

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

FY13 Estimate	FY13 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY13	FY14 Approved Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate
\$25,000	\$16,679.67	\$216,883.48	\$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. Information obtained through this work task may be used in managing marsh bird habitat creation areas.

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: The LCR MSCP conducts marsh bird surveys in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency, system-wide monitoring effort that has been ongoing annually since 1980. The LCR MSCP surveys are located along the lower Colorado River between the I-40 Bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu, including Topock Gorge in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

Prior to implementation of the LCR MSCP, a study was conducted to determine whether Yuma clapper rail surveys could be expanded to a multi-species protocol without compromising Yuma clapper rail detection rates. Information obtained from this study has produced a multi-species protocol for marsh birds, including the LCR MSCP covered species (Yuma clapper rail, California black rail, and western least bittern). 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 Yuma clapper rails within Topock Gorge since 1996 in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency system-wide monitoring effort.

FY13 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted between the Interstate-40 Bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu during March, April, and May 2013 in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency system-wide monitoring effort. All three covered species were encountered. In May, 62 Yuma clapper rails were detected, which was the highest count in FY13. There were 50 Yuma clapper rails detections in March and 38 in April. Detections of LEBI were highest in May with 24; only 5 were detected in March and 10 in April. One California black rail was detected in March and 1 in April. Both detections were at the same survey point. Data were compiled and entered into the National Marsh Bird database.

FY13 obligations were less than approved due to reduced project staffing and program savings when clapper rail historical data was entered by another party at their cost.

FY14 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 in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency system-wide monitoring effort. Surveys may also be conducted at Havasu Refuge as needed. Data will be submitted to the USFWS. Information obtained through this work task may be used in planning future marsh bird habitat creation activities and research projects. Also, Reclamation will enter historical Yuma clapper rail survey data into the database.

Proposed FY15 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 in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency system-wide monitoring effort. Data will be submitted to the USFWS. Information obtained through this work task may be used in planning future marsh bird habitat creation activities and research projects.

Pertinent Reports: *Marsh Bird Surveys–2013* will be posted to the LCR MSCP website.