur, personal communication). Our recommended sampling approach also follows the 2013 objective as closely as possible, given the recent population density-dependence analysis done in conjunction with Moulton et al. (2018) and the revised power analysis detailed below.

Sampling Approach — All breeding colonies within the western population will be monitored (i.e., a census) during a monitoring year. Breeding colonies will be monitored for the duration of the monitoring strategy, even if no breeding is reported for a given year. New breeding colonies will be monitored during the year they are discovered and for the remainder of the monitoring strategy, even if no breeding is reported for a given year.

Conducting a census of all breeding colonies will provide the best understanding of pelican population dynamics. When sampling, it is not possible to determine whether a decrease in abundance at a colony reflects an actual decrease in the metapopulation or is complemented by an increase at an unmonitored colony. Since there are few breeding colonies, monitoring all colonies will ensure the best chance of detecting a population trend. If it is not possible to conduct a census, monitoring priority should be given to the largest colonies since they have the largest influence on determining trend. Pelican use of breeding locations is relatively stable, and new breeding colonies are typically found and reported with a high degree of certainty without organized monitoring efforts. A completely randomized, dual-frame (Haines and Pollock 1998), or similar sampling approach was not considered to be necessary or cost-effective since there is minimal colony turnover and little need to devote a large amount of monitoring effort to discover new breeding colonies.

Summary Statistics and Description of the Western Population — At the time of the analysis, there were 21 active pelican breeding colonies in the western population. The two largest colonies, Gunnison Island WMA, Utah and Anaho Island NWR, Nevada, comprise approximately 55% of the western population. The seven largest colonies comprise 90% of the western population (Table A1).

Colonies were stratified into four size classes (>6,000, 5,999-2,000, 1,999-300, and 299-10 breeding individuals) based on suspected differences in colony dynamics. Colony data from the last 10 annual counts were used to calculate the mean number of breeding pairs and percent coefficient of variation of the number of breeding pairs for the four size classes (i.e., strata; Table A1). These summary statistics were used in the power analysis (see below). Monitoring recommendations may need to be adjusted if these values change substantially in the future. For example, if the percent coefficient of variation values increase, a greater number of sampling units will be needed to achieve the desired management objective.

Power Analysis — An initial power analysis was conducted in support of the 2013 Strategy using Program R (R Development Core Team 2008) and Program Monitor (Gibbs and Ene 2010) to identify the most cost effective sampling scheme (i.e., fewest number of total sampling units) that achieved the monitoring objective. The original monitoring objective was to have the ability to detect a 5%

change/year in the western population of pelicans with 80% power ($\beta = 0.20$) and a 10% Type I error rate ($\alpha = 0.10$). Nine temporal schemes were assessed, where monitoring of the 18 known breeding colonies occurred every year, every other year, or every third year for 3, 5, 7, and 9/10 years in duration. Details of this analysis are provided in the 2013 Monitoring Strategy.

Subsequent attempts to replicate the work in advance of this 2018 revision revealed that not all colony data had been included in the original analysis. Specifically, many valid zero counts had inadvertently been omitted, thus artificially reducing the coefficient of variation used to determine power. When the full data set was used to determine appropriate coefficients of variation, the initial monitoring objective was revealed to be overly optimistic (Table A2, Fig. A1). The revised power analysis, which replicated the 2013 analysis approach (E. Roche, unpublished analysis; R Core Team 2018), indicated that the original monitoring objective of detecting a 5% change/year was not possible to obtain, even if all colonies were monitored every year (Table A2). This finding necessitated a change in monitoring objective, from being able to detect a 5% change/year to being able to detect a 6% change/year.

Results from Power Analysis — The power to detect trend increases as the number of years, duration of years, and trend values increased (Table A2; Fig. A1). Monitoring >9 years in duration will most likely be necessary to ensure detection of a 6% annual trend with approximately 80% power (Table A2; Fig. A1). Shorter durations may be sufficient if trend values are greater than 6%. Several monitoring schemes achieved the objective, but a two years on / two years off for a 10-year duration survey schedule met the revised monitoring objective for the least cost. Power estimates to detect a 6% trend were higher with more intensive monitoring, but the total number of units sampled was much greater (Table A2; Fig. A1).

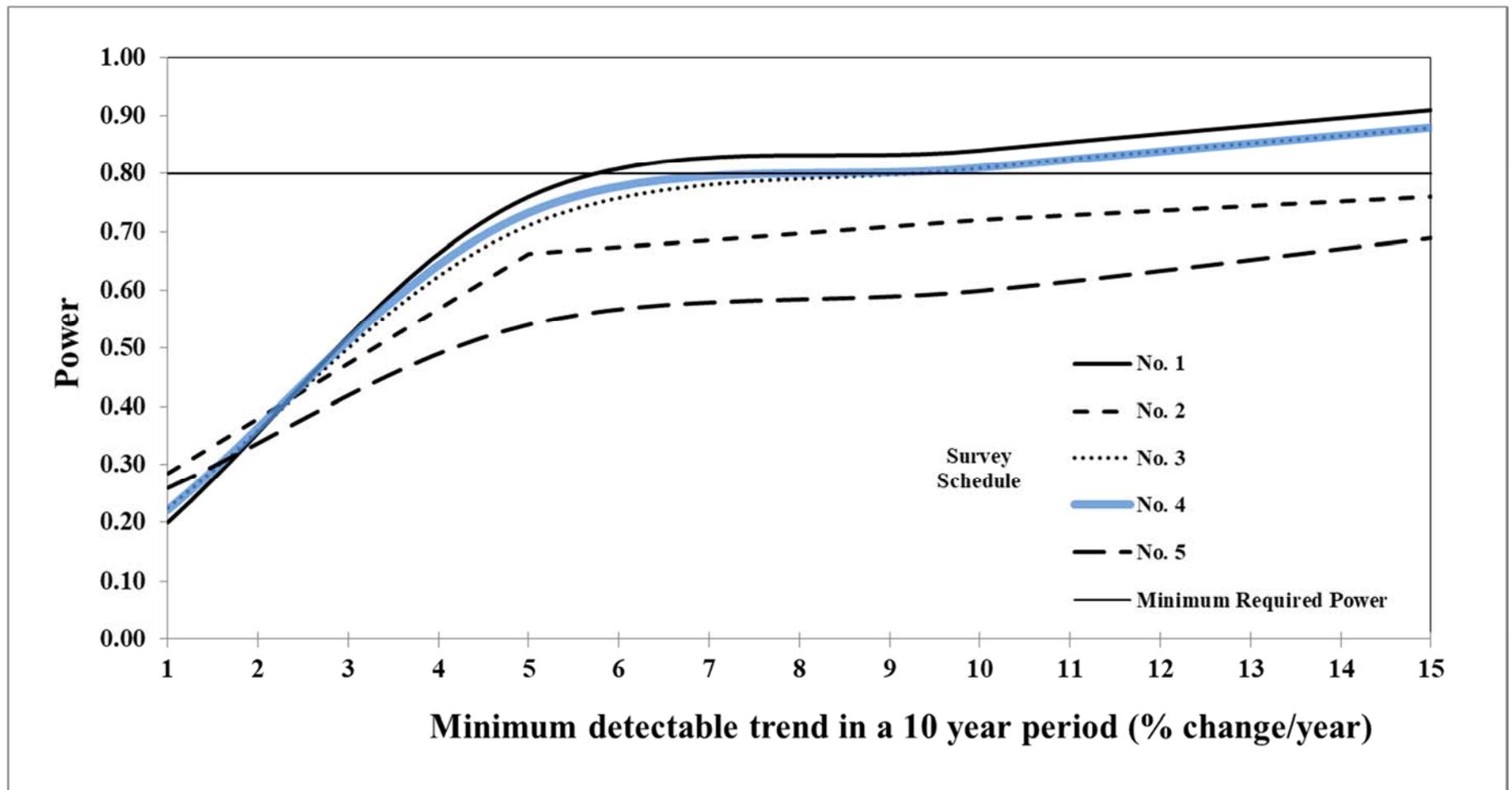
Monitoring Recommendation from Power Analysis — The most cost effective sampling scheme that will achieve the revised monitoring objective is to monitor two-years on / two-years off for 10 years, beginning in 2017 (i.e., 2017-18, 2021-22, 2025-26).

Table A1. Pelican breeding colony summary statistics and input values for the power analysis. Percent coefficient of variation (% CV) was calculated using the last 10 available annual counts through 2016. For colonies without available annual count data, the number of breeding individuals from the most recent survey was reported and no percent coefficient of variation estimate was given.

Colony Size (Breeding Individuals)	# of Colonies in Size Class	Mean Colony Size (Breeding Individuals)	% CV	Total Count (Breeding Individuals)	% of Total Population
>6,000	2	11,278	33%	22,557	55%
5,999-2,000	5	2,896	43%	14,482	35%
1,999-300	5	619	85%	3,094	8%
299-0	6	185	89%	1,108	3%
TOTAL	18			41,240	100%

Colony	Mean Colony Size (Breeding Individuals)	% CV
Gunnison Island WMA	11,454	24%
Anaho Island NWR	11,102	41%
Canyon Ferry Lake	4,067	23%
Clear Lake NWR	2,170	88%
Minidoka NWR	3,410	29%
Blackfoot Reservoir	2,097	44%
Badger Island, McNary NWR	2,738	30%
Molly Lake, Yellowstone NP	815	34%
Lower Klamath NWR	194	107%
Stum Lake	836	23%
Malheur NWR	406	163%
Arod Lake	575	121%
Island Park Reservoir	462	-
Crump Lake	200	-
Pelican Lake	177	-
Miller Sand Spit	268	-
Upper Klamath NWR	269	71%
Ruby Lake NWR	0	-

Figure A1. Plot of projected power for five evaluated sampling approaches (numbering from Table A1). Approaches No.1, 3, and 4 are all able to detect a 6%/year trend in 10 years' time, but No. 4 does so with the least amount of effort.



APPENDIX B: 2018 Data Sheet and Instructions

PACIFIC FLYWAY COLONIAL WATERBIRD SURVEY									
General Information									
_____		_____		Coordinates (WGS84)					
Colony Name		Colony Code (if known)		Latitude:		Longitude:			
_____		_____		Status* (check 1):					
Survey Date		Start Time		End Time		Active <input type="checkbox"/>			
_____		_____		()		Inactive <input type="checkbox"/>			
_____		_____		Telephone #		Agency/Affiliation			
Primary Observer Name		Email							
Survey Information									
Survey Method/Vantage Point (check 1)			Survey Type (check 1)			Vantage Point Description (if applicable)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Perimeter <input type="checkbox"/> Boat <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photo			<input type="checkbox"/> Full (complete) survey			Vantage location (UTMs): _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Aerial <input type="checkbox"/> Within-colony <input type="checkbox"/> Other			<input type="checkbox"/> Partial survey			Distance from colony (meters): _____			
			% of Colony _____			Vantage location description: _____			
Count Information									
Species	Survey Target**	Count #	Number Observed			Estimated Breeding Pairs	Estimated Young Produced	Notes:	
			Nests	Adults	Young				
*Status - Active = Breeding (nest building, courtship, incubation, eggs, or chicks observed) Inactive = Non-breeding (no active nests, eggs, or chicks)						**Survey Target - N = Nest/Breeding Pair Count P = Productivity Count			
Comments (other nesting species, predators, presence of banded birds):									
Colony Site Information									
_____			_____			_____			
State			County			General Directions to colony or location; e.g. 2 mi W of Salem			
_____			_____			_____			
Nesting habitat: ground, trees, manmade structure			Land Ownership (if known)						

Instructions

- Use one data sheet per colony.
- For counts taken outside of a colony, or by aerial photo, it is recommended that multiple counts of active nests be taken. This may be done simultaneously by multiple observers or in two consecutive counts by one observer. This will account for observer error.
- When counting from within a colony, only one count is necessary and should be completed in a methodical but timely fashion to minimize disturbance to the birds.
- Counts of all adults and chicks can be taken as time allows. When cormorants or pelicans are nesting in vegetation these counts provide additional helpful information if all nests are not visible.
- Fill out the datasheet as completely as possible. If a GPS unit is not available, UTM coordinates can be obtained using Google Earth or ArcGIS.

Datasheet Definitions

- **General Information:**
 - Time: start and end time, record in military format 0000-2400
 - Status: Active = Breeding (nest building, courtship, incubation, eggs, or chicks observed)
Inactive = Non-breeding (no active nests, eggs, or chicks),
 - If the majority of birds are only engaging in nest building and courtship, the colony should be visited again in a few weeks since the goal is to count the colony close to peak incubation.
 - Make note if you suspect the site is a roost site and not a breeding colony.
- **Survey Information:**
 - Survey Method/Vantage Point
 - Perimeter: count taken from the ground near the colony
 - Boat: count taken from the water near the colony
 - Aerial photo: count taken on aerial photos captured on a survey flight
 - Direct aerial: count taken by an observer on a survey flight
 - Within-colony: count taken from the ground inside the colony
 - Survey Type
 - Full (complete) survey: all of the colony was visible and counted
 - Partial survey: colony was too large or not 100% visible, so a sample was counted.
 - % of colony counted: estimate the % of the colony that was visible and could be counted. If less than 100% was counted, explain why in the notes (ex. Birds could be seen entering vegetation but nests were obscured, or Colony was too large so a portion was sampled).
 - Vantage Point Description (for counts conducted outside of the colony)
 - Vantage Location (UTMs): UTMs can be obtained in Google Earth if no GPS is available
 - Distance from colony (meters): record in meters if observing from the ground or a boat, record in meters above ground level if observing from an aircraft
 - Vantage location description: brief description of observation location (ex: south bank of the river SE of the colony)
- **Count Information**
 - Survey Target: N = Nest/Breeding Pair Count (required survey for this Strategy)
P = Productivity Count (recommended survey for pre-fledglings)
 - Nests: Only active nests (i.e., attended by one or more adults or nests that contain eggs or young chicks) should be counted. Do not include empty nests.

- As most pelican colonies have a wide range of nest initiation dates, and chicks leave the nest within a few weeks, counts may be a combination of nests with eggs or young chicks and larger “creched” chicks found outside of a nest. One creched chick not directly associated with a nest may be considered to equal one nest. If creched chicks are included in the active nest total, please indicate this in the ‘Notes’ column, and include the # of creched chicks counted in the ‘# Young’ column.
- Adults: If the ‘Nests’ count reflects a count of adults attending nests, as opposed to a direct count of nests with eggs or chicks, please record the # of adults counted here.
- Young: If the colony is visited when some chicks have already creched, or the entire colony has already left their nests (e.g. approaching fledging), record the number of chicks on the colony NOT associated with a nest. The ‘Nests’ and ‘Young’ columns should both be filled out ONLY during nest/breeding pair counts when there are still eggs or young in nests. If all young have left the nest, the ‘Nests’ field should be left blank.
- Estimated Breeding Pairs: This field should reflect the total number of nests/pairs observed during a nest/breeding pair count. This can be the sum of ‘Nests’ and ‘Young’ or an ‘Adult’ count corrected by either multiplying the total number in the ‘Adult’ column by 1.5, or by using a locally-derived corrected factor that accounts for ratio of adults present on a colony to the number of nests they represent.
- Estimated Young Produced: If the ‘Young’ field is a total pre-fledgling count, these two fields should be identical. If the ‘Young’ count is a sample of the total count, this field can be used for a locally-derived corrected estimate of young produced.