

Work Task D3: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Habitat Monitoring

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$160,000	\$159,969	\$159,969	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000

Contact: Theresa Olson, (702) 293-8127

Start Date: FY05 **Expected Duration:** Five years after implementation of all water transfers covered under the Secretarial Implementation Agreement (SIA)

Long-term Goal: Monitor the effects of reduced flows and the associated reduction in groundwater table, specifically associated with the SIA, on southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) breeding habitat between Parker and Imperial Dams.

Conservation Measures: AMM1, AMM3, MRM1, MRM2, and WIFL 2

Location: Reaches 4 and 5, CA, and AZ.

Purpose: Continue to monitor SWFL habitat condition five years after implementation of all water transfers covered under the SIA.

Connections with other Work Tasks (past and future): This Work Task was previously included in the Draft FY05 Work Tasks as Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Habitat Monitoring (D4). This Work Task, in conjunction with surveys conducted under D2, will provide information necessary for the habitat maintenance program (H1). Data collected may also be used in future habitat creation projects listed under Section E.

Project Description: In 2005, Reclamation began monitoring 372 acres of SWFL breeding habitat to document changes in habitat conditions specifically attributable to covered SIA activities, and will continue to do so until five years after implementation of all water transfers covered under the SIA.

Previous Activities: In 2001, Reclamation received a BO on the SIA for the change in point of diversion of up to 400,000 acre-feet of water between Imperial and Parker Dams. This work is being implemented through the LCR MSCP. Reduced river flows, created by the change in the point of diversion, may affect SWFL breeding habitat located between these two dams.

FY05 Accomplishments: In 2004, Reclamation identified 372 acres of SWFL habitat between Parker and Imperial Dams to monitor for the SIA BO requirements. In each identified site, three to five temperature/humidity data loggers and one groundwater observation well were installed. Soil moisture measurements were collected at each data logger location during each flycatcher

survey period. Vegetation data were also collected after the surveys were completed. Preliminary analysis indicates groundwater levels within the floodplain are related to river elevations. Data does not show a correlation between piezometer water levels and temperature or absolute humidity within the habitat monitoring sites.

FY06 Activities: Monitor the previously identified 372 acres of SWFL breeding habitat between Parker and Imperial Dams by collecting and analyzing microclimate data, groundwater monitoring, and vegetation monitoring, using similar protocols to those in place for the life history studies so that data can be compared.

Proposed FY07 Activities: Monitor 372 acres of SWFL breeding habitat between Parker and Imperial Dams by collecting and analyzing microclimate data, groundwater monitoring, and vegetation monitoring utilizing similar protocols as those in place for the life history studies so data can be compared. Analyze data collected and provide conclusions, if applicable.

Pertinent Reports: *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys, Demography, and Ecology along the LCR and Tributaries, 2005* is posted to LCR MSCP website.