

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$35,000	\$21,802.58	\$200,203.81	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$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 F7 may also be used in the marsh bird system monitoring program described in D1. The protocol developed for D1 will also be used for F7.

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, 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.

FY12 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted between the I-40 Bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu during March, April, and May 2012. All three covered species were encountered. In April, 54 CLRA were detected, which was the highest count in FY12. There were 23 CLRA detections in March and 53 in May. Detections of LEBI were highest in May with 27; only 1 was detected in March and 18 in

April. Three BLRA were detected in March. This was the only month that BLRA were detected. Data were compiled and entered into the National Marsh Bird database.

FY13 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.

Proposed FY14 Activities: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted in Topock Gorge and the upper reaches of Lake Havasu and other sites 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.

Pertinent Reports: *Marsh Bird Surveys–2011* and *Marsh Bird Surveys–2012* will be posted to the LCR MSCP website.