

Work Task E33: Pretty Water Conservation Area

FY16 Estimate	FY16 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY16	FY17 Approved Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate	FY20 Proposed Estimate
\$450,000	\$322,214.66	\$1,518,900.69	\$150,000	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$20,000

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Start Date: FY13

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Habitat creation

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

Location: Reach 4, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, 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.

Project Description: The Pretty Water Conservation Area (PWCA) (previously referred to as the Shark’s Tooth Conservation Area) consists of approximately 566 acres on the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, located in California between River Miles 95 and 97. On July 17, 2006, lightning ignited a fire on the refuge that burned approximately 4,600 acres of saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) intermixed with mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.) in both California and Arizona.

The PWCA contains 566 acres of honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), which will be managed for LCR MSCP covered species throughout the life of the program.

Annual maintenance and management: The PWCA was fully developed in FY15 and provides a honey mesquite land cover type while minimizing long-term operational and maintenance costs. Invasive plant species control may be periodically implemented. Other annual management activities will be limited to coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Previous Activities: The Restoration Development and Monitoring Plan was approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2012. A Land Use Agreement exhibit between the LCR MSCP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was signed in 2013. In FY14, compliance and pre-construction activities were completed, and honey mesquite were ordered. The site was cleared, and 22,500 honey mesquite were planted in FY15. After planting and watering was completed, public access was re-established along the main access roads; in addition, the parking area and primitive boat ramp were regraded to previous conditions.

FY16 Accomplishments: The PWCA is fully developed, and measures to aggressively control invasive and non-native plant species are being implemented. Non-native species control was implemented after planting to allow native vegetation to mature without competition. Invasive plant species control efforts were less than anticipated, and therefore obligations were less.

Monitoring: No wildlife monitoring was conducted because the trees were not mature enough to provide habitat for covered species.

FY17 Activities: The PWCA is fully developed and is being managed for LCR MSCP covered species. Inspections will be conducted to ensure that the honey mesquite have successfully established. Invasive plant species control efforts will continue. Although it is not anticipated at this time, irrigation utilizing water trucks may occur during FY17 if deemed necessary based on the growth status of the trees and climatic conditions.

Monitoring: General bird surveys will be conducted from April – June. Vegetation data will be collected using light detection and ranging (LiDAR) remote sensing techniques. A site visit will occur to determine if there is suitable habitat for MacNeill’s sootywing skippers (*Pholisora graciellae* = *Hesperopsis graciellae* [MacNeill]) and rodents; if there is sufficient suitable habitat, surveys for these species will be conducted.

Proposed FY18 Activities: The PWCA is fully developed and will continue to be managed for LCR MSCP covered species. Inspections will be conducted to ensure that the honey mesquite have successfully established.

Monitoring: General bird surveys will be conducted from April – June. Vegetation data may be collected using LiDAR remote sensing techniques. If there is suitable habitat, surveys for MacNeill’s sootywing skippers and rodents may be conducted.

Pertinent Reports: The 2016 annual report will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site upon completion.