

Work Task D3: **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Habitat Monitoring**

Contact:	Theresa Olson, LC-8222
Purpose:	Monitor the effects of reduced flows and the associated reduction in the groundwater table on southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) breeding habitat between Parker and Imperial Dams.
Conservation Measures:	MRM1 and MRM2
Long-term Goal(s):	Continue to monitor SWFL habitat condition through the Secretarial Implementation Agreement (SIA) period.
FY2006 Estimate:	\$90,000. Reclamation has modified the existing SWCA-SWFL Contract to monitor 372 acres of breeding habitat between Parker and Imperial Dams (Approx. \$75,000). Costs include contract support, field support and inspection, GIS database coordination, and quality assessment.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$90,000. Costs include contracting, field support, and quality assessment.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$90,000. A new contract will be written and awarded for FY2008 and beyond. Funding levels will be similar to those of the previous contract.
Project Description:	In 2001, Reclamation received a Biological Opinion on the SIA for the change in point of diversion of up to 400,000 acre-feet between Imperial and Parker Dams. This work is being implemented through the LCR MSCP. Reduced river flows created by the change in point of diversion may affect SWFL breeding habitat found between these two dams. In 2005, Reclamation began monitoring

372 acres of SWFL breeding habitat to document changes in habitat condition, and will continue to do so through the SWCA contract. A study plan is available.

Specific FY2006 Work Tasks:

- a) SWCA will monitor 372 acres of SWFL breeding habitat below Parker Dam by collecting and analyzing microclimate data, groundwater monitoring, and extensive vegetation monitoring utilizing similar protocols as those in place for the life history studies so data can be compared.
- b) SWCA will analyze data collected so far and put into annual report for FY2006 work in March 2007.