

Work Task: D1 Marsh Bird Surveys

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$25,000	\$18,725.89	\$178,401.23	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000

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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 F7 may also be used in the marsh bird system monitoring program described in D1. The protocol developed for D1 will also be used for F7.

Project Description: Yuma clapper rail and other marsh bird surveys have been conducted annually since the 1980s by multiple agencies. The LCR MSCP surveys are conducted 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 1996.

FY11 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted between the I-40 Bridge, near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu during March, April, and May 2011. Total CLRA detections ranged from 38 and 76 to 70 individuals per survey period. The prior highest number of CLRA detected by Reclamation was 71 in May 2004. LEBI detections ranged from 9 in March to 50 in May. This is just under the 2010 number of 51 LEBI during the May survey,

which was the most LEBI detected in Topock Gorge by Reclamation. BLRA detections ranged from 4 and 3 to 7 during the 2011 survey period. The 7 detections in May were the most BLRA detected in Topock Gorge during any survey period. This marks the fourth year out of the last six years and the third year in a row in which BLRA have been detected in Topock Gorge. Data were compiled and entered into the National Marsh Bird database.

FY12 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. Also, Reclamation will retrieve paper copies currently stored by the USFWS and enter historical CLRA survey data into the database.

Proposed FY13 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–2010* and *Marsh Bird Surveys–2011* will be posted to the LCR MSCP website.