

**FERC Project No. 14797**  
**Devil Canyon Project**  
***ESA-Listed Bird Species, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo Habitat Evaluations Study Approach***

**FIELD RESULTS AND DATA SUMMARY**

*April 9, 2018*

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides the following field results and data summary for the Devil Canyon Project, *Endangered Species Act (ESA)-Listed Bird Species, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo Habitat Evaluations Study Approach*, which includes work completed to date, key findings, and associated data files.

**Completed Work:**

DWR has completed all portions of this Study Approach, specifically gathering data and preparing for the field effort and performing surveys within potential habitat and riparian areas. DWR's methodology followed the *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo Habitat Evaluations Study Approach* and included the use of agency protocols and associated datasheets for collecting and recording data. A summary of completed work is as follows:

- Eleven locations initially identified from aerial photographs along with information identified under the *Botanical Resources Study Approach*, were assessed in the field, ten of which were determined to be potential habitat and were designated as survey sites for both least Bell's vireo (LBV) and southwestern willow flycatcher (SWWF). Survey sites included: five small coves accessible only by boat from Silverwood Lake (Outhouse Cove, Quiet Cove, Eastern Cove, Chamise Cove and Mesa Cove); two sites along the West Fork Mojave River (Rio Campground and Cleghorn Day Use Area); one site at Serrano Beach; one site in Miller Canyon extending upstream about one mile from the upper end of the lake to the Miller Canyon Group Campground; and one small site along the bottom of Devil Canyon, east-northeast of the fenced Devil Canyon Powerplant.
- All potential SWWF habitat and riparian areas within the study area were surveyed following the Study Approach-defined protocol. These presence/absence surveys were performed five times at each site: one visit during Period 1 (May 15 to May 31), two visits during Period 2 (June 1 to June 24), and two visits during Period 3 (June 25 to July 17). Visits were timed at least five days apart.
- A Willow Flycatcher Survey and Detection Form (revised April 2004) was completed for each SWWF survey.
- Potential LBV habitat was identified at the same ten locations as SWWF habitat. Presence/absence surveys were conducted at these sites according to the January 19, 2001 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines. All potential LBV habitat within the study area was surveyed eight times during the breeding season, with at least 10 days between survey visits for each site.
- Biologists conducted LBV surveys on 16 days between April 10, 2017 and July 26, 2017.

**Key Accomplishments/Summary of Findings:**

The completed work referenced above resulted in the following:

- The survey results indicated no detections of LBV and two detections of willow flycatchers (subspecies not determined). As detailed below, the willow flycatcher detections were consistent with non-breeding migrants.
- Noteworthy species observed during LBV and SWWF surveys included yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern; Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), which is on the CDFW watch list; and Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*) and Lawrence's goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*), both of which are listed as Bird Species of Concern by USFWS and are on the American Bird Conservancy watch list.
- Two brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), a species known to parasitize both LBV and SWWF nests, were detected (seen or heard) during the focused surveys. One of these brown-headed cowbirds was heard within the riparian habitat of the Cleghorn Day Use Area on June 7, 2017, and the other was detected on June 20, 2017 within the Miller Canyon area.

**Associated Data Files** (All associated data can be found at the file location below on DWR's Devil Canyon Project Relicensing Website. (<http://devil-canyon-project-relicensing.com/>))

File Name	Data Description	File Type	File Location
20171003_dc_fiel d_results_GIS data	GIS shapefiles of survey sites and transects, and locations of willow flycatcher detections	Zipfile / Shapefile	Studies/Study-7-ESA-Listed-Bird-Species- Riparian-Habitat-Evaluation/Associated Data Files Data/GIS
20171003_dc_fiel d_results_ESABir dSurveyMaps	Maps depicting study area, survey sites and transects, and locations of willow flycatcher detections	PDF	Studies/Study-7-ESA-Listed-Bird-Species- Riparian-Habitat-Evaluation/Associated Data Files/Maps
20171003_dc_fiel d_results_ESABir ddata_forms	Field data forms for each survey	PDF	Studies/Study-7-ESA-Listed-Bird-Species- Riparian-Habitat-Evaluation/Associated Data Files/Data Forms
20171006_dc_fiel d_results_ESABir dSurveyPhotos	Photographs of riparian bird habitat at Cleghorn Day Use Area and Chamise Cove	PDF	Studies/Study-7-ESA-Listed-Bird-Species- Riparian-Habitat-Evaluation/Associated Data Files/Photos

FERC Project No. 14797, Devil Canyon Project  
ESA-Listed Bird Species, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Lest Bell's Vireo Habitat  
Evaluations Study Approach, Field Results and Data Summary

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<b>File Name</b>	<b>Data Description</b>	<b>File Type</b>	<b>File Location</b>
27 files	Photographs	JPG	Studies/Study-7-ESA-Listed-Bird-Species-Riparian-Habitat-Evaluation/Associated Data Files/Photos

**Variations from Study Methods, Schedule or Approach and Abnormalities in Expected Field Conditions:**

There were no variations in Study Methods, Schedule, or Approach encountered during the *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo Habitat Evaluations Study Approach*.

**Remaining Work:**

The Study is complete.