

Work Task E17: Topock Marsh Pumping (Revised)

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$5,000	\$10,480.66	\$16,364.66	\$5,000	\$800,000	\$250,000	\$70,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Avoid impacts of flow-related covered activities on covered species habitats at Topock Marsh.

Conservation Measures: AMM2.

Location: Reach 3, Havasu NWR, river miles 235-244, AZ.

Purpose: To avoid flow-related covered impacts on covered species habitats at Topock Marsh. One option identified includes the design, permitting, and construction of a reliable and manageable water delivery system for Topock Marsh.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): None.

Project Description: Topock Marsh has been identified as an important area for LCR MSCP covered species such as Yuma clapper rail and the SWFL. At times, flow-related activities could lower river elevations to levels that could disrupt existing gravity diversions of water from the river to the marsh. The option identified in the LCR MSCP HCP assumed two pumps would be purchased and installed at the existing inlet canal for Topock Marsh. The cost of the purchase, installation, and operation of the pumps throughout the life of the 50-year program would be funded by the LCR MSCP. It is anticipated that the gravity diversion of water, along with supplemental pumping to maintain the water surface elevation, would avoid negative effects on the groundwater elevation.

Previous Activities: The *Draft Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Water Management Plan* has been drafted by the USFWS and is posted on the LCR MSCP Web site.

FY08 Accomplishments: The specific actions required to satisfy AMM2 have not been determined at this time. However, expenditures were slightly higher than anticipated to allow for a thorough discussion of possible alternatives. The internal rating and preparation of a cost estimate to implement water management alternatives for Havasu NWR was initiated in FY08 by the USFWS and is expected to be available for review late in FY09 or early FY10.

FY09 Activities: Review of a document discussing alternatives and preliminary costs for management of Havasu refuge is anticipated late in FY09 or FY10. The document will be used to support the ongoing technical reviews, discussion of water accounting issues, and to determine the feasibility of implementation. **A decision was reached in late FY09, which outlines the commitments and obligations of the LCR MSCP.**

The USFWS has secured partial funding to begin implementation of the initial phases of the Final Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Water Management Plan. Options for the integration of USFWS funds and LCR MSCP funds (specifically targeted to fulfill AMM2) are underway. A briefing was presented to the Technical Workgroup of the SC in September of 2009.

Proposed FY10 Activities: A review of alternatives and preliminary costs for management of Havasu Refuge occurred in late FY09, as well as a discussion of water accounting issues between USFWS, Arizona Department of Water Resources, and Reclamation. USFWS has requested \$795,000 from Reclamation and in return will provide correspondence that releases Reclamation from any further construction commitments under AMM2. Funds provided by Reclamation will be joined with USFWS American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars to complete the Topock Marsh Water Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Under the larger improvement project, Reclamation is specifically responsible for funding the construction of the dual purpose gravity diversion and pump structure at the Colorado River intake of the anticipated Fire Break Canal, as well as the purchase of the pumps to be housed on the intake structure. Once completed, FWS will have the ability to more efficiently and effectively transfer water into the marsh even under low river flow conditions. Additional discussion is necessary to address the LCR MSCP's share of the long-term operational costs of the system.

Pertinent Reports: *Final Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Water Management Plan.*