

Agency/Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants

Project Name: Parasitism Control and Evaluation

Project Number: 2019-SWCA-1935A

Reporting Period: April 1 through June 30, 2024

Project Contact Name and Information:

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**QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period?
How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project?
If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?**

From April 1 through June 30, 2024, SWCA began southwestern willow flycatcher surveys on the western portion of Mesquite West, territory and nest monitoring efforts for southwestern willow flycatcher at Mesquite West and Mormon Mesa Parcel 5-A, and brown-headed cowbird treatment at Mesquite West.

The goals of this project are to maintain and/or improve habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher and to help identify lands where habitat enhancement may be implemented to expand habitat for the flycatcher. Southwestern willow flycatcher surveys and monitoring directly align with the stated project objectives of conducting southwestern willow flycatcher surveys and monitoring at Mesquite West and Mormon Mesa. Territory and nest monitoring for southwestern willow flycatcher at Mesquite West and Mormon Mesa includes documenting nest successes and failures and parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds, which are also project objectives. Brown-headed cowbird control will hopefully decrease parasitism rates and improve southwestern willow flycatcher nest success at Mesquite West (another objective of the project). Assessment of these rates is ongoing.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and the manner in which they were dealt.

The only problems encountered for this project to date involve the standard access route to Mormon Mesa. In May and early June, access from the west was cut off due to above average water levels in the Virgin River, resulting from higher-than-normal winter precipitation. SWCA adjusted to this problem by accessing Mormon Mesa Parcel 5-A from the east (via Gold Butte Road) until water receded to levels that allowed for safely fording the river via the standard access. SWCA was able to successfully access Mormon Mesa Parcel 5-A from the west twice in mid-June: once on June 14 and once on June 18, 2024. On June 18, a vehicle belonging to a nearby landowner was stuck in the sandy portion of Mormon Mesa Road just north of the gravel pit, and this portion of the road was noted as being more difficult to navigate than the previous visit due to the disturbance caused by the landowner attempting to extricate his vehicle from

the sand. Due to the difficulty in safely traversing this section of road, SWCA decided to utilize Gold Butte Road for future access to Mormon Mesa Parcel 5-A.

QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.

Thus far, all proposed activities have been completed.

QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?

As of June 30, 2024, SWCA estimates that approximately 60% of work required for this project for 2024 has been completed.

QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?

No, we do not foresee any upcoming problems with this project.

QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?

No, not at this time.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

For this reporting period, SWCA produced a Work Plan & Schedule (D12) which was submitted to the DCP on April 9, 2024, and a Data Deliverable (D14) which was submitted on June 5, 2024. SWCA also provided the DCP with the applicable Permits (D13) for the project on May 1, 2024.