

Work Task D4: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Presence/Absence Survey — Hualapai Tribal Lands

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$78,000	\$75,233.41	\$277,041.41	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: Closed. This task may be re-initiated depending on habitat suitability.

Long-term Goal: System monitoring for the SWFL on Hualapai tribal lands within the Grand Canyon.

Conservation Measures: MRM1, MRM2 (WIFL)

Location: Hualapai tribal lands in the Grand Canyon downstream of Separation Canyon, AZ.

Purpose: Conduct SWFL surveys on Hualapai tribal lands in the Grand Canyon as part of the system monitoring program. Identify SWFL population, breeding sites, and specific threats to SWFL habitat on tribal lands.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Surveys conducted under this work task provide system monitoring coverage for SWFL in areas not covered by D2. Protocols used in D2 are replicated under this work task to provide comparable data.

Project Description: Reclamation provided the Hualapai Tribe funding to conduct presence/absence surveys for SWFL on tribal lands within the Grand Canyon. These surveys are conducted on sensitive tribal lands not included in the system-wide SWFL monitoring program. These surveys enable the Tribe to manage occupied SWFL by avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting SWFL, and provide data to the system monitoring program.

Previous Activities: Reclamation has funded SWFL surveys on Hualapai tribal lands since 1997.

FY08 Accomplishments: The Hualapai Tribe surveyed seven sites on tribal lands within the Grand Canyon between Separation Canyon and Lake Mead. Important recreational areas such as Spencer Creek were surveyed and appropriate management actions have been undertaken to minimize impacts to SWFL breeding sites (limiting visitor access, changing helicopter flight patterns). Surveys were conducted from May 8 to July 23, 2007. A single singing male was found at Lower Iceberg Canyon during the third survey (June 5, 2007) and the fourth survey (June 19, 2007). The individual was singing regularly and maintained a territory. Banding status

was unknown, and this bird was not encountered during subsequent surveys. No other birds were located in 2008. Habitat qualities have declined in several sites with many trees falling down, and dry conditions under the stands. Other areas, where water was available from springs or falls such as Columbine Falls and Spencer Creek, remained in good condition.

FY09 Activities: After the 2008 field season, Reclamation and the Hualapai Tribe determined that SWFL surveys would not be conducted on tribal lands within the Grand Canyon in FY09 due to low lake levels. Habitat reconnaissance will be completed by helicopter in the spring of FY09 to determine whether conditions warrant future surveys.

Proposed FY10 Activities: Habitat degradation and recent survey results may preclude the need for additional surveys in FY10. Surveys may be initiated again in future years as conditions change or additional data is required. Habitat reconnaissance will be completed by helicopter in the spring of FY10 to determine whether conditions warrant future surveys.

Pertinent Reports: *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys in Lower Grand Canyon, FY2008* is available upon request.