

Work Task F2: Avian Use of Habitat Creation Sites

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$ 150,000	\$157,021.22	\$406,609.22	\$150,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000

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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 (CLRA, WIFL, LEBI, BLRA, YBCU, ELOW, GIFL, GIWO, VEFL, BEVI, YWAR, SUTA)

Location: Beal Lake, Havasu NWR, AZ; ‘Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, AZ; PVER, CA; CVCA, Cibola Unit #1, Hart Mine Marsh, Cibola NWR, Cibola, AZ; Imperial Ponds, Imperial NWR, AZ.

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 FY07, post-development monitoring for avian covered species occurred at five restoration demonstration or habitat creation sites: Cibola NWR Unit #1, ‘Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, PVER, Beal Lake, and CVCA. Avian pre-development monitoring was conducted at two habitat creation sites: CVCA and PVER. Surveys for the SWFL was conducted under D2 at ‘Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Cibola Unit #1 and Beal Lake. Surveys for the YBCU was conducted under D7 at Beal Lake and ‘Ahakhav Tribal Preserve. Presence/absence marsh bird surveys were conducted under D1 at Hart Mine Marsh, Butler Lake, McAllister Lake and Imperial Ponds. Avian use was summarized and evaluated for each site and compared

between sites. Pre and post-development monitoring for avian covered species has been conducted at habitat creation projects since FY05.

FY08 Accomplishments: Pre-development monitoring was conducted at habitat creation sites identified in Section E, including CVCA, PVER, Imperial Ponds and Cibola Unit #1. Post-development monitoring was conducted at existing restoration demonstration and habitat creation sites, including Beal Lake, Cibola NWR Unit #1, CVCA, PVER, and 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve. Surveys for SWFL were conducted under D2 at Beal Lake, CVCA and Cibola NWR Unit #1. Surveys for YBCU were conducted under D7 at 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, CVCA, Cibola NWR Unit #1, PVER and Beal Lake. Marsh bird presence/absence surveys were conducted at Imperial Ponds and Hart Mine Marsh. Presence/absence surveys for the elf owl were conducted at 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

Post-development surveys conducted at Beal Lake detected two pairs of Sonoran yellow warblers and two pair of Arizona Bell's vireos breeding at the site, both LCR MSCP covered species. Three willow flycatchers were detected during surveys conducted in June; however, subsequent surveys did not detect these birds. Four incidental observations of yellow-billed cuckoos were detected during surveys conducted in June; however, subsequent surveys did not detect these birds. Neither the yellow-billed cuckoos or the willow flycatchers detected were breeding at the site.

Post-development surveys conducted at 'Ahakhav Tribal Perserve detected one summer tanager pair and two pairs of vermilion flycatchers breeding at the site, both LCR MSCP species. Five YBCUs were observed during surveys from June to September, breeding was suspected but not confirmed. No willow flycatchers were observed at the site.

Post-development surveys conducted at Cibola Unit #1 detected 4 pairs of Sonoran yellow warblers, a LCR MSCP covered species, breeding at the site. One willow flycatcher and one yellow-billed cuckoo were detected during surveys conducted in June; however, subsequent surveys did not detect these birds. Neither the yellow-billed cuckoos or the willow flycatchers detected were breeding at the site.

Post-development surveys conducted at CVCA detected 3 pairs of Sonoran yellow warblers, a LCR MSCP covered species, breeding at the site. Two willow flycatchers were detected during surveys conducted in June; however, subsequent surveys did not detect these birds. The willow flycatchers detected were not breeding at the site. Two YBCU pairs were observed breeding at CVCA, one nest was detected for one pair and two nests were detected for the other pair.

Post-development surveys conducted at PVER detected 1 Arizona Bell's vireo pair, a LCR MSCP covered species, breeding at the site. Two detections of yellow-billed cuckoos were reported, one in June and one in July. The yellow-billed cuckoos detected were not breeding at the site.

During marsh bird surveys presence/absence least bitterns and Yuma clapper rails were detected at Hart Mine Marsh and least bitterns were detected at Imperial ponds.

FY09 Activities: Post-development monitoring will be conducted at existing restoration demonstration and habitat creation sites, including Beal Lake, Cibola NWR Unit #1, CVCA, PVER and 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve. Surveys for SWFL will be conducted under D2 at 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Beal Lake, CVCA, PVER and Cibola NWR Unit #1. Surveys for YBCU will be conducted under D7 at 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, CVCA, PVER, Cibola Unit #1 and Beal Lake. Marsh bird presence/absence surveys under D1 will be conducted for Imperial Ponds, Headquarters Lake, Secret lake and Big Bend Conservation Area. Presence/absence surveys for the elf will be conducted at the 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

Data from general bird surveys in pre-development agricultural areas and areas in their first year of growth conducted in previous years will be assessed to see if enough data has been gathered to created habitat suitability models for these areas.

Proposed FY10 Activities: Post-development monitoring will be conducted at existing restoration demonstration and habitat creation sites, including Beal Lake, Cibola NWR Unit #1, CVCA, PVER, and 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve. Surveys for SWFL will be conducted under D2 at 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Beal Lake, PVER, CVCA and Cibola NWR Unit #1. Surveys for YBCU will be conducted under D7 at 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Cibola Unit #1, CVCA, PVER and Beal Lake. Marsh bird presence/absence surveys will be conducted for Imperial Ponds, Big Bend Conservation Area, Headquarters Lake, Secret Lake and Hart Mine Marsh

Pertinent Reports: The following reports will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site: *Beal Lake Riparian and Marsh 2008 Annual Report; Palo Verde Ecological Reserve 2008 Annual Report; Cibola Valley Conservation Area 2008 Annual Report; Hart Mine Marsh 2008 Annual Report; 'Ahakhav Preserve 2008 Annual Report; Cibola Unit #1 2008 Annual Report; Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship 2008 Annual Report; Imperial Ponds 2008 Annual Report; Marsh bird 2008 Annual Report; Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys, Demography, and Ecology Along the Lower Colorado River and Tributaries 2008; Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Distribution, Abundance, and Habitat Use Along The Lower Colorado and Gila Rivers 2008 Annual Report and System Monitoring for Riparian Obligate Avian Species (Work Task D6) and Avian Use of Restoration Sites (Work Task F2) 2008.* The monitoring plans are included in the restoration development plans and have been drafted for each habitat creation project listed in Section E.