

# Work Task D7: Yellow-billed Cuckoo Presence/Absence Surveys

<b>Contact:</b>	John Swett, LC-8220
<b>Purpose:</b>	Conduct surveys to determine existing yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU) populations along the LCR from the Grand Canyon to the Southerly International Boundary and to monitor long-term trend.
<b>Conservation Measures:</b>	MRM1 and MRM2
<b>Long-term Goal(s):</b>	System monitoring for YBCU will continue throughout the LCR MSCP project period. Data collected will enable Reclamation to design restoration sites for YBCU and/or recommend future demographic studies necessary to understand more about the YBCU populations along the LCR.
<b>FY2006 Estimate:</b>	\$500,000. YBCU presence/absence surveys will be contracted by Reclamation in FY2006. Costs include field support and quality assessment.
<b>FY2007 Estimate:</b>	\$500,000. Same as previous year.
<b>FY2008 Estimate:</b>	\$500,000. Same as previous year.
<b>Project Description:</b>	Yellow-billed cuckoo has been identified in the Habitat Conservation Plan as an umbrella species for mature cottonwood-willow habitat along the LCR. Conservation measure YBCU1 calls for the creation of 4,050 acres of YBCU breeding habitat, including 1,350 acres created and managed specifically for YBCU. Conservation measure YBCU2 specifies the maintenance of existing important YBCU habitat areas.

Little is known about existing YBCU breeding habitat along the LCR. Systematic YBCU surveys have not been conducted over the project area. In order to accomplish YBCU2, existing YBCU habitat must be identified. In addition, system monitoring for YBCU will enable Reclamation to determine potential reasons for successful YBCU habitat restoration.

**Specific FY2006 Work Tasks:**

- a) Prepare statement of work and contracting documents needed for appropriate contracting mechanism. Determine appropriate survey locations utilizing aerial photos and vegetation mapping, recommendations from appropriate scientific community and previous surveys.
- b) Contract (or other appropriate means) for LCR wide yellow billed cuckoo surveys.
- c) Presence/absence surveys will be conducted and an annual report will be prepared.