

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
\$25,000	\$44,997	\$79,917	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: System monitoring for marsh birds.

Conservation Measures: AMM1, AMM3, AMM6, MRM1, CLRA2, and BLRA2

Location: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, AZ and CA.

Purpose: Monitor Yuma clapper rail (CLRA), California black rail (BLRA), and western least bittern (LEBI) along designated reach of the LCR as part of the inter-agency system monitoring program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Data obtained from F2 will also be used in the marsh bird system monitoring program described in D1. Protocol developed for D1 will also be used for F2.

Project Description: Yuma clapper rail surveys have been conducted annually since the 1980s. Prior to implementation of the LCR MSCP, U of A conducted a study to determine if CLRA surveys could be expanded to a multi-species protocol without compromising CLRA detection rates. Information obtained from this study has produced a new multi-species protocol for all marsh birds, including the LCR MSCP covered species (CLRA, BLRA, and LEBI). 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 CLRA within Topock Gorge since 1995.

FY06 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted between the I-40 bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu during March, April, and May 2006. Total CLRA detections ranged from 19 to 31 individuals per survey period. Total LEBI detections ranged from 8 in March to 37 during the May survey period. No BLRA were detected during these surveys. Data was compiled and sent to the USFWS in August 2006.

The FY06 costs exceeded estimates due to replacement costs for two boat motors and maintenance costs associated with boats needed to conduct the marshbird surveys.

FY07 Activities: Marsh bird surveys are being conducted in Topock Gorge and the upper reaches of Lake Havasu using the multi-species marsh bird survey protocol. Data will be submitted to the USFWS. Information obtained through this work task may be used in planning future marsh bird habitat creation activities. Also, Reclamation will enter historical CLRA survey data, currently stored by the USFWS, into the LCR MSCP database.

Proposed FY08 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. Data will be submitted to the USFWS. Information obtained through this work task may be used in planning future marsh bird habitat creation activities.

Pertinent Reports: *Yuma Clapper Rail Surveys along the LCR at Topock Gorge, 2006* will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site.