Work Task F2: Avian Use of Habitat Creation Sites

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
$125,000	$28,524	$106,095	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Conduct pre- and post-development monitoring for avian species.

Conservation Measures: AMM1, AMM3, MRM1, MRM2, CLRA1, WIFL1, LEBI1, BLRA1, YBCU1, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI, YWAR1, SUTA1, and CMM2

Location: Beal Lake, Havasu NWR, Arizona; CRIT 9, 'Ahakav Tribal Preserve, Arizona; PVER, California; CVCA, Cibola Nature Trail, Hart Mine Marsh, Cibola NWR, Cibola, Arizona; Imperial Ponds, and Imperial NWR, Yuma, Arizona.

Purpose: Monitor avifauna use of habitat creation sites to provide data for the adaptive management process and develop management guidelines for created habitat sites.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Post-development avian monitoring will be conducted at habitat creation sites listed in section E. In addition, information obtained from this work task may be used to provide data to avian system monitoring by using the same protocols established in the system monitoring program (D1, D2, D5, D6, and D7).

Project Description: Riparian habitat creation will benefit nine LCR MSCP covered avian species, including SWFL and YBCU. Habitat creation and restoration demonstration sites will be monitored for bird activity, using a variety of techniques including point counts, area searches, and species-specific survey protocols. Data gathered will be used to guide the design of future riparian habitat creation projects to provide covered species habitat.

Previous Activities: During FY05, monitoring for avian covered species occurred at three restoration sites: Pratt, Beal Lake, and the Cibola Nature Trail. Mean relative abundance of individual birds was highest at the Cibola Nature Trail site. The Cibola Nature Trail site contained more habitat generalists than Pratt due to its small patch size, open habitat, and surrounding agricultural fields. Riparian associated species, such as song sparrow and common yellowthroat, benefit from adjacent water sources, as occurred at the Beal Lake Site. Avian use was summarized and evaluated for each site and compared between sites. Surveys for SWFL were conducted under D2 at the Cibola Nature Trail Site.

FY06 Accomplishments: Avian post-development monitoring was conducted at four restoration sites: Cibola Nature Trail, CRIT 9 'Ahakav Tribal Preserve, Beal Lake, and CVCA Phase 1. The LCR MSCP covered species detected at these restoration sites were the yellow warbler and vermilion flycatcher. The house finch, great-tailed grackle, and Abert's towhee were the most abundant species detected at the Beal Lake restoration site. Brown-headed cowbirds, western kingbirds, and mourning doves were the most abundant species detected at CRIT 9. Red-winged blackbirds were the most abundant species detected at CVCA Phase 1.

Avian pre-development monitoring was conducted at three restoration sites: CVCA Phase 2 and Control, PVER, and Hart Mine Marsh. No LCR MSCP species were detected at these sites. Red-winged blackbirds were the most abundant species detected at the PVER and CVCA Phase 2 and Control restoration sites.

When possible, pre- and post-development avian monitoring was conducted in conjunction with other monitoring activities, including system monitoring, small mammal monitoring, and bat monitoring. In this fiscal year, combining monitoring efforts resulted in cost savings for pre-development surveys. In the future, habitat suitability models may reduce pre-development monitoring in non-riparian areas, such as agricultural fields.

FY07 Activities: Pre-development monitoring is being conducted at habitat creation sites identified in Section E, including CVCA, PVER, and Hartmine Marsh. Post-development monitoring is being conducted at existing restoration sites, including Beal Lake, Cibola Nature Trail, Imperial Ponds, CVCA, PVER, and CRIT 9 'Ahakav Tribal Preserve. Surveys for SWFL will be conducted under D2 for CRIT 9 'Ahakav Tribal Preserve, Beal Lake, and Cibola Nature Trail. Surveys for YBCU will be conducted under D7 for CRIT 9 'Ahakav Tribal Preserve and Beal Lake. Marsh bird presence/absence surveys will be conducted for Imperial Ponds, Butler Lake, McAllister Lake, and Hart Mine Marsh.

Proposed FY08 Activities: Pre-development monitoring will be conducted at habitat creation sites identified in Section E, including CVCA, PVER, and Hart Mine Marsh. Post-development monitoring will be conducted at existing restoration sites, including Beal Lake, Cibola Nature Trail, Imperial Ponds, CVCA, PVER, and CRIT 9 'Ahakav Tribal Preserve. Surveys for SWFL will be conducted under D2 for CRIT 9 Ahakav Tribal Preserve, Beal Lake and Cibola Nature Trail. Surveys for YBCU will be conducted under D7 for CRIT 9 'Ahakav Tribal Preserve and Beal Lake. Marsh bird presence/absence surveys will be conducted for Imperial Ponds and Hart Mine Marsh.

Pertinent Reports: The following reports will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site: *Beal Lake Riparian and Marsh 2006 Annual Report; Palo Verde Ecological Reserve 2006 Annual Report; Cibola Valley Conservation Area 2006 Annual Report; Hart Mine Marsh 2006 Annual Report; CRIT 9 Ahakav Preserve 2006 Annual Report; Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship 2006 Annual Report; Imperial Ponds 2006 Annual Report; Butler and McCalllister Lake 2006 Annual Report; Avian use of restoration sites along the lower Colorado River, 2006; Marsh bird 2006 Annual Report; Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys, Demography, and Ecology Along the Lower Colorado River and Tributaries 2006;* and *Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Distribution, Abundance, and Habitat Use Along The Lower Colorado and Gila Rivers 2006 Annual Report.*

The monitoring plans are included in the restoration development plans and have been drafted for each habitat creation project listed in Section E.