

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$25,000	\$35,186.60	\$252,070.08	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: System monitoring for marsh birds

Conservation Measures: MRM1 and MRM2 (LEBI, CLRA and BLRA)

Location: Havasu NWR, Arizona and California

Purpose: The purpose of this work task is to monitor Yuma clapper rail, California black rail, and western least bittern along a designated reach of the LCR as part of the interagency system monitoring program. The information obtained through this task may be used in managing marsh bird habitat creation areas.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): Data obtained from Work Task F7 may also be used in the marsh bird system monitoring program described in this work task. The protocol developed for task will also be used for Work Task F7.

Project Description: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency, system-wide monitoring effort that has been ongoing annually since 1980. LCR MSCP surveys are conducted along the LCR between the I-40 Bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu, including Topock Gorge in the Havasu NWR.

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 (Ridgway's) 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, utilizing the multi-species protocol, will continue at designated survey points to track detections of covered species.

Previous Activities: Reclamation has monitored Yuma clapper rail within Topock Gorge since 1996 in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency, system-wide monitoring effort.

FY14 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted between the I-40 Bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu during March, April, and May 2014 in coordination with the USFWS as part of a multi-agency, system-wide monitoring effort. All three covered species were encountered: 24 Yuma clapper rail detections in March, 82 in April, and 66 in May; 2 western least bittern detections in March, 12 in April, and 23 in May; 1 California black rail detection in April and 1 in May. Data were compiled and entered into the Avian Knowledge Network database. Survey methods were reviewed, and a second surveyor/operator was added to all surveys conducted by boat.

FY14 obligations were greater than before due to increasing survey costs.

FY15 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 the 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.

Proposed FY16 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: The report titled *Marsh Bird Surveys – 2014* will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site upon completion.