

Work Task C2: Sticky Buckwheat and Threecorner Milkvetch Conservation

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$11,000	\$21,811.11	\$105,177.69	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY30

Long-Term Goal: Support existing conservation programs for covered plant species

Conservation Measures: STBU1 and THMI1

Location: Reach 1, Nevada

Purpose: To provide funding to support existing conservation programs for sticky buckwheat and threecorner milkvetch

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): These are stand-alone conservation measures as described in the LCR MSCP HCP.

Project Description: Sticky buckwheat and threecorner milkvetch are covered species within the LCR MSCP. Funding in the amount of \$10,000 per year will be provided to an ongoing conservation program or other entity approved by the USFWS to implement conservation activities for these two plant species. Funding may be advanced for up to 5 years, depending on availability, to keep administrative costs at a minimum.

Previous Activities: From 2008 to 2013, the NPS monitored select populations of sticky buckwheat and threecorner milkvetch within the Lake Mead National Conservation Area. Monitoring included presence/absence surveys from 2008 to 2013 and invasive weed removal in 2013 at select sites.

A minor modification to the conservation measures for both plants was written and approved by the USFWS on January 4, 2011, following approval by the Steering Committee. The language was changed to state that funding would go “to an ongoing Conservation Program or other entity approved by the USFWS to implement conservation activities for the threecorner milkvetch and sticky buckwheat.”

FY14 Accomplishments: A new 5-year interagency agreement between Reclamation and the NPS was finalized in the amount of \$10,000 per year for 5 years (FY14–18) to support conservation activities for these two plant species in accordance with the NPS' *Lake Mead National Recreation Area Resource Stewardship Strategy, November 2014*. Threecorner milkvetch populations at Sandy Cove were monitored. Sticky buckwheat populations located between Lime Cove and Glory Hole were not monitored due to the conflict with the trespass cattle in the area. A total of 63.9 acres of potential sticky buckwheat and threecorner milkvetch habitat were surveyed for the invasive Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*). Sahara mustard was removed from 5.1 acres of the dunes/sandy areas and surrounding beaches at Sandy Cove, Lime Cove, and Ebony Cove. An annual report was provided to Reclamation that summarized the achievements toward conservation goals for sticky buckwheat and threecorner milkvetch.

FY14 obligations exceeded the FY approved estimate due to increased administrative costs to close out the FY08–13 interagency agreement and establish the new 5-year interagency agreement.

FY15 Activities: Funds in the amount of \$10,000 will be transferred to the NPS per the above-described agreement to implement conservation activities for these two plant species. An annual report will be provided to Reclamation that summarizes the achievements toward conservation goals for sticky buckwheat and threecorner milkvetch.

Proposed FY16 Activities: Funds in the amount of \$10,000 will be transferred to the NPS per the above-described agreement to implement conservation activities for these two plant species. An annual report will be provided to Reclamation that summarizes the achievements toward conservation goals for sticky buckwheat and threecorner milkvetch.

Pertinent Reports: A report titled *Surveys of Threecorner Milkvetch (Astragalus geyeri var. triquetrus) and Sticky Buckwheat (Eriogonum viscidulum) in Fiscal Year 2014 – Lake Mead National Recreation Area* will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site upon completion.