

Work Task I1: Public Outreach

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$70,000	\$96,516.90	\$208,144.87	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

Contact: Nathan Lenon, (702) 293-8015, nlenon@usbr.gov

Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: To increase education and support for the LCR MSCP.

Conservation Measures: N/A

Location: N/A

Purpose: To communicate, coordinate, and educate LCR MSCP Steering Committee members, internal and external stakeholders, and the general public about LCR MSCP implementation activities.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): All LCR MSCP work tasks.

Project Description: This work task provides a budget to implement an outreach program for the LCR MSCP. Activities are widely varied, and include creating educational materials, participation at conferences and other public events, interaction with some school events, and coordination with youth conservation corps groups. Outreach may be specific to a project, but more typically addresses the overall focus of the LCR MSCP and general conservation issues.

Previous Activities: The program has sponsored two regional science meetings for several years now, CRTR and CRAB (Colorado River Aquatic Biologists), which provide centralized forums for scientists and resource managers to discuss current research and monitoring projects taking place on the lower Colorado River. Both of these annual meetings have web space within the LCR MSCP website.

A wide range of printed materials, videos, and reports have been created to explain various program features, in both summary (fact sheet) format as well as more lengthy reports. Several banner displays have been created; these materials have been used extensively to promote the program at conferences, conservation area dedications, and other events.

The program has been able to leverage non-program funding through DOI's "Youth Initiative" for several years, to hire local youth conservation corps to work 80 hour "shifts" on LCR MSCP projects. These projects have included pole planting of cottonwood/willow, vegetation/wildlife monitoring, native fish harvesting, and general hatchery maintenance at program partnering facilities. The projects provide the corps members valuable job experience and firsthand knowledge of local conservation issues; the program receives the physical labor from these young people at no cost.

FY12 Accomplishments: We created a new four-panel banner display emphasizing the content published in the highlights report. A portable TV/DVD player was also purchased to provide the ability to display multimedia (photos, videos) at conferences.

During FY12, we developed a template and draft outreach plan for Cibola Unit 1 and Hart Mine Marsh Conservation Areas. This plan will provide guidelines and procedures for conducting field trips at these specific conservation areas, and will be useful for drafting similar outreach plans at other conservation areas.

We conducted one field trip to Cibola Unit 1 with Appleby Elementary School in Blythe, CA with approximately 80 second grade students, showcasing small mammals and how biologists monitor them. Several other school presentations were made to schools from the Las Vegas area, Dolan Springs (AZ), and Bullhead City (AZ), including elementary, middle, and high school students.

We demonstrated live native fish and bat monitoring technology at the second annual Las Vegas Science Expo. Finally, we provided native fish education during two family-based public fishing clinics in Boulder City, NV.

Funding was secured through DOI's "youth initiative" to hire three youth conservation corps, at three sites, as well as two student summer hires. These projects involved site maintenance, nonnative vegetation management, native plantings, pond harvests, and vegetation microclimate monitoring. Each trip utilized between 8 to 10 or more youth over 80 hour periods to perform conservation work in support of existing program facilities.

FY13 Activities: We continue to pursue opportunities for outside funding through DOI's youth initiative, which allow us to hire youth conservation corps groups to assist with vegetation maintenance and fish pond harvests.

We sponsored the Southwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation's annual conference in Las Vegas and hosted an exhibit booth at the Colorado River Water Users Association annual meeting in Las Vegas. We are participating in the National Park Service's "Grad 2016" program, which provides environmental education to ninth graders at schools surrounding the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. We continue to organize the CRAB and CRTR meetings each January.

We plan to participate in several activities with Appleby Elementary School in Blythe as well as the new Arizona State University campus in Lake Havasu City, AZ. Students from the new ASU campus have participated in bat surveys this year.

We plan to continue developing outreach plans for additional conservation areas, with additional focus on interpretive signage.

Proposed FY14 Activities: Emphasis for outreach will continue to focus on program stakeholder education, with interaction in local communities. The LCR MSCP will continue to sponsor 1-3 events per year, such as the Colorado River Water Users Association and the Yuma Birding and Nature Festival, or other activities, which present opportunities to expand stakeholder knowledge of the program. Programs outreaching to local community schools and colleges will continue.

Pertinent Reports: The FY12 Annual Report is posted to the website.