

Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$35,000	\$27,400.01	\$146,230.28	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$35,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: System monitoring for marsh birds

Conservation Measures: MRM1 AND MRM2 (CLRA, BLRA)

Location: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona and California

Purpose: Monitor Yuma clapper rail (CLRA), California black rail (BLRA), and western least bittern (LEBI) along a 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. The protocol developed for D1 will also be used for F2.

Project Description: Yuma clapper rail surveys and other marsh bird surveys have been conducted annually since the 1980s by multiple agencies. The LCR MSCP portion of these surveys are in the Topock Gorge in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

Prior to implementation of the LCR MSCP, a study was conducted to determine whether 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 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.

FY09 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted between the I-40 bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu during March, April, and May 2009. Total CLRA detections ranged from 34 to 60 individuals per survey period. Total LEBI

detections ranged from 11 in March to 33 during the May survey period. CLRA detections were similar to those of 2008 surveys while LEBI detections were slightly higher. BLRA were detected five times during the 2009 survey period with three detections during the April survey. This is the most BLRA detections in Topock Gorge since the beginning of organized surveys. In August, data were compiled and entered in the National Marsh Bird database at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/point/mb/>, which is maintained by the USFWS.

FY10 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. Reclamation will enter historical CLRA survey data, currently stored by the USFWS, into the LCR MSCP database.

Proposed FY11 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: *Marsh Bird Surveys – 2009* will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site.