

Work Task G4: Science/Adaptive Management Strategy

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$125,000	\$127,754.31	\$483,096.45	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Ensure successful and efficient implementation of the LCR MSCP conservation measures.

Conservation Measures: All conservation measures dealing with habitat creation, species research, system monitoring, and fish augmentation.

Location: LCR MSCP planning area.

Purpose: Define the process for implementing the LCR MSCP using the best available science and adaptive management processes.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): All science-based work tasks.

Project Description: The HCP conservation measures were designed to meet the biological needs for 26 covered species and to benefit five evaluation species. A science strategy, developed in FY06, defines processes for ensuring LCR MSCP implementation using the best available science. This strategy describes a two-tier planning process to ensure effective implementation of research and monitoring actions: first, a five-year planning cycle, and second, annual work plans covering a three-year cycle.

Every five years, a plan will be developed that describes the current knowledge for covered species, establishes the monitoring and research priorities for that five-year period, and describes potential challenges that may inhibit successful implementation of the conservation measures. During each five-year cycle, the accumulated data from ongoing research and monitoring will be reviewed, along with existing species accounts. Highest priority for the next five-year period will go to completion of any ongoing research and monitoring activities. Second priority will be given to new research and monitoring needs identified by ongoing work, and third priority will be given to refining and updating life history data sets. Additional work may be generated from evaluation of research through G3.

LCR MSCP staff will participate in interagency meetings and workshops held to discuss natural resource conservation along the LCR. These meetings bring together scientists,

managers, and resource users interested in the Lower Colorado River ecosystem. Additional special topic workshops will be held for covered species or their habitats as needed to revisit the status of one or more of these species within the LCR MSCP program area.

An annual work plan report, which summarizes prior year accomplishments, describes current year ongoing activities, and outlines the proposed activities for the coming fiscal year will be developed and presented to the Steering Committee each year. Recently completed, ongoing, and proposed research and monitoring activities will be reviewed as they relate to the current 5-year monitoring and research priority plan.

Previous Activities: The Science Strategy was developed in FY06-07. Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian (CRTR) and Colorado River Aquatic Biologists (CRAB) meetings were attended. The first *Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities* report was drafted in FY07. A draft procedure, *Habitat Creation Conservation Measure Accomplishment Tracking Process*, was developed for tracking conservation measure accomplishment pertaining to the habitat creation conservation measures in FY10-11.

FY12 Accomplishments: The *Final Habitat Creation Conservation Measure Accomplishment Tracking Process* was finalized and approved by the Steering Committee on October 26, 2011. Research activities were reviewed in accordance with the priorities established in the current five-year plan, and the *LCR MSCP Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities: 2013-2017* was drafted and presented to the Steering Committee Technical Work Group in September. The Big Bend Conservation Area and Hart Mine Marsh management plans have been drafted.

FY13 Activities: Research activities continue to be reviewed in accordance with the priorities established in the current five-year plan. The *LCR MSCP Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities: 2013-2017* was finalized and approved by the Steering Committee on October 24, 2012. Finalization of Big Bend Conservation Area and Hart Mine Marsh Management Plans are expected in FY13. Coordination with land owners and agency partners for development of Managements Plans will continue. There is an increasing demand to gather, evaluate, and provide a synthesis of information on topics such as species status or other natural resources topics, all to be done in compliance with applicable, established scientific protocols and formats. The MSCP expects these demands to increase in the future and thus, will be using independent scientific and technical services to assist in meeting this and the associated workload.

Proposed FY14 Activities: Research activities will continue to be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the priorities established in the current five-year plan. Other site Management plans for existing conservation areas may be initiated. Technical review of research and monitoring activities will continue.

Pertinent Reports: The *Final Science Strategy*, the *LCR MSCP Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities—2008-2012*, the *LCR MSCP Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities—2013-2017*, and the *Final Habitat Creation Conservation Measure Accomplishment Tracking Process* are posted on the LCR MSCP website.