

Work Task C7: Survey and Habitat Characterization for MacNeill's Sootywing

Contact:	Bill Wiesenborn, LC-8226
Purpose:	Conduct surveys to locate MacNeill's sootywing skipper habitat and research to better define its habitat requirements.
Conservation Measure:	MNSW1
Long-term Goal(s):	Results of this project will be used to assist with the creation of 222 acres for the MacNeill's sootywing skipper habitat.
FY2006 Estimate:	\$150,000. Project will require Reclamation staff (½-full time equivalent) and one university employee (½ time). Reclamation lab will provide plant water content and soils analyses. An educational institution will provide genetic analysis of plant tissue.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$150,000. Same as previous year.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$75,000 includes completion of work and development of the final report.
Project Description:	Survey MacNeill's sootywing skipper and its host plant within LCR MSCP boundaries. Surveys will concentrate on river and wash inflows to LCR, including Virgin, Muddy, and Bill Williams Rivers as well as Sacramento Wash. Measure site factors affecting presence or absence of MacNeill's sootywing skipper concurrent with surveys.

Specific FY2006 Work Tasks:

- a) Survey the insect and its host plant within LCR MSCP boundaries, concentrating on river and wash inflows, between April and October.
- b) Measure site factors that may affect presence/absence, including soil moisture, soil salinity, soil composition, plant water content, availability of nectar sources, acreage of Atriplex stand, elevation, and latitude.