

## Work Task E28: Yuma East Wetlands

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000*	\$250,000*

\*To be revised based on April 2010 interim review.

**Contact:** Jed Blake, (702) 293-8165, jblake@usbr.gov

**Start Date:** FY10

**Expected Duration:** FY10 Interim Review, and FY12 decision point

**Long-term Goal:** Habitat Maintenance.

**Conservation Measures:** CLRA1, WIFL1, CRCR2, YHCR2, LEBI1, BLRA1, YBCU1, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI1, YWAR1, SUTA1, PTBB2

**Location:** Reach 6, AZ, River Mile 31

**Purpose:** To maintain newly created land cover types and support site improvements that benefit LCR MSCP covered species.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** Vegetation and species monitoring are being addressed under F1-F4.

**Project Description:** The LCR MSCP is providing partial funding through FY12 to maintain land cover types, primarily marsh, established at Yuma East Wetlands (YEW). The funding will allow for invasive plant removal and management during this initial establishment period. An interim report summarizing past, present, and future actions including the responsibilities of all parties is anticipated to be presented to the SC with the FY11 Work Plan at the April 2010 meeting. By FY12 it is anticipated the review of monitoring data including LCR MSCP covered species usage, delineation of areas to be maintained by the LCR MSCP as habitat, identification and concurrence on any habitat modifications identified, and finalization of a land use agreement defining the roles and responsibilities of all parties would be completed. With the concurrence of the land owners and the SC, funding would be increased to match both the acreage identified for maintenance and 70% cost sharing arrangement described below.

In 2000, the City of Yuma and the Quechan Tribe collaborated to analyze the potential of restoring the local wetlands along the Colorado River by removing non- native plant species, trash dumps, and make-shift homeless camps. A wildlife and wetlands delineations were conducted prior to clearing. Maintenance and replanting the wetland with native plant species is a continual process.

YEW is developing into an integrated mosaic of land cover types, including cottonwood-willow, honey mesquite and marsh. The project is located in Yuma, AZ on City of Yuma, Quechan

Tribal, and Arizona Game and Fish Commission lands. Existing habitat created by past revegetation efforts have created land cover types of the types used by LCR MSCP covered species. In partnership with the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (YCNHA), the lead agency establishing the wetlands; the LCR MSCP will maintain existing habitat and support site improvements benefiting the Program's covered species.

To date, approximately 350 acres have been targeted to create a mosaic of marsh, mesquite and cottonwood-willow for which funding for management and maintenance of 260 acres has expired or will expire at the end of FY09. The 350 acres is made up of 11 individual projects. YEW has adopted wildlife monitoring standards consistent with the LCR MSCP and has observed numerous LCR MSCP covered species on-site..

Funding amounts and potential contributors have been identified to maintain land cover types being established and managed for habitat, as well as, recreational aspects of the projects such as parks and trails. The City of Yuma and Quechan Tribe are responsible for 100% of the cost for operation and maintenance of all parks and trails on their respective lands. Funding for operation and maintenance of land cover types to be managed for LCR MSCP covered species as habitat would be jointly funded, with 70% being funded by the LCR MSCP, 10% by the City of Yuma, 10% by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, and 10% by the Quechan Tribe.

Previous expenditures to secure, establish, or maintain land cover types are not eligible for reimbursement by the LCR MSCP. Compensation for the use of land or water would require the approval of the SC through passage of a land and water resolution and possibly a cadastral survey.

**Previous Activities:** Since 2000, the LCR MSCP has been informally involved in the development of the Yuma East Wetlands. Past activities included: attendance at workshops and planning meetings, scheduling the use of Reclamation heavy equipment, an irrigation system inventory analysis and the adoption of LCR MSCP species monitoring protocols that are being used on the site.

**FY08 Accomplishments:** This is a new start in FY10.

**FY09 Activities:** This is a new start in FY10.

**Proposed FY10 Activities:** The YCNHA, as the lead agency for the YEW, will assist with coordinating meetings, tracking costs, and financial reporting. Discussions intended on defining the roles, responsibilities, and procedure for identifying and implementing any on-site changes will be defined and integrated in a Land Use Agreement.

Maintenance and management activities to be administered by the YCNHA will allow for onsite project management, coordination and funding of labor crews and rental equipment for invasive plant removal, maintenance of water control structures for the marsh, maintenance of pumps and purchase of fuel for drip and flood irrigation systems, providing irrigation services, herbicide and fertilizer purchase and application, and replanting as necessary. and management during this initial establishment period.

A report detailing the results of wildlife and vegetation monitoring, evaluation of habitat potential, recommendations for existing land cover modifications or management approach, and anticipated credit towards species-specific conservation measures is anticipated to be presented to the SC with the FY11 Workplan in April of 2010. The report will also discuss commitments of the land use agreement and the process for suggesting and implementing adaptive management actions.

Reclamation staff will attend planning meetings, habitat and species monitoring activities, and maintenance activity meetings. Additionally, LCR MSCP staff will attend the annual bi-national re-vegetation workshops held in the Yuma area with a focus on the YEW.

**Pertinent Reports:** A report detailing the review of existing development and monitoring data and FY10 findings is anticipated to be presented to the SC with the FY11 Workplan in April of 2010.