

Work Task E18: Law Enforcement and Fire Suppression

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$200,000	\$205,056.92	\$232,651.60	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$325,000	\$325,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Created habitat protection

Conservation Measures: CMM1

Location: Reaches 1-7

Purpose: Provide law enforcement and fire suppression in support of habitat created under the LCR MSCP.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Law enforcement and fire suppression are anticipated to be integral management components for all habitats created through Section E work tasks.

Project Description: This project funds law enforcement and fire protection for created habitat. It is assumed that BLM, USFWS, AGFD, CDFG, NDOW, and other agencies will conduct law enforcement and fire fighting activities on the river. The LCR MSCP will provide funding to agencies to cover additional LCR MSCP lands. Law enforcement and fire suppression strategies are being developed at the program level and for each conservation area.

Previous Activities: Discussions were held with various law and fire agencies to allow for the preparation and implementation of both program-wide and site-specific law enforcement and fire suppression strategies.

FY09 Accomplishments: A contract for the development of both programmatic level and conservation area-specific Fire Management and Law Enforcement Strategies was awarded and completed.

The programmatic level fire management and law enforcement strategy is contained in the *Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Fire Management & Law Enforcement Strategy*. This document was drafted to help initiate and identify

critical elements to conservation measure CMM1, which calls for reducing the risk of loss of created habitat to wildfire.

Consultants who were retired and active federal fire management officers toured the LCR MSCP Conservation Areas for a better understanding of the sites. The contract required that they develop a Lower Colorado Region-wide strategy identifying the following elements: effects of fire on the LCR MSCP land cover types, law enforcement agencies, authorities and jurisdictions, effects of fire on endangered species, wildland fire management standards and components, risk analysis, pre-suppression, suppression activities, Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) and fuels management tactics, and proactive management recommendations.

Conservation-area specific Fire Management and Law Enforcement plans were drafted for the following seven conservation areas: Big Bend, Beal Lake, Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, Cibola Valley Conservation Area, Cibola Unit #1, and Imperial Ponds.

As new conservation areas are developed, a site-specific strategy will be drafted. Information contained in the strategies includes location, reach, ownership, local law enforcement responsible and contact information, local fire agencies and contact information, applicable jurisdictions and authorities, existing habitat and wildland fire risk, fire management, fire fighter safety and public health, fuels management, prevention, outreach, and proactive management recommendations.

FY10 Activities: Federal agreements will be drafted and awarded to partner agencies for the help and support of conservation area fire management. The BLM-Lake Havasu Fire will have fire management responsibility on state-owned conservation areas. The USFWS Imperial Refuge Fire office will maintain conservation areas on federal refuges, and the BIA will maintain conservation areas located on Tribal Reservations.

Contracts may be administered to help reduce fuel loads on the conservation areas. Chemical treatments, manual and mechanical removal, and chipping are all appropriate fuel reduction methods. The BLM and USFWS will help advise on the implementation of new fire breaks, infrastructure upgrades, and associated fire management actions.

Proposed FY11 Activities: It is envisioned that federal grants awarded to wildland fire agencies in FY10 will be renewed in FY11. New conservation areas may be added and funding levels adjusted per law and fire work load. Fuel load reduction work is also expected to be carried out as a yearly action. As deemed necessary by the landowner's fire management office, proactive measures will be implemented at the conservation areas.

Pertinent Reports: *Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Fire Management & Law Enforcement Strategy 2009*, and *Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Area-Specific Fire Management and Law Enforcement Strategy 2009* are posted to the LCR MSCP Web site.