

Work Task E32: Bureau Bay

FY11 Estimates	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

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Start Date: FY13

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Habitat protection

Conservation Measures: BONY2, RASU2, and FLSU1.

Location: Reach 3, CA, River Mile 244.

Purpose: Excavation and maintenance of an existing connected 6 acre backwater.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): The backwater was identified under Work Task E15: Backwater Site Selection. Marsh bird surveys are conducted under D1 while fish surveys have been conducted under multiple Work Tasks in section C and F5.

Project Description: Bureau Bay is a backwater directly connected to the lower Colorado River on the California side within Reach 3. Formerly the launch site for Reclamation's dredge equipment, the backwater and majority of the adjacent lands are currently leased to the City of Needles, California. Reclamation maintains a small acreage to the west, a private landowner has title to lands to the south, and the Colorado River is to the east. The City of Needles has leased the property from the Federal Government since 1973 as a community recreational facility known as Jack Smith Park. The City's lease was renewed in 2007 for a 25-year term.

Little maintenance has been performed on the backwater in the past few decades and subsequently the mouth of the backwater is filling with sediment. If no action is taken Bureau Bay will eventually be disconnected from the main stem of the river and 6 acres of connected backwater habitat will be lost. LCR MSCP monitoring efforts have contacted native fishes in and adjacent to Bureau Bay. Additionally, Reach 3 maintains the only self-sustaining population of flannelmouth sucker and has very few undeveloped backwaters, which make protection and maintenance of existing backwaters a priority for the LCR MSCP. Discussions with the USFWS and the CDFG indicate that maintaining a connection to the main stem of the Colorado River to allow passage of native fishes is consistent with habitat creation requirements of both the LCR MSCP HCP and the CESA 2081 permit.

Previous Activities: This is a new start in FY13.

FY11 Accomplishments: This is a new start in FY13.

FY12 Activities: This is a new start in FY13. Work completed in FY12 will be tracked under Work Task E15: Backwater Site Selection. Investigation of current site conditions, including surveying cross sections and estimating the amount of material to be removed is anticipated. Based on the needs of the targeted native fish species and discuss the minimum and maximum dimensions of the channel to be excavated and maintained with both the City of Needles and California Department of Fish and Game a decision to excavate and maintain the channel would be performed. If appropriate, a restoration development and monitoring plan would be drafted prior to excavation.

Proposed FY13 Activities: If the LCR MSCP decides to proceed with the project, permitting and excavation would occur in FY13. Because the rate of sedimentation is currently unknown, permanent cross-sections and a monitoring plan would be established to determine the rate of sedimentation, which would allow long-term maintenance costs to be estimated. Based on this sedimentation estimate, the decision would be made to maintain the backwater for perpetuity, as required by the CESA 2081 permit, would be made. The roles and responsibilities of all parties would be addressed in a site specific land use agreement. No compensation for land and water resources is anticipated.

Fisheries surveys will continue. Electro-fishing, larval light trapping, and trammel nets will occur monthly from February through May at locations which are dictated by water level or at locations where native fish have previously been found. Water quality profiles will be performed during each monitoring event and quarterly outside of the monitoring period. Marsh bird surveys will also be conducted during the breeding season.

Pertinent Reports: N/A