

Work Task E21: Planet Ranch, Bill Williams River

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$0	-\$802.38	\$19,197.62	\$50,000*	\$100,000	\$9,300,000**	\$1,500,000

*Approved by Steering Committee at the 4-22-09 meeting.

**Pending land and water approval.

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Habitat Creation.

Conservation Measures: CLRA1, WIFL1, WIFL2, WRBA2, WYBA3, CRCR2, LEB1, YBCU1, YBCU2, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI1, YWAR1, SUTA1, MNSW2, CLNB2, PTBB2.

Location: Reach 3, Bill Williams River, 11 miles east of River Mile 190, AZ.

Purpose: 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 previously included in the Draft FY05 Work Tasks as Planet Ranch, Bill Williams River (E4). Costs associated with a federal land and water appraisal conducted in FY08 were captured under work task Conservation Area Site Selection (E16). Work Task E21 was closed at the end of FY05, but is being reopened in FY09.

Project Description: Planet Ranch (currently owned by the City of Scottsdale), encompasses approximately 8,400 acres, of which approximately 2,400 acres had previously been farmed for alfalfa. In 2008, the LCR MSCP Steering Committee approved a land and water resolution which authorizes Reclamation to enter into negotiations to secure approximately 3,418 acres of land and 4,668 acre-feet of water per year. The sum of \$8,300,000 to secure this land and water was determined through the federal appraisal process. Negotiations are also underway to allow the Bureau of Land Management to secure the remaining acreage which has no water entitlement from the Bill William River. Once finalized, the terms and conditions to secure the land and water resources will be brought back to the Steering Committee.

An estimated 550 acres of primarily cottonwood-willow land cover type is anticipated to be developed on Planet Ranch. In addition, another 396 acres of cottonwood-willow land cover type on the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge is afforded protection by securing the Planet Ranch property.

Previous Activities: Reclamation evaluated Planet Ranch and developed a conceptual design, assuming the entire ranch and water entitlement were secured for the program. This information is posted on our website as *Planet Ranch: Potential Restoration Site, Preliminary Site Analysis and Conceptual Design*. A federal appraisal was conducted in FY08 and established the fair market value of the land and water resources.

FY08 Accomplishments: No obligations were made in this fiscal year.

FY09 Activities: Include the negotiations to secure the land and water resources as well as drafting of the documents required. On-site activities include discussing the transition of property ownership from the City of Scottsdale to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, the proposed land owner. A boundary survey, consistent with the standards of the Arizona Boundary Survey Minimum Standards, will be performed on the 3,418 acres of land. Survey content and monumentation will define the proposed LCR MSCP lease boundary. The survey will also result in the legal description of the parcel.

Proposed FY10 Activities: A transition plan will be drafted to address the need for on-site staff and appurtenances such as vehicles and farming equipment. The city currently employs a caretaker, living year-round on the property, for maintenance and security purposes, given the property's remote location. A similar arrangement is anticipated for the future. Finalization of the draft land use agreements with Arizona Game and Fish Department as well as the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge is anticipated. The land use agreements will address the roles and commitments of all parties. Additional documents, to secure water resources, are also anticipated. Issues and high priority items identified in the transition plan would be addressed in anticipation of the securing and transition of property ownership in FY11.

Pertinent Reports: *Planet Ranch: Potential Restoration Site, Preliminary Site Analysis and Conceptual Design* is posted to the LCR MSCP Web site.