

Work Task A1: Program Administration

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Total Expenditures Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$550,000	\$446,590	\$446,590	\$1,000,000	\$1,142,196	\$1,142,196	\$1,142,196

Contact: Lorri Gray, (702) 293-8555

Start Date: FY05 **Expected Duration:** FY55

Long-Term Goal: Program Administration

Conservation Measures: N/A

Location: n/a

Purpose: Program Administration

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): N/A

Project Description: Provides senior staff and administration support to manage implementation of the LCR MSCP. The Program Manager will direct functions and activities associated with implementation to ensure the completion of activities, in accordance with the Program Documents, required to implement the HCP.

FY05 Accomplishments: Established a new stand-alone LCR MSCP Office in the Lower Colorado Region of the Bureau of Reclamation reporting to the Regional Director. Established a new Steering Committee and recognized all participating entities in accordance with the Funding and Management Agreement (FMA). Finalized and received approval of the By-Laws for the Steering Committee. Developed a report format for the LCR MSCP FY05 work tasks, to offer Steering Committee members and FWS insight to Reclamation's activities to ensure a smooth transition into program implementation. Received approval from a Work Group for FY05 activities, which were in progress. Developed a report format for the LCR MSCP FY06 Work tasks and received approval from a Work Group, the Steering Committee and the FWS for the work to be accomplished. Developed a financial tracking system that allows users to track costs and audit expenditures. Initiated discussions with Resource Agencies in Arizona and California to begin developing partnerships needed to utilize and manage resources over the life of the program.

Reclamation LCR MSCP staff worked with Reclamation's External Affairs Office to establish and maintain the LCR MSCP Website. The Website provides information to Steering Committee members on upcoming meetings and events, and also provides a access to past meeting minutes and steering committee decisions. The Website also offers information on LCR MSCP program goals and accomplishment, including annual work plans and project-specific information. All completed LCR MSCP reports have also been uploaded on to the Website. The

LCR MSCP Website, as one of Reclamation's primary methods of communicating with the Steering Committee, provides a transparency to Reclamation's implementation activities and processes.

Also in FY05, Reclamation established a Farmers Advisory Group. This group, consisting of representatives from a number of irrigation districts, provides Reclamation with technical input on farming actions which improve the outcome of restoration actions.

FY06 Activities: The focus for program administration in FY06 is on the development of processes for the program. A draft site selection guidelines process, draft science strategy process, and draft database management options for managing data, were all developed and presented for comment to Steering Committee Work groups. It is anticipated that the site selection guidelines and science strategy will be finalized in FY06. In addition, a program decision document describing how in-kind credit for land and water would be determined was approved by the Steering Committee at its March 2006 meeting. The FY07 Implementation, Work Plan and Budget Report and FY05 Accomplishment Report were presented to the Steering Committee and a workgroup meeting was held in May to receive comments. Other activities focused on educating Steering Committee members on the program. A river tour of the program area was conducted over a three-day period in December 2005, with over 50 Steering Committee members participating. In FY06 Reclamation also focused on its internal processes with the development of a process to improve the issuing of grants and cooperative agreements. A Steering Committee workgroup meeting was also held in April 2006 to determine additional funding options available to the Program through the use of grants.

Proposed FY07 Activities: Work in FY07 will continue with the development of processes for program implementation. One of the recommendations in the draft science strategy was for the development of 5-year science goals. These will be drafted and presented to the Steering Committee for review this year. It is anticipated that a number of technical meetings on fish augmentation and terrestrial work needs will be held in January 2007. Reclamation is currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the U. S. Corps of Engineers which will lay out a process to develop a strategy for 404 compliance for LCR MSCP covered actions. Reclamation is also meeting with state resource agencies to examine options for developing compliance for LCR MSCP covered activities and conservation actions under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Reclamation will be developing land use agreements and other mechanisms to secure resources.

Pertinent Reports: *Draft Implementation Report – Fiscal Year 2007 Work Plan and Budget, April 2006, Draft Implementation Report – Fiscal Year 2005 Accomplishments, April 2006, Draft Science Strategy, May 11, 2006, Draft Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas, May 15, 2006, posted on the LCR MSCP website.*