

## Work Task E18: Law Enforcement and Fire Suppression

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$268,053.92	\$1,438,886.27	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

**Contact:** Jeremy Brooks, (702) 293-8257, [jjbrooks@usbr.gov](mailto:jjbrooks@usbr.gov)

**Start Date:** FY06

**Expected Duration:** FY55

**Long-Term Goal:** Create habitat protection

**Conservation Measures:** CMM1

**Location:** Reaches 1–7

**Purpose:** To provide law enforcement and fire suppression in support of habitat created under the LCR MSCP

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future):** Law enforcement and fire suppression are anticipated to be integral management components for all habitats created through Conservation Area Development and Management (Section E) work tasks.

**Project Description:** Under this work task, law enforcement and fire protection for created habitat will be funded. It is assumed that the BLM, USFWS, AGFD, CDFW, NDOW, Bureau of Indian Affairs, CAL-Fire, and other agencies will conduct law enforcement and firefighting activities on the river. Law enforcement and fire suppression strategies have been developed at the programmatic level for each individual conservation area. As new conservation areas are incorporated into the program, site-specific fire and law plans will be drafted.

Conservation area specific access plans that address public access, agency access, and authorized contractors are drafted at the conclusion of development and incorporated in conservation area management plans for each conservation area and incorporated into their respective fire plans (both BLM’s State Fire Plan and site-specific conservation area fire suppression and law enforcement plans). The access plans will designate routes and parking facilities to minimize the impact of activities on the conservation areas and reduce fire risks.

**Previous Activities:** The BLM Colorado River District Office based in Lake Havasu, Arizona, provided fire management support services. The BLM has been responsible for handling fire-related activities and has been the lead wildland fire agency for conservation areas on both State and Reclamation lands. Conservation areas located on Federal refuges are managed for wildland fire and law enforcement by the USFWS.

The BLM also conducts patrols on the site, outreach to landowners, risk assessments, site mapping, and identification of critical infrastructure. Inspections are intended to proactively identify and address potential wildland fire management issues, and recommendations are discussed with the landowner and the LCR MSCP Project Manager. These recommendations help identify high risk areas, areas in need of fuel reduction, damage to infrastructure, and management of visitor use areas.

**FY14 Accomplishments:** Working with local fire and law agencies proactively in support of the conservation areas continued in FY14. Map creation, site visits, coordination meetings, and attendance at agency staff meetings were accomplished in FY14.

The scope of the agreement with the BLM for fire suppression support was expanded to include law enforcement. Regular patrols have been conducted on the conservation areas. The majority of funding from this work task has been used for proactive patrols on conservation areas in conjunction with preparation and implementation of access plans.

**Fire Management Plan:** The BLM formally adopted the new Laguna Division Fire Plan and the revised fire plan for Hunters Hole. As new conservation areas are developed, the BLM may be asked to be the lead law and fire agency, or LCR MSCP staff will work with the appropriate State, city, or Tribal agencies, leveraging the existing mutual aid agreements in place.

**Yuma East Wetlands:** Clearing of phragmites on the north side of the Colorado River on Quechan Tribal land (started in FY13) was completed. The 300-linear-foot area was targeted to reduce fuel loading and was replanted with native vegetation.

**PVER-South:** A small fire (50–60 acres) occurred on December 30, 2013, at the area typically referred to as PVER-South (an extension of the PVER) just north of the town of Blythe, California. The area burned was confined to an undeveloped portion of the low meander on the southern portion of the property.

As PVER-South is scheduled for restoration in the future, LCR MSCP staff took advantage of the situation to gather topographic information and have electively controlled the re-sprout of non-native vegetation using a youth conservation crew to remove vegetation.

**FY15 Activities:** Work with local fire and law agencies will proactively continue in support of the conservation areas in FY15. The majority of funding will be for proactive patrols from both law and fire personnel from the BLM. Map creation, site visits, coordination meetings, attendance at agency staff meetings, etc., is envisioned.

Access plans, which address public access, agency access, and access by authorized contractors, will be developed for each conservation area. The access plans will designate routes and parking facilities to minimize the impact to activities on the conservation area and reduce fire risks. An access plan for the LDCA is being drafted and will serve as a template for other conservation areas; however, it is not expected to be finalized until input from partner agencies has been incorporated. Access plans are typically kept in draft form and become a portion of each conservation area management plan. Access plans will be developed for the PVER and CVCA and will be incorporated into their respective law enforcement and fire suppression plans using the LDCA template.

**Fire Suppression and Law Enforcement Plans:** Site-specific conservation area fire suppression and law enforcement plans, initiated in FY14, are being drafted for Yuma East Wetlands, Hunters Hole, and the LDCA, and are expected to be completed.

**Proposed FY16 Activities:** BLM law and fire personnel will continue with proactive patrols similar to FY15. A site-specific fire suppression and law enforcement plan for the LDCA will be drafted.

**Pertinent Reports:** N/A