

## Work Task E21: Planet Ranch, Bill Williams River

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$100,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Contact:** Nathan Lenon, (702) 293-8015

**Start Date:** FY05 **Expected Duration:** Closed in FY05

**Long-term Goal:** Habitat creation

**Conservation Measures:** AMM1, MRM1, CLRA1, WIFL1, WIFL2, WRBA2, WYBA3, CRCR2, LEBI1, YBCU1, YBCU2, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI1, YWAR1, SUTA1, MNSW2, CLNB2, and PTBB2

**Location:** Reach 3, Bill Williams River, 11 miles east of River Mile 190, AZ

**Purpose:** Evaluate the potential for creating habitat for covered species on Planet Ranch, to help determine whether acquiring the property would be in the best interest of the LCR MSCP.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** This Work Task was previously included in the Draft FY05 Work Tasks as Planet Ranch, Bill Williams River (E4). Work Task E21 is closed.

**Project Description:** Planet Ranch (currently owned by the City of Scottsdale), was evaluated for its potential to provide habitat for covered species. The property encompasses approximately 8,400 acres, approximately 2,400 acres of which had previously been farmed for alfalfa. If the LCR MSCP were to acquire Planet Ranch for habitat creation purposes, substantially less water would be pumped from the water table which would afford some degree of protection to the existing riparian habitat occurring at the eastern extent of Bill Williams River NWR.

Reclamation's evaluation of Planet Ranch was intended to estimate the acreage of habitat that could be established, while also protecting the habitat located on the Refuge from the lowering of the water table, which would threaten the downstream riparian habitat should agricultural production resumes at the ranch at the full capacity of the water entitlement.

**FY05 Accomplishment:** Reclamation evaluated Planet Ranch and developed a conceptual design, which estimated up to 1,003 acres of cottonwood-willow, 52 acres of marsh, and 300 acres of mesquite could be established. This would protect up to 874 acres of cottonwood-willow, 42 acres of marsh, and 331 acres of mesquite on Bill Williams River NWR.

**FY06 Activities:** This Work Task is closed.

**Pertinent Reports:** *Planet Ranch: Potential Restoration Site, Preliminary Site Analysis and Conceptual Design* is posted to the LCR MSCP website.