

Work Task E18: Law Enforcement and Fire Suppression

FY16 Estimate	FY16 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY16	FY17 Approved Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate	FY20 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$179,921.81	\$1,705,400.26	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Protect created habitat

Conservation Measures: CMM1

Location: Reaches 1–7

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

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

Project Description: A law enforcement and fire protection effort for created habitat is funded under this work task. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, CAL-Fire, and other agencies 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 LCR MSCP, site-specific law, fire, and access plans will be developed to help reduce fire and other risks.

Previous Activities: The BLM Colorado River District Office, based in Lake Havasu, Arizona, has been responsible for handling fire- and law-related activities for conservation areas on both State and Bureau of Reclamation lands. Conservation areas located on Federal refuges are managed for wildland fire and law enforcement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The BLM also conducts planning, coordination, monitoring, outreach, risk assessments, site mapping, and site inspections activities. Inspections are intended to proactively identify and address potential wildland fire management issues, and recommendations are discussed with the landowner and the LCR MSCP. These recommendations help identify high risk areas, areas in need of fuel reduction, damage to infrastructure, and management of visitor use areas.

FY16 Accomplishments: Work with local fire and law agencies in support of the law and fire management activities continued in FY16. Activities included patrols, monitoring, planning, site visits, coordination meetings, and attendance at agency staff meetings.

In FY16, law enforcement activities included more than 150 patrols of LCR MSCP conservation areas and the issuance of 4 minor citations and tickets. Fire suppression efforts were required at the Cibola Valley Conservation Area and the Mohave Valley Conservation Area. These fires are briefly described below:

Cibola Valley Conservation Area: The Farmers Bridge Fire occurred on March 17, 2016. Less than 50 acres were burned within Phase 1. The fire burned mainly the stand understory and caused little to no long-term damage to the established land cover. Suppression of the fire was aided by the Cibola Valley Irrigation District, which began flooding the fields shortly after the fire began. No replanting or additional restoration is required.

Mohave Valley Conservation Area: The Topock Fire started on April 6, 2016, and primarily burned land within Arizona on the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (2,232 acres). However, the fire jumped the river and burned approximately 46 acres of the Mohave Valley Conservation Area. Since the site was scheduled for clearing in FY17, the fire did not impact the development of the conservation area.

FY17 Activities: In support of LCR MSCP conservation areas, coordination with law and fire agencies will continue through the Interagency Agreements with the BLM. Funding will continue to be allocated to the BLM for law enforcement and fire management activities, including patrols, fire prevention, activity reporting, site visits, coordination meetings, and other related activities. Law, fire, and access plans will be developed or updated for the Laguna Division Conservation Area and Planet Ranch.

Proposed FY18 Activities: BLM law and fire personnel will continue with proactive patrols similar to those in prior years. Site-specific fire management and law enforcement plans will be developed and/or updated for the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, the Cibola Valley Conservation Area, the Big Bend Conservation Area, and Hunters Hole.

Pertinent Reports: N/A