

Work Task I1: Public Outreach

FY13 Estimate	FY13 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY13	FY14 Approved Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate
\$100,000	\$97,824.27	\$305,969.14	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

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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 implements 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 (Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian) 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 leveraging 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 include 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.

FY13 Accomplishments: We created several types of outreach products this year. These included one large banner system for use at outdoor events, one set of "wetland restoration"-themed interpretive panels for a permanent exhibit at the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, a promotional video about Yuma East Wetlands, and additional Yuma East Wetlands indoor displays.

We engaged Western High School (Las Vegas) students with a nature walk at the Clark County Wetlands, identifying species, discussing habitat restoration, and explaining biology careers. We toured with the Steering Committee through the Lake Mead State Fish Hatchery and then on to Overton Wildlife Management Area. We greeted the Water Education Foundation at Big Bend Conservation Area, and also coordinated a dedication ceremony for Yuma East Wetlands with CAWCD and many other stakeholders. We connected with Phoenix-based Bioscience High School during a walk at through the Yuma East Wetlands.

We exhibited program information at numerous science education events throughout Las Vegas, and Laughlin, NV, which included the third annual Las Vegas Science Expo, Wings and Wildlife Festival (Laughlin). We participated in educational events schools in Overton, Henderson, Las Vegas, and Boulder City, NV. We presented Colorado River conservation issues for an AZGFD tour for teachers in Arizona. Finally, we provided native fish education during one family-based public fishing clinic in Boulder City, Nevada.

A National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant was awarded to Nevada Conservation Corps to fund one youth conservation corps, at Big Bend Conservation Area, during FY2013. This project involves site maintenance and nonnative vegetation management and will employ between 8 to 10 or more youth over an 80 hour period to perform conservation work to support existing site maintenance needs.

Reclamation is using social media to promote some highlights and stories of interest throughout the year. Posts are linked to the program's website for additional visibility.

We have been involving classes from Arizona State University's new campus in Lake Havasu City in post development monitoring at some sites, including bat mist netting, small mammal trapping, MAPS bird banding, and razorback sucker monitoring. These educational field trips provide some volunteer labor, while enriching their curriculum and fostering a relationship with young adults between the community and the program.

FY14 Activities: We continue to seek opportunities to expand public outreach without increasing costs, such as the use of social media, webinars, and volunteer opportunities. We will 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 are preparing a webinar in February to Phoenix-based Bioscience High School to discuss Colorado River water development and conservation. If this classroom delivery method is successful, then it may be possible to provide a program overview to multiple communities, simultaneously, without incurring travel costs. We will continue most of the activities described previously.

Proposed FY15 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, which present opportunities to expand stakeholder knowledge of the program. Programs outreaching to local community schools and colleges will continue.

Pertinent Reports: The FY13 Annual Public Outreach Report will be posted to the website.