

DCP QUARTERLY REPORT

VENDOR / AGENCY SWCA Environmental Consultants

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROJECT TITLE Parasitism Control and Evaluation

PROJECT NUMBER 2019-SWCA-1935A

REPORTING PERIOD 4/1/2026 through 6/30/2026

QUESTION 1

What did you accomplish during this reporting period? How did these help you meet your objectives of your project? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

From April 1 through June 30, 2026, SWCA began southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii* extimus) (hereafter flycatcher) surveys on the western portion of Mesquite West (Mesquite West West), began flycatcher territory and nest monitoring efforts at Mesquite West, and began brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) (hereafter cowbird) treatment at Mesquite West.

SWCA began cowbird netting at Mesquite West on May 4, and netting continued twice per week through May 31. SWCA conducted cowbird netting once per week in June. Through June 30, three female cowbirds have been captured and euthanized.

The first flycatcher detection at Mesquite West was recorded on May 4 during cowbird netting activities, and the first flycatcher monitoring visit at Mesquite West was conducted on May 15. Flycatcher surveys on the western portion of Mesquite West began on May 22. Through June 30, 10 flycatcher territories have been identified at Mesquite West: six pairs and four single males. Seven nesting attempts have been documented.

Flycatcher surveys at Mormon Mesa Parcel 5-A began on May 29. No flycatchers have been detected.

Color banding of flycatchers occurs as part of territory and nest monitoring activities. Banding and resighting adult flycatchers allows for a more accurate determination of the numbers of territories and pairs at a particular breeding site. Banding nestlings aids in determining an accurate number of fledglings produced. Through June 30, SWCA banded four nestlings from one nest.

The goals of this project are to maintain and/or improve habitat for flycatcher and to help identify lands where habitat enhancement may be implemented to expand habitat for the flycatcher. Flycatcher surveys and monitoring, conducting cowbird control procedures at Mesquite West to decrease parasitism, and providing on-call services directly align with the stated project objectives. Flycatcher territory and nest monitoring at Mesquite West and Mormon Mesa includes documenting nest successes and failures and parasitism by cowbirds, which are also project objectives. SWCA anticipates that cowbird control will decrease parasitism rates and improve flycatcher nest success at Mesquite West. Through June 30, no cowbird parasitism of flycatcher nests has been observed at Mesquite West. Assessment of parasitism and nest success rates is ongoing.

QUESTION 2

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

No problems have been encountered so far in 2026. The sandy portion of the standard access route from Overton to Mormon Mesa appears to be more frequently traveled with less disturbance than in recent years. On April 30, SWCA biologists accessed Mormon Mesa Parcel 5-A and Mormon Mesa South Parcels 6-A and 6-B via the standard access route with no issues; this route has regularly been used for surveys in 2026.

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.

All proposed activities have been completed at Mesquite West. No flycatcher monitoring has taken place yet at Mormon Mesa Parcel 5-A due to lack of flycatcher detections. Monitoring will commence once a flycatcher is detected.

QUESTION 4

What is the calculated percent of work completed?

As of June 30, SWCA estimates that approximately 60% of work required for this project for 2026 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 (D34) which was submitted to the DCP on April 10 and a Data Deliverable (D36) which was submitted on June 5. SWCA also provided the DCP with the applicable Permits (D35) for the project on May 1.