

Work Task E33: Pretty Water Conservation Area

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$600,000	\$344,159.32	\$114,679.27	\$700,000	\$450,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

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Start Date: FY13

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Habitat creation

Conservation Measures: VEFL1, WRBA2, WYBA3, ELOW1, and BEVI1

Location: Reach 4, Cibola NWR, River Miles 95–97, California

Purpose: To 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 and was previously identified as the Shark’s Tooth Conservation Area.

Project Description: The PWCA (previously referred to as the Shark’s Tooth Conservation Area) consists of approximately 566 acres on the Cibola NWR, located in California between River Miles 95 and 97. On July 17, 2006, lightning ignited a fire on the Cibola NWR that burned approximately 4,600 acres of salt cedar intermixed with mesquite in both California and Arizona. A burned section will be restored primarily with honey mesquite as described in the *Sharks Tooth Conservation Area Restoration, Development, and Monitoring Plan*. The intent is to create a 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 the CDFW for approval. The plan was approved, and the Land Use Agreement exhibit was drafted and transmitted to the USFWS for signatures. Compliance activities (NEPA, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and ESA) were also initiated in FY12. The expenditures related to these activities were captured in Work Task E16, which is typical for projects being evaluated for inclusion into the LCR MSCP.

FY14 Accomplishments: The majority of the tasks completed during FY14 were related to compliance and pre-construction planning. The remaining compliance approvals were received in early FY14, which included the Section 401 Technically-Conditioned Certification from the California Water Boards and the Section 404 Nationwide Permit Verification from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These were the last two approvals needed to ensure that project activities would be in full compliance with all local, State, and Federal regulations.

In order to secure resources for construction and planting in FY15, honey mesquites trees were purchased and are being grown. Rental of earth moving equipment was not secured until the start of FY15 which resulted in less expenditures in FY14.

FY15 Activities: Pre-construction coordination meetings occurred prior to commencement of clearing activities in January 2015. Additional pre-construction activities, including flagging of areas to be cleared, flagging of jurisdictional wetlands, installation of construction signage, and worksite logistics planning also occurred. Mobilization, clearing, and land preparation are scheduled to begin in January and are expected to be completed by April 2015, with planting to occur during the first two weeks of April. 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. No wildlife monitoring will occur due to planned construction activities.

Proposed FY16 Activities: Activities for FY16 will be focused on ensuring that the mesquite trees establish themselves successfully. Irrigation utilizing water trucks will continue during FY16 if deemed necessary based on the growth status of the trees and climatic conditions. Weed maintenance will also continue on an as-needed basis.

Monitoring. Riparian habitat will be surveyed as it becomes suitable for LCR MSCP covered species. In FY16, avian monitoring will begin.

Pertinent Reports: N/A