

## Work Task F3: Small Mammal Colonization of Conservation Areas

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$55,000	\$52,897.74	\$425,887.03	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000

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**Start Date:** FY05

**Expected Duration:** FY55

**Long-Term Goal:** Conduct pre- and post-development monitoring for small mammal species

**Conservation Measures:** YHCR1, CRCR1, DPMO1, and MRM2 (DPMO, CRCR, and YHCR)

**Location:** Reaches 3–6; Beal Lake Conservation Area (BLCA), Havasu National Wildlife Refuge; Palo Verde Ecological Reserve (PVER), California; Cibola Valley Conservation Area (CVCA), the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge Unit #1 Nature Trail, Laguna Division Conservation Area, and Yuma East Wetlands (YEW), Arizona

**Purpose:** To monitor small mammal presence within habitat creation sites

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future):** Post-development small mammal monitoring will be conducted at habitat creation sites listed in Conservation Area Development and Management (Section E). In addition, presence information obtained from this work task will be used under Work Task C27 to document habitat characteristics and improve small mammal monitoring methods. Protocol improvements developed under Work Task C27 will be incorporated under this work task.

**Project Description:** Small mammal live trapping will be conducted in conservation areas to document the presence of Colorado River cotton rats, Yuma hispid cotton rats, and desert pocket mice.

**Previous Activities:** Presence live trapping surveys were conducted at habitat creation sites from FY06–14. Trapping occurred for 1–3 nights at the sites sampled each year and was conducted in vegetation anticipated to provide the best habitat to get detections of cotton rat species. As of FY14, cotton rats

were captured within or adjacent to all developed conservation areas except Hunters Hole. Cotton rats captured at the Big Bend Conservation Area (BBCA), the BLCA, the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge Unit #1 Conservation Area (Cibola NWR Unit #1), the CVCA, and the PVER were Colorado River cotton rats. All cotton rats captured at Yuma East Wetlands and the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge were Yuma hispid cotton rats. Desert pocket mice were detected at many conservation areas, but the subspecies cannot be determined.

**FY15 Accomplishments:** Small mammal live trapping surveys were conducted at the BLCA, the PVER, the CVCA, Cibola NWR Unit #1, the BBCA, YEW, and Hunters Hole to detect presence of cotton rats. Colorado River cotton rats were captured at the PVER, the CVCA, Cibola NWR Unit #1, and the BBCA. Yuma hispid cotton rats were captured at YEW.

**FY16 Activities:** Small mammal live trapping surveys will continue as part of the post-development monitoring efforts at the BBCA, the BLCA, Cibola NWR Unit #1, Hunters Hole, the PVER, and YEW to detect the presence of cotton rats. In November 2015, the first Yuma hispid cotton rat at Hunters Hole was detected. The Laguna Division Conservation Area will be surveyed for the first time in FY16.

**Proposed FY17 Activities:** Live trapping surveys will continue as part of the post-development monitoring efforts at the BBCA, the BLCA, Cibola NWR Unit #1, Hunters Hole, the LDCA, the PVER, and YEW.

**Pertinent Reports:** The 2012–14 combined report will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site upon completion.