

## Work Task F7: Marsh Birds Monitoring of Conservation Areas

FY12 Estimates	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$30,000	\$14,271.51	\$15,674.57	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

**Contact:** Joe Kahl, (702) 293-8568, [jkahl@usbr.gov](mailto:jkahl@usbr.gov)

**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), LEB11, 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):** System-wide marsh bird surveys have been conducted by Reclamation on existing marsh habitat since 1996 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:** Hart Mine Marsh, Big Bend, and portions of Imperial NWR have been surveyed for marsh birds prior to development. Marsh bird surveys were conducted at Big Bend Conservation Area, Beal Lake Conservation Area, Hart Mine Marsh on Cibola NWR, and Field 16 on Imperial NWR in 2011.

**FY12 Accomplishments:** Marsh bird surveys were conducted in cooperation with the USFWS at Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 16 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR) during March, April, and May 2012. At Hart Mine Marsh, 2 CLRA and 11 LEBI were detected during the April survey. There were no BLRA detections. In Field 16, 1 CLRA and 1 LEBI were detected during the April survey. A total of 9 BLRA detections occurred over the survey period. At Beal Lake, 1 CLRA was detected in April and 2 in May. LEBI numbers ranged from 2 in March, 9 in April and 14 in May. There were no BLRA detections. At the Big Bend Conservation Area no covered LCR MSCP marsh birds were detected in FY12.

**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 and Willow Marsh (Havasau NWR) Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 16 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR) and Big Bend Conservation Area. Data will be inputted into the database and analyzed, comparing pre and post development.

**Proposed FY14 Activities:** Marsh bird surveys will be conducted on conservation areas which have a marsh habitat component in sufficient acreage, vegetation type, and suitability. These sites will include Beal Lake and Willow Marsh (Havasau NWR) Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 16 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR) and Big Bend 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 as well as one report for all conservation areas.