

# Work Task C1: Brown-Headed Cowbird Trap Assessment

<b>Partners:</b>	Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge Alamo Lake State Wildlife Area
<b>Contact:</b>	Theresa Olson, LC-8222
<b>Purpose:</b>	Evaluate brown-headed cowbird (BHCO) Control Program.
<b>Conservation Measures:</b>	MRM4
<b>Long-term Goal(s):</b>	Post-trap monitoring will continue until BHCO population numbers and/or parasitism rates approach pre-trap numbers. This data will enable Reclamation to determine potential BHCO trapping intervals and when such control measures are deemed necessary to protect LCR MSCP covered species, especially the southwestern willow flycatcher.
<b>FY2006 Estimate:</b>	\$85,000. Reclamation's Denver Technical Center is conducting this evaluation through a service agreement of approximately \$80,000. Costs also include Lower Colorado Regional staff oversight. It is not anticipated that study will continue beyond 2006.
<b>FY2007 Estimate:</b>	0
<b>FY2008 Estimate:</b>	0
<b>Project Description:</b>	From 1998-2001, Reclamation implemented a BHCO Control Program in accordance with the 1997 Biological Opinion on routine operations and maintenance of the LCR. BHCO traps were placed

at Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (1998 only), Alamo Lake State Wildlife Area, and the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge, all located in Arizona. Trapping was suspended after the 2001 breeding season and success was monitored from 2002-2005. BHCO populations have not reached pre-trap numbers and parasitism rates for host species have remained low. Monitoring will continue to determine how long trapping can be effective before BHCO population numbers and/or parasitism rates approach pre-trap levels. A study plan is available.

**Specific FY2006 Work Tasks:**

- a) Point counts at Alamo Lake, Bill Williams, and Topock Marsh specifically to identify density of cowbirds and passerine species susceptible to cowbird parasitism.
- b) Nest monitoring of passerine species susceptible to cowbird parasitism, including the southwestern willow flycatcher.
- c) Final report on findings and management strategies will be prepared by December 2006 and will be rolled into the adaptive management process.