

Work Task E18: Law Enforcement and Fire Suppression

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$205,944.26	\$577,817.38	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Created habitat protection.

Conservation Measures: CMM1.

Location: Reaches 1-7.

Purpose: Provide law enforcement and fire suppression in support of habitat created under the LCR MSCP.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Law enforcement and fire suppression are anticipated to be integral management components for all habitats created through Section E work tasks.

Project Description: This project funds law enforcement and fire protection for created habitat. It is assumed that BLM, USFWS, AGFD, CDFG, NDOW, BIA, CAL-Fire and other agencies will conduct law enforcement and fire fighting activities on the river. Law enforcement and fire suppression strategies have been developed at the programmatic level and for each individual Conservation Area. As new Conservation Areas are incorporated into the program, site specific fire and law plans will be drafted.

Previous Activities: The BLM Colorado River District office based in Lake Havasu, Arizona provides fire management support services to the LCR MSCP. BLM is responsible for fire related activities and is the lead wildland fire agency for Conservation Areas on both state and Reclamation lands.

The BLM also conducts patrols on the site, outreach to land owners, site mapping and identification of critical infrastructure. The inspections are intended to proactively identify and address potential wildland fire management issues. Recommendations are discussed with the land owner and the LCR MSCP project manager. These recommendations help identify high risk areas, areas in need of fuels reduction, and management of visitor use areas.

FY11 Accomplishments: A pre-fire season meeting was conducted in February 2011 at both the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve (PVER) and the Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area (CVCA). The meetings were attended by the federal wildland firefighters from BLM, USFWS, and BIA; wildlife wardens, irrigation district staff, local fire departments, LCR MSCP project managers and local residents who live near the conservation areas. These meetings are intended to familiarize the wildland firefighters with the conservations area and share with stakeholders their concerns or recommendations for each site. A complete driving tour with the group and a wrap-up session at each site was held that allowed for questions and answers by firefighters and stakeholders.

Fuels reduction tools and techniques were researched in FY11 in anticipation of conducting reduction activities at conservation areas in later years. Methods such as road side mowing, boom spraying and mechanical excavation were identified. The use of a portable debris incinerator was also researched and analyzed for compatibility with conservation areas.

GIS maps were created identifying adjacent land owners at the PVER and the CVCA. Riverside, Imperial and La Paz County assessor records were retrieved and land ownership determined using assessor parcel numbers. This information can be used for fire management activities as well as outreach to adjacent land owners.

The BLM drafted a fire management plan for both the PVER and CVCA. The plans are incorporated into the BLM's Colorado River District FMP that is updated annually. The Plan goes into detail regarding existing habitat, threatened and endangered species, suppression tactics, constraints, site infrastructure, land ownership, fuel types, access routes, supporting fire agencies, radio frequencies, dispatch locations, etc.

FY12 Activities: A post-fire season meeting similar to the pre-season meeting held in February was conducted in November.

The BLM will continue to be funded and site recommendations submitted to the land owners and LCR MSCP project managers. Signage available for Conservation Areas consistent with federal and state fire restrictions will be researched and purchased for conservation areas.

The BLM will draft two fire management plans for LCR MSCP conservation areas and incorporate the new plans into the BLM's FMP. Plans will be drafted for the Yuma East Wetlands and the Hunters Hole Conservation Areas. Annually the BLM's FMP is updated and formally adopted by the agencies department managers.

A conservation area-specific LCR MSCP fire and law enforcement plan that documents land owners, federal and state regulations, habitat phases planted, wildlife agencies, local law enforcement and fire agencies, resource advisors, etc. will be developed for Hart Mine Marsh located on Cibola NWR, possibly Yuma East Wetlands located on City of Yuma and Quechan Tribal lands and Hunters Hole located on Reclamation owned land.

The pre-fire season and post-fire season meetings will be expanded to include LCR MSCP conservation areas located on federal refuges, state, and city lands. The USFWS Wildland Fire

Fighting Office will be approached in FY12 and asked to actively participate in LCR MSCP fire management services at conservation areas located on federal refuges.

Fuel load reduction may occur on or adjacent to conservation areas. Chemical treatments, manual, mechanical and chipping of invasive species are all generally accepted fuels reduction techniques. The BLM, USFWS, and supporting fire management offices will help advise the LCR MSCP on implementation of new fire breaks, vehicle turn-arounds, and associated fire management actions.

Proposed FY13 Activities: The BLM will continue to be funded and site recommendations submitted to the land owners and LCR MSCP project managers.

The BLM will draft one fire management plan for the Laguna Division Conservation Area and add the plan to the BLM Colorado River District's FMP. The Laguna plan will be drafted in FY13 to help familiarize wildland fire fighters with the site, and the plan finalized when the site is completely built out.

The BIA Wildland Fire Fighting Office will be approached in FY13 and asked to actively participate in LCR MSCP fire management services at conservation areas located on tribal lands.

Fuel load reduction may occur on or adjacent to conservation areas. Chemical treatments, manual, mechanical and chipping of invasive species are all generally accepted fuels reduction techniques. The BLM, USFWS, and supporting fire management offices will help advise the LCR MSCP on implementation of new fire breaks, vehicle turn-arounds, and associated fire management actions.

Pertinent Reports: N/A