Work Task G4: Science/Adaptive Management Strategy

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
$173,000	$82,870	$82,870	$100,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Ensure successful and efficient implementation of the LCR MSCP conservation measures.

Conservation Measures: All conservation measures dealing with habitat creation, species research, system monitoring, and fish augmentation.

Location: LCR MSCP planning area

Purpose: Define the process for implementing the LCR MSCP using the best available science and adaptive management processes.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): All science-based work tasks.

Project Description: A draft science strategy was developed in FY06 that defines processes for ensuring LCR MSCP implementation using the best available science. This strategy includes processes for planning, adaptive management, status review, implementation elements, and monitoring and research plans. Annual meeting or workshops will be held to provide a forum for interested parties to discuss natural resource conservation along the LCR, especially LCR MSCP implementation.

During FY07, a 5-year monitoring and research priorities report will be completed, outlining priorities for FY08-FY12. It is anticipated that an interim workshop will be held in FY10, highlighting ongoing research and monitoring activities.

The LCR MSCP will rear and stock some 1.2 million native fishes. Roughly 10% of these fish are to be released over a 5-year period to allow for extensive research and monitoring. These releases are targeted to begin in 2011 and run through 2016. The associated research and monitoring program will also commence in 2011; however, the studies may continue through 2019 if necessary. During summer 2007, Reclamation will develop a science advisory panel consisting of fishery scientists familiar with RASU and DONY life history and ecology. The panel will convene quarterly during 2008 and 2009 to develop and prioritize a multi-year research and monitoring program to coincide with fish releases. During 2010, Reclamation will

organize, coordinate, and finalize study plans and scopes of work necessary to begin this research program in 2011 in concert with the accelerated native fish stockings.

Previous Activities: None

FY06 Accomplishments: A draft science strategy was developed. It is anticipated that this science strategy will be in draft form for approximately 1 year, after which it will be revised and finalized. In January 2006, the first annual Colorado River terrestrial and riparian ecosystem (CRITER) meeting was held to discuss research and monitoring of terrestrial, riparian, and marsh wildlife and their habitats along the LCR.

FY07 Activities: The draft science strategy will be revised and finalized. The 5-year monitoring and research priorities for FY08-12 will be developed. A fisheries science advisory panel will be organized to evaluate RASU and BONY life history and ecology.

The second annual CRITER meeting was held in January 2007. In conjunction with the meeting, discussions were held on SWFL and YBCU research and monitoring along the LCR.

Proposed FY08 Activities: The final science strategy will be implemented. Additional informational meetings, including CRITER, will be held. Quarterly meetings of the fisheries advisory panel will be convened to develop and prioritize monitoring and research programs in advance of expected large-scale RASU and BONY stocking efforts.

Pertinent Reports: The *Draft Final Science Strategy* is posted on the LCR MSCP Web site.