

Work Task F2: Avian Use of Habitat Conservation Areas

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$150,000	\$143,556.56	\$550,165.78	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$180,000	\$180,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

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

Conservation Measures: MRM1, MRM2 (ELOW, GIFL, GIWO, VEFL, BEVI, YWAR, SUTA)

Location: Beal Lake Havasu NWR, Arizona; 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Arizona; PVER, California; CVCA, Cibola Unit #1, Cibola NWR, Cibola, Arizona.

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

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Post-development avian monitoring will be conducted at habitat conservation areas 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: Creation of riparian habitat will benefit nine LCR MSCP covered avian neo-tropical migratory species. Conservation areas will be monitored for bird activity, using a variety of techniques including area searches and species-specific survey protocols. Data gathered will be used to guide the design of future riparian habitat conservation areas to provide covered species habitat.

Previous Activities: During 2007 and 2008, avian post-development monitoring for avian covered species occurred at five habitat conservation areas: Cibola Unit #1, 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, PVER, Beal Lake, and CVCA. Avian pre-development monitoring was conducted at three habitat conservation areas: CVCA, Cibola Unit #1, and PVER. Avian use was summarized and evaluated for each conservation area and compared between conservation areas. Pre- and post-development monitoring for avian covered species has been conducted at habitat conservation areas since 2005.

FY09 Accomplishments: Avian post-development monitoring was conducted at existing habitat conservation areas, including Beal Lake, Cibola Unit #1, CVCA, PVER, and the 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve in 2009. The following portions of the habitat conservation areas were surveyed: 1) entire area of Beal Lake, 2) the Nature Trail and Mass Planting of Cibola Unit #1, 3) phases 1 and 3 of CVCA, 4) Phase 2 of PVER, and 5) CRIT 9 of 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

Avian post-development monitoring was conducted utilizing the intensive area search methodology. The methodology followed the same protocol developed as part of avian system-wide monitoring under D6. Each area or phase surveyed was divided into area search plots. Each area search plot was surveyed eight times during the breeding season. A complete census of breeding birds was obtained for each area search plot.

Area search surveys conducted at Beal Lake detected 97 pairs of breeding birds. This included 7 pairs of Sonoran yellow warblers, 10 pairs of Arizona Bell's vireos, and 1 summer tanager pair, all LCR MSCP covered species. Surveys conducted at CRIT 9 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve detected 158 pairs of breeding birds. This included 1 summer tanager pair and 3 pairs of vermilion flycatchers, both LCR MSCP species.

Surveys conducted at the Nature Trail and Mass Planting of Cibola Unit #1 detected 112 pairs of breeding birds. This included 2 pairs of Sonoran yellow warblers, an LCR MSCP covered species. Surveys conducted at Phase 1 and Phase 3 of CVCA detected 163 pairs of breeding birds. This included 4 pairs of Sonoran yellow warblers, an LCR MSCP covered species. Surveys conducted at Phase 2 of PVER detected 24 pairs of breeding birds. Data from general bird surveys in pre-development agricultural areas and areas in their first year of growth conducted in previous years were assessed to determine whether enough data have been gathered to create habitat suitability models for these areas.

FY10 Activities: Avian post-development monitoring will be conducted at existing habitat conservation areas, including Beal Lake, Cibola Unit #1, CVCA, PVER, and 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve. The following portions of the habitat conservation areas will be surveyed: 1) entire area of Beal Lake, 2) the Nature Trail and Mass Planting of Cibola Unit #1, 3) phases 1, 2, and 3 of CVCA, 4) phases 2 and 3 of PVER, and 5) CRIT 9 of 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

The intensive area search method will be utilized following the same protocol developed as part of the avian system-wide monitoring under D6. Each area or phase surveyed will be divided into area search plots. Each intensive area search plot will be surveyed eight times during the breeding season. This will yield a complete census of breeding pairs at each area search plot.

Proposed FY11 Activities: Avian post-development monitoring will be conducted at existing habitat conservation areas, including Beal Lake, Cibola Unit #1, CVCA, PVER, and 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

Pertinent Reports: The following reports are posted on the LCR MSCP Web site: 1) *Annual Report and System Monitoring for Riparian Obligate Avian Species (Work Task D6) and Avian Use of Restoration Sites (Work Task F2) 2008*; and 2) *Annual Report and System Monitoring for Riparian Obligate Avian Species (Work Task D6) and Avian Use of Restoration Sites (Work Task F2)2009*.