

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

| FY07 Estimates | FY07 Actual | Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY07 | FY08 Approved Estimate | FY09 Proposed Estimate | FY10 Proposed Estimate | FY11 Proposed Estimate |
|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$25,000 | \$18,767 | \$98,684 | \$35,000 | \$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 may 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, a study was conducted 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 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 between the I-40 bridge near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu to track detections of covered species utilizing the multi-species protocol.

Previous Activities: Reclamation has monitored CLRA within Topock Gorge since 1995.

FY07 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted during March, April, and May 2007. Total CLRA detections ranged from 17 to 61 individuals per survey period. The 61 CLRA detected during the April survey represented the highest number of CLRA detections since May 2004 for this survey area. Total LEBI detections ranged from 5 in March to 22 during the April survey period. Two BLRA were detected during these surveys, which represent the first two BLRA detections recorded in this section of Reach 3. Data was compiled and sent to the USFWS in August 2007.

FY08 Activities: Marsh bird surveys are being conducted 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 FY09 Activities: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted 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, 2007* will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site.