

Work Task F7: Marsh Bird Monitoring at Conservation Areas

FY14 Estimates	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$30,000	\$29,476.43	\$49,275.05	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

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

Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: The purpose of this work task is to determine whether marsh land cover types created under the LCR MSCP are used by California black rail, Yuma clapper (Ridgway's) rail, and least bittern.

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

Location: Presence/absence surveys will be conducted at newly developed marsh habitat sites, including Hart Mine Marsh, Cibola NWR; IPCA, Imperial NWR; Beal Lake and Willow Marsh, Havasu NWR; BBCA, Nevada; and the Yuma East Wetlands and Hunters Hole, Arizona

Purpose: To 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 Work Task D1.

Project Description: Surveys for Yuma clapper rail in existing habitat have been conducted in Topock Gorge by Reclamation since 1996 (D1). Since 2006, LCR MSCP staff have participated in the National Marsh Bird Monitoring Program, which involves surveying for several species, including the LCR MSCP covered marsh species, while 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 analyses.

Previous Activities: Hart Mine Marsh and the IPCA have been surveyed for marsh birds prior to development. Marsh bird surveys were conducted at the BBCA, Hart Mine Marsh on the Cibola NWR, and Field 18 and the Imperial Ponds of the IPCA on the Imperial NWR after inclusion into the LCR MSCP.

FY14 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted during March, April, and May at Hart Mine Marsh and at the IPCA (Field 18 and the Imperial Ponds). At the BLCA, surveys were conducted at Beal Lake once in March and at Beal Lake and Willow Marsh twice in April. Surveys at the BBCA, Yuma East Wetlands, and Hunters Hole were conducted once in March and twice in April. This was the first year that Reclamation conducted marsh bird surveys at Yuma East Wetland and Hunters Hole.

California black rail detections

Conservation Area	Survey 1 (March)	Survey 2 (April)	Survey 3 (April – May)
Hart Mine Marsh	0	0	1
Imperial Ponds Conservation Area			
Field 18	1	1	3
Imperial Ponds	0	0	0
Big Bend Conservation Area	0	0	0
Beal Lake Conservation Area			
Beal Lake	0	0	0
Willow Marsh	No Survey	0	0
Yuma East Wetlands	0	0	0
Hunters Hole	0	0	0

Least bittern detections

Conservation Area	Survey 1 (March)	Survey 2 (April)	Survey 3 (April – May)
Hart Mine Marsh	1	6	10
Imperial Ponds Conservation Area			
Field 18	0	1	1
Imperial Ponds	0	1	1
Big Bend Conservation Area	0	0	0
Beal Lake Conservation Area			
Beal Lake	0	4	3
Willow Marsh	No survey	1	5
Yuma East Wetlands	4	2	0
Hunters Hole	0	0	0

Yuma clapper rail detections

Conservation Area	Survey 1 (March)	Survey 2 (April)	Survey 3 (April – May)
Hart Mine Marsh	1	5	6
Imperial Ponds Conservation Area			
Field 18	3	1	0
Imperial Ponds	0	1	3
Big Bend Conservation Area	0	0	0
Beal Lake Conservation Area			
Beal Lake	0	0	0
Willow Marsh	No survey	0	0
Yuma East Wetlands	0	5	4
Hunters Hole	0	0	0

FY15 Activities: Marsh bird surveys on conservation areas will be conducted in cooperation with the USFWS. These sites will include Beal Lake and Willow Marsh (Havasu NWR), Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 18 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR), BBKA, Yuma East Wetlands, and the LDCA. Data will be entered into the LCR MSCP database and analyzed, comparing pre- and post-development.

Proposed FY16 Activities: Marsh bird surveys on conservation areas will be conducted in cooperation with the USFWS. They will be conducted on conservation areas that have a marsh habitat component in sufficient acreage, vegetation type, and suitability. These sites will include Beal Lake and Willow Marsh (Havasu NWR), Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 18 and the Imperial Ponds (Imperial NWR), BBKA, Yuma East Wetlands, and the LDCA. Data will be entered into the LCR MSCP database and analyzed, comparing pre- and post-development.

Pertinent Reports: Results of the surveys will be reported in the annual reports for each associated restoration site as well as one report for all conservation areas.