

Work Task E18: Law Enforcement and Fire Suppression

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$197,050.80	\$429,702.40	\$250,000	\$325,000	\$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, BIA, CAL-Fire and other agencies will conduct law enforcement and fire fighting activities on the river. Law enforcement and fire suppression strategies have been developed at the programmatic level and for each individual Conservation Area. As new Conservation Areas are incorporated into the program, site specific fire plans will be drafted.

Previous Activities: Coordination meetings with law and fire agencies determining jurisdictions and authorities have been conducted. A comprehensive law and fire strategy for the LCR MSCP has been developed and shared with stakeholders. Seven conservation area specific law and fire plans were drafted and are updated annually.

FY10 Accomplishments: A federal inter-agency agreement was awarded to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-Colorado River District office based in Lake Havasu, Arizona. The agreement requires the BLM to be the lead fire management agency in support of habitat on the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve and the Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area. In addition to wildland fire suppression, the BLM also conducts patrols on the sites, pre and post fire season site inspections, site mapping to identify engine turn around areas, and available site infrastructure.

The inspections are intended to proactively identify and address potential law enforcement or fire suppression issues. The recommendations are discussed with the land owner and LCR MSCP project manager. These recommendations help identify high risk areas, areas in need of fuels reduction, and management of visitor use areas.

Coordination meetings were conducted with USFWS Wildland, BIA Wildland, and City of Yuma Fire personnel. Stakeholders were made aware of the purpose of the conservation areas, location, habitat types and access routes.

A fire suppression and law enforcement plan was drafted for the Yuma East Wetlands conservation area. This document will be finalized in FY11.

FY11 Activities: The BLM inter-agency agreement will continue to be funded and site recommendations submitted to land owners and project managers.

Tools and techniques used to implement the recommendations by the BLM will be researched and shared with land owners. Tools and techniques may include: use of heavy equipment for clearing, herbicide use both from a vehicle and hand operated, roadside mower that keeps fuel loads down, incinerator used to burn debris, chipping of exotic species and manual removal.

Fuel load reduction may occur on the conservation areas to minimize the risk of wildland fire. Chemical treatments, manual and mechanical removal, and chipping are all potential fuel reduction methods. The BLM and USFWS will help advise on the implementation of new fire breaks, infrastructure upgrades, and associated fire management actions. Working with our land management partners, signage pertinent to the rules and regulations for the Conservation Area are being developed, approved, and posted.

Proposed FY12 Activities: It is envisioned that the BLM inter-agency awarded FY10 will be renewed in FY12. 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 website.