

Work Task C24: Avian Species Habitat Requirements

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

Contact: John Swett, (702) 293-8574, jswett@lc.usbr.gov

Start Date: FY08

Expected Duration: FY12

Long-term Goal: Develop habitat suitability index models for covered avian species

Conservation Measures: AMM1, AMM3, MRM1, MRM2, CLRA1, CLRA2, LEBI1, BLRA1, BLRA2, WIFL1, WIFL2, YBCU1, YBCU2, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI1, YWAR1, SUTA1

Location: System-wide

Purpose: Determine habitat requirements for covered marsh and riparian bird species, including Yuma clapper rail (CLRA), least bittern (LEBI), California black rail (BLRA), southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL), yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU), elf owl (ELOW), gilded flicker (GIFL), Gila woodpecker (GIWO), vermilion flycatcher (VEFL), Arizona Bell's vireo (BEVI), yellow warbler (YWAR), and summer tanager (SUTA).

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Information gained from this work task will be used to design, create, and maintain marsh and cottonwood-willow habitat described in Section E that targets covered bird species. Information will also be used to maintain existing habitat as described in H1. Data collected in work tasks D2, D3, D5, D6, D7, and F2 will be used to help define habitat requirements.

Project Description: The HCP requires the creation of 512 acres of marsh habitat for three covered marsh bird species. All 512 marsh acres should provide habitat for CLRA and LEBI, while 130 acres will provide habitat for BLRA. Created habitat must be designed in a mosaic to provide the characteristics required by each species. In addition, potential limiting factors such as water fluctuation, percent cover by plant species, minimum patch size, and selenium bio-accumulation need to be determined.

The HCP also requires the creation of 5,940 acres of cottonwood-willow habitat for nine covered riparian obligate bird species. Habitat requirements for these covered species are not fully understood. Habitat creation projects must provide habitat requirements for multiple covered species to effectively and efficiently complete these conservation measures.

Previous Activities: N/A

FY06 Accomplishments: N/A

FY07 Activities: This is a new start in FY08.

Proposed FY08 Activities: Data collected during avian system monitoring, pre-development monitoring, and post-development monitoring will be used, in conjunction with existing information gathered during the formulation of species accounts (C3), to define required habitat characteristics. These data will be used to develop habitat suitability index models for covered avian species. Habitat suitability index models will help define limiting factors and required habitat characteristics. Information will be used to develop habitat mosaics for habitat creation and to direct future research. Models will be validated through monitoring accomplished under work tasks D6 and F2. Further monitoring and research will refine these models through the adaptive management process.

Pertinent Reports: N/A