

## Work Task D2: **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Presence/Absence Surveys and Life History Study**

<b>Contact:</b>	Theresa Olson, LC-8222
<b>Purpose:</b>	Monitor southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) breeding populations along the LCR, and conduct demography studies in four study areas to understand life requisites, habitat requirements, and population trends.
<b>Conservation Measures:</b>	MRM1, MRM2, MRM4
<b>Long-term Goal(s):</b>	Presence/absence surveys will be conducted for SWFL through the life of the project as part of system monitoring.
<b>FY2006 Estimate:</b>	\$880,000. Reclamation has executed option year three of the SWCA Contract (Approx. \$780,000). The cost reflected here includes contract support, field support and inspection, GIS database coordination, and quality assessment.
<b>FY2007 Estimate:</b>	\$925,000. Reclamation will execute option year four of the SWCA Contract if all contract obligations are met for option year three. SWCA Contract consists of presence/absence surveys, life history studies, and includes field support and quality assessment.
<b>FY2008 Estimate:</b>	\$950,000. A new contract will be awarded for FY2008 and beyond. Funding levels will be similar to those of the previous contract.
<b>Project Description:</b>	Reclamation has been conducting extensive SWFL studies and surveys along the LCR since 1996 in

accordance with previous biological opinions. Most recently, Reclamation entered into a contract with SWCA in 2003 to conduct presence/absence surveys along the LCR from the Southerly International Boundary to Separation Rapids in the Grand Canyon, including several tributaries of the LCR, and to conduct life histories studies and cowbird control study at four known population areas. SWCA works in conjunction with the Hualapai Tribe to give nest monitoring and banding support for the presence/absence survey the Hualapai tribe conducts on their lands (see Work Task D4). A study plan is available.

**Specific FY2006 Work Tasks:**

- a) Conduct presence/absence SWFL surveys along the Virgin River, Grand Canyon below Separation Canyon, and the LCR below Hoover Dam to the Southerly International Border. Approximately 100-120 sites will be surveyed.
- b) Conduct extensive life history studies at four sites including Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge, Mesquite, NV, Mormon Mesa, NV, and Topock Marsh. Studies include banding, nest monitoring, extensive vegetation analysis, and microclimate analysis.
- c) Conduct brown-headed cowbird trapping study at all life history sites.
- d) Annual Report for FY2005 work will be completed by SWCA in March 2006, and will be made publicly available by April 2006. Annual Report for FY2006 work will be completed by March 2007.