

Work Task E28: Yuma East Wetlands

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$258,521.17	\$487,194.94	\$400,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$450,000

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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 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 was 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 and trash dumps. 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 Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (YCNHA) and Reclamation biologists is ongoing.

The project is located in Yuma, Arizona, on City of Yuma, Quechan Tribal, and Arizona Game and Fish Commission lands. 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.

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 analysis, and adoption of LCR MSCP species monitoring protocols.

Additionally, the LCR MSCP has drafted a long term land use agreement amongst the land owners and interested parties. The YCNHA is the lead agency working with land owners to complete the land use agreement scheduled for signatory in 2012.

FY11 Accomplishments: The second year of funding was transferred for maintenance and management activities associated with operating a 350 acre marsh complex. Maintenance of habitat, irrigation infrastructure upkeep and project coordination constituted the majority of FY11 activities. Management activities included: LCR MSCP coordination meetings amongst biologists, stakeholder meetings determining upcoming habitat maintenance activities, attendance of budget meetings, review of progress and financial reports, fertilizer regime and scheduling was researched and applied, access roads and irrigation canal up-keep, irrigation system operating procedures documented and the development of a site safety plan.

LCR MSCP staff also presented at the Yuma Re-vegetation Workshop that focuses on the YEW. Presentations consisted of native tree mass planting techniques, site maintenance, standard operating procedure development, safety plan development and law and fire agency identification.

Discussions on a Land Use Agreement with the Quechan Tribal Council were delayed in FY11 due to the Quechan Tribal Elections being held later than normally scheduled. The delayed elections postponed the introduction of the agreement to the Tribe by LCR MSCP senior staff until a new Tribal Council was elected and put in office. The LCR MSCP Program Manager met with the new tribal council late in September.

FY12 Activities: Habitat maintenance activities will continue throughout FY12 and mainly consist of: removal of non-native species, application of herbicide, re-planting of native species as required, maintenance of irrigation systems, fuel delivery, access road maintenance, fertilizer ordering and application, vehicle maintenance, safety meetings and ensuring the site meets Arizona occupational safety and health work standards.

Management activities in FY12 will consist of: administration of the federal agreement, implementing the LCR MSCP vegetation monitoring for the habitat, irrigation and fertilizer documentation, 2012 Safety Plan update, installation of required signage, water accounting data submitted to Reclamation; attendance at the Yuma Re-vegetation Workshop, coordination meetings with stakeholders and ensuring the site meets or exceeds LCR MSCP covered species habitat standards.

The land use agreement is scheduled for signatory in 2012 and if necessary, approved by the Steering Committee. If either of the three land owners is unable to accept the terms and conditions of the land use agreement, the subject land owner and their property will not be included from the agreement. If at a later date the land owner decides to work with the LCR

MSCP the land use agreement will be amended to include their property. Funding under the federal cooperative agreement for habitat maintenance will be proportionally reduced based on the amount of land being subtracted from the agreement.

Proposed FY13 Activities: Habitat maintenance activities will continue throughout FY13 and mainly consist of: removal of non-native species, application of herbicide, re-planting of native species as required, maintenance of irrigation systems, fuel delivery, access road maintenance, fertilizer ordering and application, vehicle maintenance, safety meetings and ensuring the site meets Arizona Occupational Safety and Health work standards.

Management activities in FY13 will consist of administration of the federal agreement, continued use of LCR MSCP covered species and vegetation monitoring protocols, irrigation and fertilizer documentation, 2013 Safety Plan update, installation of required signage, water accounting data submitted to Reclamation coordination meetings with stakeholders, and ensuring the site meets LCR MSCP covered species habitat standards.

Pertinent Reports: N/A