

## **DRAFT**

### **Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Habitat Model**

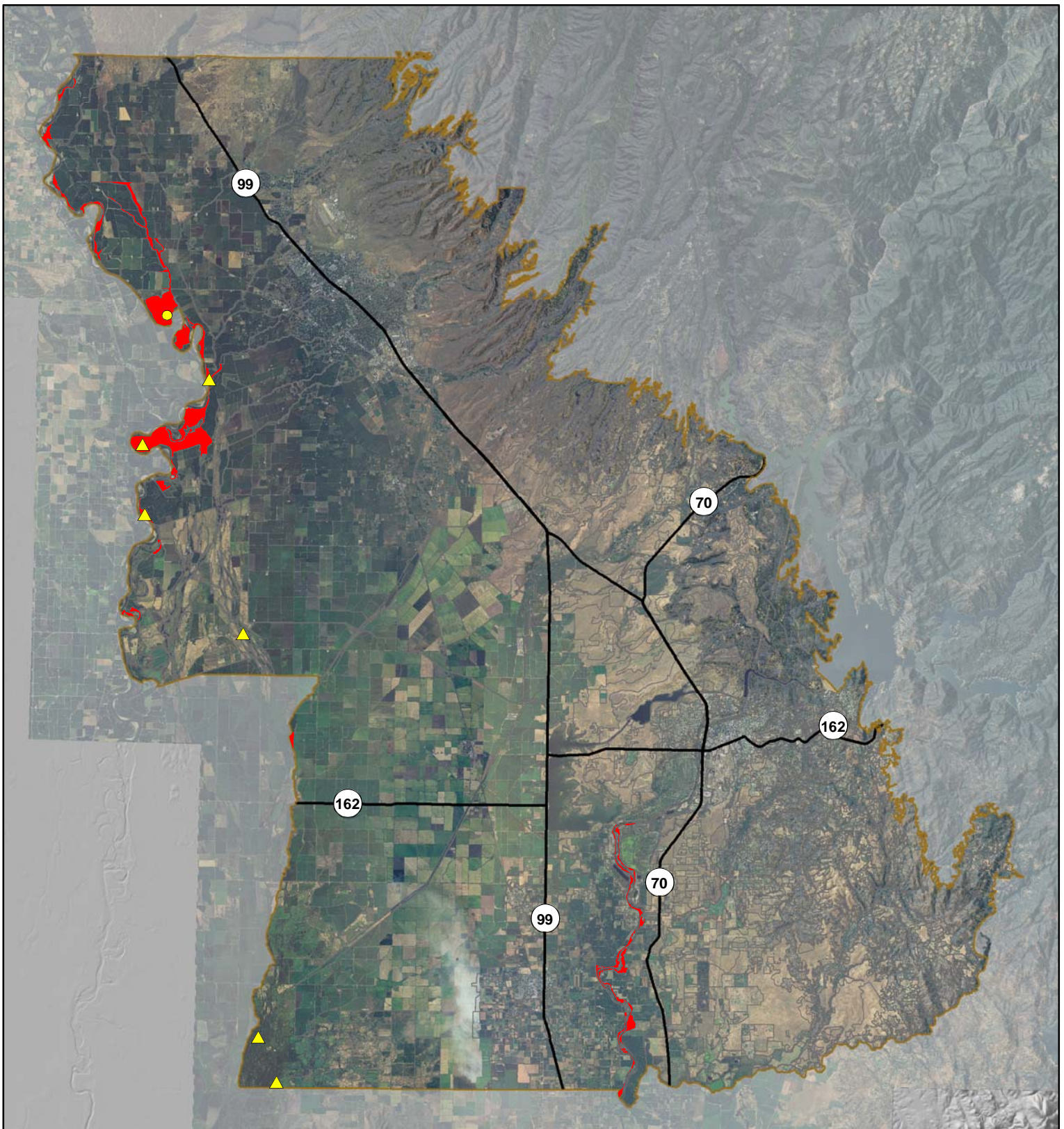
**Nesting Habitat:** Nesting habitat includes all patches of cottonwood-willow riparian forest land cover types with a patch size of at least 25 acres located along the Sacramento River and the Feather River downstream of State Highway 70.

**Assumptions:** The western yellow-billed cuckoo is a riparian obligate species. Its primary habitat association is willow-cottonwood riparian forest, but other species such as alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and box elder (*Acer negundo*) may be an important habitat element in some areas, including occupied sites along the Sacramento River (Laymon 1998). Canopy cover is typically dense (averaging 97% at the nest) and large patch sizes (generally greater than 50 acres) are typically required (Laymon 1998). Cuckoos may also nest in smaller patches of habitat. A patch size of at least 25 acres was selected based on values used for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Strategy (LCR MSCP) (LCR MSCP 2004). Nesting habitat is considered to be limited to patches of habitat along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers because these locations are within the known historical nesting range of the species. Patches of cottonwood-willow riparian forest of at least 25 acres located along the Feather River upstream of State Highway 70 are adjacent to urban lands and, therefore, are excluded from the model because urban-related disturbances would render these patches unsuitable for nesting.

#### **References**

Laymon, S. A. 1998. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). *In* The Riparian Bird Conservation Plan: a strategy for reversing the decline of riparian-associated birds in California. California Partners in Flight.  
[http://www.prbo.org/calpif/html/docs/riparian\\_v-2.html](http://www.prbo.org/calpif/html/docs/riparian_v-2.html)

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. 2004. Final habitat conservation plan, Vol. II. December 17. Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City, Nevada.



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**Figure A.5: Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo  
Habitat Model**

Legend

- Nest Site: CNDDB
- ▲ Non-Nest Site: CNDDB
- Breeding Habitat
- Planning Area Boundary

This map presents outcomes of a draft habitat model that is described in the Covered Species Accounts of the HCP/NCCP. The purpose of the model is to identify areas within the planning area where the species occurs or could occur based on known habitat requirements. Please note occurrence data recorded here is based on available data and not representative of all occurrences.

