

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Presence/Absence Surveys

Contact:	John Swett, LC-8220
Purpose:	System monitoring of Yuma clapper rail (CLRA) and other LCR MSCP covered marsh bird species.
Conservation Measures:	MRM1 and MRM2
Long-term Goal(s):	This program will be used to monitor marsh birds covered under the LCR MSCP System Monitoring portion of the Adaptive Management Plan.
Location:	Reclamation will conduct surveys between U.S. Route 40 and Lake Havasu in March, April and May 2006.
FY2006 Estimate:	\$25,000. Estimates include staff, travel, equipment, and boat maintenance costs.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$25,000. Same as previous year.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$25,000. Same as previous year.
Project Description:	Yuma clapper rail surveys have been conducted annually along the LCR since 1995. In anticipation of the implementation of the LCR MSCP, the University of Arizona conducted a study to determine if CLRA surveys could be expanded to include all three marsh birds of interest to the LCR MSCP, without compromising CLRA detection rates. This study has shown that one survey can be conducted for all marsh birds, including the LCR MSCP covered species (CLRA, black rail, and least bittern). Reclamation will conduct marsh bird surveys, in 2006, using the newly established protocol, contingent upon U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's approval. A study plan is available.

Specific FY2006 Work Tasks:

- a) Conduct marsh bird presence/absence surveys utilizing the newly established marsh bird protocol, contingent upon U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's approval in Topock Gorge and the upper reaches of Lake Havasu.
- b) Provide data to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and utilize/analyze data both present and past to help in the planning for marsh restoration.
- c) Work with partners to develop a multi-agency marsh bird workgroup to implement a system monitoring program for covered species that utilize marsh habitat.