

Las Vegas Sun

<http://blogs.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/14/feds-to-reconsider-habitat-for-endangered-bird/>

Feds to reconsider habitat for endangered bird

The Associated Press

Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010 | 3:03 a.m.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to reconsider the area of critical habitat set aside in five Western states for the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher.

The decision comes as part of a settlement reached Wednesday with the Center for Biological Diversity, which has sought protections for the bird for nearly two decades.

The group says federal scientists had proposed in 2004 setting aside more than 376,000 acres of critical habitat for the flycatcher along rivers and flood prone areas in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah. The Fish and Wildlife Service approved less than one-third of the area.

The settlement requires the agency to issue a new proposal for critical habitat by the end of July 2011. A final determination would then be made within a year.