

Work Task E21: Planet Ranch, Bill Williams River

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$8,900,000	\$34,019.70	\$162,956.07	\$1,500,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

Contact: Gregg Garnett, (702) 293-8347, ggarnett@usbr.gov

Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Habitat creation.

Conservation Measures: CLRA1, WIFL1, WIFL2, WRBA2, WYBA3, CRCR2, LEB1, YBCU1, YBCU2, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI1, YWAR1, SUTA1, MNSW2, CLNB2, PTBB2.

Location: Reach 3, Bill Williams River, 11 miles east of River Mile 190, Arizona.

Purpose: Create and manage a mosaic of native land cover types for LCR MSCP covered species.

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). Costs associated with a federal land and water appraisal conducted in FY08 were captured under work task Conservation Area Site Selection (E16). E21 was closed at the end of FY05, but was reopened in FY09.

Project Description: Planet Ranch (owned by Freeport-McMoRan), encompasses approximately 8,400 acres, of which approximately 2,400 acres had previously been farmed for alfalfa. In 2008, the LCR MSCP Steering Committee approved a land and water resolution, which authorizes Reclamation to enter into negotiations to secure approximately 3,418 acres of land and 4,668 acre-feet of water per year. The sum of \$8,300,000 to secure this land and water was determined through the federal appraisal process. Negotiations are also underway to allow the Bureau of Land Management to secure the remaining acreage, which has no water entitlement from the Bill Williams River. Once finalized, the terms and conditions to secure the land and water resources will be brought back to the Steering Committee.

An estimated 550 acres of primarily cottonwood-willow land cover type is anticipated to be developed on Planet Ranch. In addition, another 396 acres of cottonwood-willow land cover type on the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge is afforded protection by securing the Planet Ranch property.

Previous Activities: Reclamation evaluated Planet Ranch and developed a conceptual design, assuming the entire ranch and water entitlement were secured for the program. This information is posted on the LCR MSCP website as *Planet Ranch: Potential Restoration Site, Preliminary Site Analysis and Conceptual Design*.

FY11 Accomplishments: Negotiations to secure the land and water resources for the project continued. Because the final details of the lease, donation, and water agreements are still being negotiated, regulatory compliance activities required under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act were continued into FY11. In addition, state regulatory compliance from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ADEQ is being coordinated by the City of Scottsdale. These activities are expected to include an Environmental Assessment with a public comment period. Native American consultation and a Class I Cultural Survey as prescribed in section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was completed in FY11. Planet Ranch was not purchased during FY11. Expenditures were far below the projected budget in FY11, which reflects the absence of this large procurement, the ongoing negotiations, and completion of the Class I cultural survey.

Proposed FY12 Activities: Negotiations to secure the land and water resources for the project will continue with Freeport McMoRan. Once an agreement has been reached, a land and water resolution will be presented to the Steering Committee. The budget has been reduced to \$40,000 to allow for continued involvement and negotiations.

Proposed FY13 Activities: Negotiations to secure the land and water resources for the project will continue with Freeport McMoRan. Once an agreement has been reached, a land and water resolution will be presented to the Steering Committee. The budget has been reduced to \$40,000 to allow for continued involvement and negotiations.

Pertinent Reports: N/A