

Work Task E30: Flat-tailed Horned Lizard

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$195,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0

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

Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY12

Long-term Goal: Acquisition and protection of unprotected occupied habitat.

Conservation Measures: FTHL1.

Location: The Yuma Desert Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is located in southwestern Imperial County California.

Purpose: Acquire 230 acres of unprotected occupied flat-tailed horned lizard habitat for permanent protection of the species' habitat.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Prior to Steering Committee approval all activities associated with this conservation measure were charges to Conservation Area Site Selection (E16).

Project Description: The HCP requires the LCR MSCP to acquire and protect 230 acres of existing unprotected occupied flat-tailed horned lizard habitat.

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy proposed the acquisition of 230 acres of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat within the Dos Palmas Conservation Area, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In 2007, the BLM's California Desert District Office was contacted to determine the transfer of ownership process. Discussions indicate that private parcels acquired by the program will be transferred to the BLM after purchase at no additional cost to the program.

After consulting with the local BLM office and reviewing suitable habitat within Dos Palmas Conservation Area, there is not enough private acreage available. Suitable habitat that is in private ownership consists of small parcels and is adjacent to unsuitable habitat for flat-tail horned lizards. It is anticipated that additional costs for multiple federal appraisals, title searches, and available willing sellers will disqualify the site for the LCR MSCP.

At the October 27, 2010 Steering Committee Meeting, Program Decision Document 10-001(r) was presented for approval. This Decision Document outlined the reasoning for not working in the Dos Palmas Conservation Area at this time and proposed three alternative areas. Yuma Desert ACEC, East Mesa ACEC and West Mesa ACEC are all suitable alternatives.

Previous Activities: N/A

FY10 Accomplishments: New start in FY11.

FY11 Activities: In November 2010 individual land owners within the Yuma Desert ACEC were identified using county records and assessor tax information. Thirteen land owners were targeted for a total of 2,313 acres. Identified private land contained suitable habitat, no previous disturbance and was surrounded by suitable habitat. Two landowners within the Yuma Desert ACEC have granted access to conduct species surveys and federal appraisals on their properties totaling 240 acres. Additional right of entries for lands within either East or West Mesa ACEC's may be required to meet the conservation measure.

Species surveys to determine occupied habitat are scheduled for Spring 2011. Federal appraisals will be initiated on lands with suitable habitat conditions for flat-tail horned lizards.

Once fair market value is established and a preliminary title is reviewed, offer letters from the LCR MSCP Program Manager will be mailed to land owners. The offer letter states the market value, possession of a clear title on the land and describes the federal acquisition process.

Proposed FY12 Activities: Acquisition is scheduled to commence in FY11. Acquisition will continue until the target of 230 acres of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat is acquired and transferred to the BLM.

Pertinent Reports: N/A