

Work Task F7: Post-Development Monitoring of Marsh Birds

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$30,000	\$1,403.06	\$1,403.06	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

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Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: The purpose of this work is to determine whether marsh land cover types created under the LCR MSCP are used by California black rails, Yuma clapper rails, and western least bitterns.

Conservation Measures: MRM1 AND MRM2 (CLRA, BLRA, LEBI), LEBI1, BLRA1, CLRA1.

Location: Presence/absence surveys will be conducted at newly developed marsh habitat sites including Hart Mine Marsh, Cibola NWR, Cibola, Arizona, Imperial NWR, Arizona, and Big Bend Conservation Area, Nevada.

Purpose: Monitor the use of created marsh habitat by covered marsh bird species.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Hart Mine Marsh, Big Bend, and portions of Imperial NWR have been surveyed for marsh birds prior to development. System-wide marsh bird surveys have been conducted by Reclamation on existing marsh habitat since 1996. Previous surveys, both system-wide and those associated with pre-development, were conducted under D1.

Project Description: Surveys for Yuma clapper rail in existing habitat have been conducted in Topock Gorge by Reclamation since 1996 (D1). Since 2006, Reclamation has participated in the National Marsh Bird Monitoring Program, which involves surveying for several species, including the LCR MSCP covered marsh species, simultaneously using taped recordings of the species calls. Surveys of marsh habitat created under the LCR MSCP utilize this same protocol. Marsh bird survey data on the LCR is utilized by the USFWS for baseline population estimates and habitat suitability analysis.

Previous Activities: N/A

FY11 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted in cooperation with the USFWS on conservation areas once the marsh vegetation has developed in sufficient acreage, vegetation

type, and suitability. These sites include, Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR) Field 16 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR) and Big Bend Conservation Area.

FY12 Activities: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted in cooperation with USFWS on conservation areas once the marsh vegetation has developed in sufficient acreage, vegetation type, and suitability. These sites will include Beal Lake (Havasu NWR), Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 16 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR), Big Bend Conservation Area, and the Laguna Division Conservation Area. An internal database module will be created to house and analyze post-development marsh bird surveys.

Proposed FY13 Activities: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted in cooperation with USFWS on conservation areas once the marsh vegetation has developed in sufficient acreage, vegetation type, and suitability. These sites will include Beal Lake, Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 16 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR), Big Bend Conservation Area, and the Laguna Division Conservation Area. Data will be inputted into the database and analyzed, comparing pre and post development.

Pertinent Reports: Results of surveys will be reported in the annual reports for each associated restoration site.