



## Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

July 2008

### Survey Says? Results from the Online Survey

Preliminary results have been compiled from the online survey conducted by the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) in an effort to garner insight concerning participation in study team meetings. The survey was in response to a lag in participation and attendance by study team members and was an effort to make changes that could increase efficiency and make the quarterly meetings more convenient. As a percentage, the Operations Study Team meetings were best attended with 54% of members attending every meeting, followed by the Administrative Study Team meeting at 33% and the Research and Environmental Monitoring Study Team meeting at 30%. The most encouraging survey result was that 82% of respondents felt that the meetings were useful. This is a crucial assurance that shows any lack of participation is likely the result of scheduling conflicts as opposed to a lack of interest. This is further reinforced with 77% of respondents declaring that their organization considered their continued participation very (51%) or somewhat (26%) important.

Survey participants had the opportunity to recommend possible changes that may increase future attendance. The majority felt that having regularly scheduled meetings would make planning around them easier. Other recommendations included having the meetings on the same day (33%) since several members attend multiple study team meetings, combining meetings or making each meeting shorter (33%). Participants thought that it would be helpful to have a stronger understanding of their role (15%) as well as that of their organizations role (26%) within the study team.

We'd like to express our appreciation for those who took the time to complete the survey and an even bigger appreciation for those who invest the time and effort to represent their organization at the study team meetings. As the LVWCC approaches its 10-year anniversary, this continued cooperative effort is essential to enabling all of us to continue to succeed in accomplishing the goals of the Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan.

#### Upcoming Meetings

Operations Study Team  
July 9, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

Research and Environmental  
Monitoring Study Team  
July 9, 2008  
10:30 a.m.

Administrative Study Team  
July 17, 2008  
1:00 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash  
Coordination Committee  
July 22, 2008  
9:00 a.m.

### Willow Flycatcher Extends Wash Visit

There's an old adage that declares that the early bird gets the worm. That saying may or may not be true, but in differentiating between willow flycatchers and the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher subspecies, timing is everything. Biologists began their annual willow flycatcher surveys at the Las Vegas Wash at the end of May and by the second round of surveys, had encountered eight individuals, the second highest total detected in the Las Vegas Wash in 11 years of monitoring. While seven of the individuals detected in the first round of surveys were migrant willow flycatchers moving through to established breeding sites elsewhere in Southern Nevada, the eighth bird has set up camp in a revegetation site near Pabco Road Weir and has been observed several times over the past month displaying highly territorial behavior.



A rare glimpse of a willow flycatcher. Photo courtesy of USGS

This strong response suggests that this individual has set up its breeding grounds here and is now trying to attract a mate. This is unprecedented for the Las Vegas Wash. By detecting this individual after June 21, (the date by which all migrants should have passed through the area), biologists are able to declare the bird a resident southwestern willow flycatcher! Although they have been documented nesting in non-native tamarisk throughout the lower Colorado River watershed, this particular individual has selected a revegetated area of large cottonwoods and Gooding willows, further validating many of the efforts and activities of the LVWCC. This has been an exciting discovery and an encouraging development in supporting current management practices and given that fact that the area was one of the early Green-Up sites, something that every volunteer should take pride in.