

Work Task E33: Pretty Water Conservation Area

FY13 Estimate	FY13 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY13	FY14 Approved Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate
\$200,000	\$68,671.93	\$68,671.93	\$600,000	\$700,000	\$400,000	\$200,000

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Start Date: FY13

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Habitat creation.

Conservation Measures: VEFL1, WRBA 2, WYBA3, ELOW1, BEVI1.

Location: Reach 4, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, River Miles 95-97, California.

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 identified under Work Task E16: Conservation Area Site Selection and was previously identified as the Shark's Tooth Conservation Area.

Project Description: The Pretty Water Conservation Area (previously referred to as the Shark's Tooth Conservation Area) consists of approximately 566 acres on Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, located in California between river miles 95 and 97. On July 17, 2006, lightning ignited a fire on Cibola NWR and burned approximately 4,600 acres of salt cedar intermixed with mesquite in both California and Arizona. This Conservation Area seeks to restore a burned section primarily with honey mesquite and possibly with a small cottonwood-willow component as described in the Sharks Tooth Conservation Area, *Restoration, Development, and Monitoring Plan*. The intent is to create the large honey mesquite bosque, which will be managed for LCR MSCP covered species.

Previous Activities: During FY12, the restoration and development plan was finalized and submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife for approval. The plan was approved and the land use agreement exhibit was drafted and transmitted to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for signatures. Compliance activities (NEPA, Section 106 NHPA, and ESA) were also initiated in FY12. These expenditures were captured in E16: Conservation Area Site Selection, which is typical for projects being evaluated for inclusion into the LCR MSCP.

FY13 Accomplishments: Final NEPA, cultural (section 106), and ESA compliance activities were completed. Wetlands delineation was completed in February 2013. Clean

Water Act, Section 401 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 application were submitted and are awaiting approval. The land use agreement between USFWS and Reclamation was approved and signed by both parties in March of 2013. Due to the size of the project, restoration was originally going to occur in phases (approximately 100 – 130 acres per year), over several years. However, the project was re-evaluated and determined that it could be completed within one year utilizing selective clearing and restoration activities. Mesquite trees (18,500) were ordered and are planned to be planted in spring of FY15, once clearing is complete. The acceleration of the project increases costs in the short term, but decreases the overall cost of the restoration. Wildlife pre-development monitoring (baseline data collection) of the site was initiated in spring of FY13.

FY14 Activities: Pre-construction activities such as permitting, flagging of areas to be disturbed, the pre-obligation of funds for equipment rental in FY15, installation of construction signage, and coordination with our partners are underway.

Proposed FY15 Activities: Mobilization, clearing, and restoration are expected to be completed by spring of FY15. Once the clearing and planting are complete, the mesquite trees will be irrigated utilizing water trucks for up to 3 years. Weed maintenance will occur as required during tree establishment. The acceleration of planting will reduce cost in FY15-17. No wildlife monitoring will occur due to planned construction activities.

Pertinent Reports: N/A