

Yuma Clapper Rail

The Service anticipates some incidental take of the Yuma clapper rail will occur due to project-related activities in the form of habitat loss and disturbance, disturbance and possible injury to adults and occasional inundation of active nests. Incidental take will be difficult to estimate or detect and quantify. Observing flushed birds or finding a dead or impaired specimen or an inundated nest is unlikely due to the dense habitat used by this secretive species. Therefore, although we are unable to quantify it, we are assuming some incidental take will occur and that it will be minimized or avoided by implementing the following reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions.

Proposed species:**Flat-tailed Horned Lizard**

This conference opinion anticipates that eight (8) flat-tailed horned lizards per year could be taken as a result of animals moving onto travel routes or project sites from adjacent habitats and being crushed or injured by moving vehicles or equipment that would not be present but for the proposed action.

If this conference opinion is adopted as a biological opinion, the Service will only authorize forms of take of listed species that are incidental to operation, and maintenance of the existing 242 well field, Yuma Desalting Plant sludge disposal site, and ancillary facilities. Incidental take will be authorized only if such activities are consistent with the terms and conditions of this conference opinion.

EFFECT OF THE TAKEListed species:**Bonytail Chub and Razorback Sucker**

In the accompanying BO, the Service determined that this level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the species or destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat when the RPA is fully implemented.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

In the accompanying BO, the Service determined that this level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the species or destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat when the RPA is fully implemented.

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In the accompanying BO, the Service determined that this level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the species.

Proposed species:**Flat-tailed Horned Lizard**

In the accompanying conference opinion, the Service determined that this level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the flat-tailed horned lizard.

REASONABLE AND PRUDENT MEASURES

The definition of an RPM is an action consistent with a proposed action's basic design, location, scope, duration, and timing. An RPM cannot cause more than a minor change to the project. Determining appropriate RPMs for this incidental take statement are complicated by the limits of Reclamation's discretion on the LCR activities. Many of the activities on the river that cause take are controlled by parties other than Reclamation. As a result, it is difficult to define RPMs that can actually be accomplished by Reclamation alone. Reclamation is strongly encouraged to seek the help of MSCP parties in implementing the terms and conditions of these RPMs.

Listed species:**Bonytail Chub and Razorback Sucker**

The Service believes the following RPMs are necessary and appropriate to minimize take of bonytail chub and razorback sucker:

1. Reclamation will assess and reduce the potential stranding of eggs, larvae or individual fish; if needed, Reclamation will seek agreements from necessary parties to implement this measure.
2. Reclamation will assess and reduce the potential of bonytail chub and razorback suckers passing through the hydroelectric dams.
3. Reclamation will assess and reduce the potential of bonytail chub and razorback suckers being lost to the system because of entrainment.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

The Service believes the following RPMs are necessary and appropriate to minimize take of southwestern willow flycatchers:

1. Reclamation will protect southwestern willow flycatcher habitat on the LCR.
2. Reclamation will conduct additional surveying and monitoring of southwestern willow flycatcher habitat on the LCR.

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