

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$35,000	\$18,997.38	\$166,227.66	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$25,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: System monitoring for marsh birds.

Conservation Measures: MRM1 AND MRM2 (CLRA, BLRA).

Location: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona and California.

Purpose: Monitor Yuma clapper rail (CLRA), California black rail (BLRA), and western least bittern (LEBI) along a designated reach of the LCR as part of the inter-agency system monitoring program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Data obtained from F2 may also be used in the marsh bird system monitoring program described in D1. The protocol developed for D1 will also be used for F2.

Project Description: Yuma clapper rail and other marsh bird surveys have been conducted annually since the 1980s by multiple agencies. The LCR MSCP surveys are conducted in the Topock Gorge in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

Prior to implementation of the LCR MSCP, a study was conducted to determine whether CLRA surveys could be expanded to a multi-species protocol without compromising CLRA detection rates. Information obtained from this study has produced a multi-species protocol for marsh birds, including the LCR MSCP covered species (CLRA, BLRA, and LEBI). Marsh bird surveys will continue at designated survey points to track detections of covered species utilizing the multi-species protocol.

Previous Activities: Reclamation has monitored CLRA within Topock Gorge since 1996.

FY10 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted between the I-40 Bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu during March, April, and May 2010. Total CLRA detections ranged from 36 and 45 to 59 individuals per survey period. CLRA detections were similar to those of 2009 surveys. LEBI detections ranged from 7 in

March to 51 in May. This is the highest number of LEBI detected during any survey period in Topock Gorge. One BLRA was detected during the 2010 survey period. This was in April and at the same site as 1 BLRA was detected during the March and April surveys of 2009. Data were compiled and entered into the National Marsh Bird database, <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/point/mb/>, which is maintained by the USFWS.

FY11 Activities: Marsh bird surveys are being conducted in Topock Gorge and the upper reaches of Lake Havasu using the multi-species marsh bird survey protocol. Data will be submitted to the USFWS. Information obtained through this work task may be used in planning future marsh bird habitat creation activities.

Proposed FY12 Activities: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted in Topock Gorge and the upper reaches of Lake Havasu using the multi-species marsh bird survey protocol. Data will be submitted to the USFWS. Information obtained through this work task may be used in planning future marsh bird habitat creation activities. Also, Reclamation will retrieve paper copies currently stored by the USFWS and enter historical CLRA survey data into the database.

Pertinent Reports: *Marsh Bird Surveys–2009*, and *Marsh Bird Survey–2010* will be posted to the LCR MSCP website.