

Work Task F7: Marsh Bird Monitoring at Conservation Areas

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$30,000	\$29,091.63	\$78,366.68	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

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Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Post-development monitoring for California black rails, Yuma clapper rails, and western least bitterns

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

Location: Presence surveys will be conducted at newly developed marsh habitat sites, including Hart Mine Marsh, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (Cibola NWR); Imperial Ponds Conservation Area (IPCA), Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (Imperial NWR); Beal Lake and Willow Marsh, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (Havasu NWR); Big Bend Conservation Area (BBCA), Nevada; and Yuma East Wetlands and the Laguna Division Conservation Area, 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 the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on existing marsh habitat since 1996 under Work Task D1.

Project Description: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted at LCR MSCP conservation areas. The National Marsh Bird Monitoring Program protocol will be used, which involves surveying for several species, including the LCR MSCP covered marsh species, using taped recordings of the species' calls.

Previous Activities: Hart Mine Marsh and the IPCA were 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. From FY05 to FY14, Reclamation partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to share the costs and labor needed to conduct the surveys.

FY15 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 Beal Lake Conservation Area, 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 the Laguna Division Conservation Area (LDCA). This was the first year that a Yuma clapper rail was detected at the BBCA. No California black rails were detected at conservation areas in FY15.

Western Least Bittern Detections

Conservation Area	Survey 1 (March)	Survey 2 (April)	Survey 3 (April – May)
Beal Lake Conservation Area			
Beal Lake	1	1	2
Willow Marsh	0	0	0
Big Bend Conservation Area	0	0	0
Hart Mine Marsh	5	7	9
Imperial Ponds Conservation Area			
Field 18	0	0	0
Imperial Ponds	0	0	0
Laguna Division Conservation Area	3	0	0
Yuma East Wetlands	3	0	2

Yuma Clapper Rail Detections

Conservation Area	Survey 1 (March)	Survey 2 (April)	Survey 3 (April – May)
Beal Lake Conservation Area			
Beal Lake	1	1	0
Willow Marsh	0	1	0
Big Bend Conservation Area	0	0	1
Hart Mine Marsh	5	14	7
Imperial Ponds Conservation Area			
Field 18	4	2	1
Imperial Ponds	0	0	0
Laguna Division Conservation Area	0	0	0
Yuma East Wetlands	0	2	2

FY16 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), the BBCA, Yuma East Wetlands, and the LDCA. Data will be entered into the LCR MSCP database and analyzed, comparing pre- and post-development.

Proposed FY17 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), the BBCA, Yuma East Wetlands, and the LDCA. Data will be entered into the LCR MSCP database and analyzed, comparing pre- and post-development.

The budget increases in FY17 due to additional effort to survey the expanded wetlands at the LDCA and to survey Beal Lake and Willow Marsh (Havasu NWR), Hart Mine Marsh (Cibola NWR), Field 18 and the Imperial ponds (Imperial NWR).

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.