

Work Task E28: Yuma East Wetlands

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$450,000	\$450,000

Contact: Jed Blake, (702) 293-8165, jblake@usbr.gov

Start Date: FY10

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Habitat creation

Conservation Measures: CLRA1, WIFL1, CRCR2, YHCR2, LEBI1, BLRA1, YBCU1, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI1, YWAR1, SUTA1, PTBB2

Location: Reach 6, Arizona, River Mile 31

Purpose: To maintain newly created land cover types and support site improvements that benefit LCR MSCP covered species.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Vegetation and species monitoring are being addressed under F1-F4.

Project Description: The LCR MSCP is providing funding to maintain and enhance land cover types, primarily marsh, cottonwood-willow, and mesquite established at the Yuma East Wetlands (YEW). The funding will allow for invasive plant removal and management during this initial establishment period. A decision document summarizing past, present, and future actions will be presented to the Steering Committee with the FY11 Work Plan at the April 2010 meeting.

In 2000, the City of Yuma and the Quechan Tribe collaborated to analyze the potential of restoring the local wetlands along the Colorado River by removing non-native plant species, trash dumps, and make-shift homeless camps. Wildlife and wetlands delineations were conducted prior to clearing.

YEW is developing into an integrated mosaic of land cover types, including cottonwood-willow, honey mesquite, and marsh. The project is located in Yuma, Arizona, on City of Yuma, Quechan Tribal, and Arizona Game and Fish Commission lands. Existing habitat created by past revegetation efforts has resulted in land cover types used by LCR MSCP covered species. In partnership with the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (YCNHA), the lead agency establishing the wetlands, the LCR MSCP will maintain

existing habitat and support adaptive management activities to improve site conditions which will benefit the LCR MSCP covered species.

Approximately 350 acres have been restored to create a mosaic of marsh, mesquite, and cottonwood-willow. YEW has adopted wildlife monitoring standards consistent with the LCR MSCP and has observed numerous LCR MSCP covered species on-site. LCR MSCP covered species and land cover type data sharing between the Heritage Area and Reclamation biologists is ongoing.

Previous Activities: Since 2000, Reclamation has participated in the development of the Yuma East Wetlands outside the LCR MSCP process. Past activities included attendance at workshops and planning meetings, use of heavy equipment, an irrigation system inventory analysis, and adoption of LCR MSCP species monitoring protocols that are being used on the site.

FY08 Accomplishments: This is a new start in FY10.

FY09 Activities: This is a new start in FY10.

FY10 Activities: Maintenance and management activities to be administered by the YCNHA will allow for onsite project management, coordination and funding of labor crews, rental equipment for invasive plant removal, maintenance of water control structures for the marsh, maintenance of pumps and purchase of fuel for drip and flood irrigation systems, irrigating services, herbicide and fertilizer purchase and application, and replanting as necessary.

A report summarizing the results of wildlife and vegetation monitoring, evaluation of habitat potential, recommendations for existing land cover modifications or management approach, and potential credit toward species-specific conservation measures was presented to the Steering Committee in April 2010. Additional information on the language used in the Land Use Agreement was requested.

Reclamation staff will attend planning meetings, habitat and species monitoring activities, and maintenance activity meetings. Additionally, LCR MSCP staff will attend and contribute to the annual bi-national revegetation workshops held in the Yuma area, with a focus on the YEW.

Proposed FY11 Activities: Specific language used in the drafting of Land Use Agreements and the recommendation from the LCR MSCP Program Manager to include YEW into the program is anticipated to be presented to the Steering Committee in October of 2010.

Maintenance and management activities will continue. On-site maintenance activities, such as invasive species removal, irrigation infrastructure upkeep, fertilizer application, equipment upkeep, and replanting when necessary will continue. Based on the data collected from the vegetation and species biologists, management actions will be

implemented. Such actions may include altered irrigation frequency and quantity, planting of additional land cover types promoting species usage, and continued soil and water analysis.

Pertinent Reports: N/A