

Work Task G4: Science/Adaptive Management Strategy

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$125,000	\$137,434.07	\$355,342.14	\$125,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Ensure successful and efficient implementation of the LCR MSCP conservation measures.

Conservation Measures: All conservation measures dealing with habitat creation, species research, system monitoring, and fish augmentation.

Location: LCR MSCP planning area.

Purpose: Define the process for implementing the LCR MSCP using the best available science and adaptive management processes.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): All science-based work tasks.

Project Description: The HCP conservation measures were designed to meet the biological needs for 26 covered species and to benefit five evaluation species. A science strategy, developed in FY06, defines processes for ensuring LCR MSCP implementation using the best available science. This strategy describes a two-tier planning process to ensure effective implementation of research and monitoring actions: first, a five-year planning cycle, and second, annual work plans covering a three-year cycle.

Every five years, a plan will be developed that describes the current knowledge for covered species, establishes the monitoring and research priorities for that five-year period, and describes potential challenges that may inhibit successful implementation of the conservation measures. During each five-year cycle, the accumulated data from ongoing research and monitoring will be reviewed, along with existing species accounts. Highest priority for the next five-year period will go to completion of any ongoing research and monitoring activities. Second priority will be given to new research and monitoring needs identified by ongoing work, and third priority will be given to refining and updating life history data sets. Additional work may be generated from evaluation of research through G3.

LCR MSCP staff will participate in interagency meetings and workshops held to discuss natural resource conservation along the LCR. These meetings bring together scientists, managers, and

resource users interested in the Lower Colorado River ecosystem. Additional special topic workshops will be held for covered species or their habitats as needed to revisit the status of one or more of these species within the LCR MSCP program area.

An annual work plan report, which summarizes prior year accomplishments, describes current year ongoing activities, and outlines the proposed activities for the coming fiscal year will be developed and presented to the Steering Committee each year. Recently completed, ongoing, and proposed research and monitoring activities will be reviewed as they relate to the current 5-year monitoring and research priority plan.

Previous Activities: The Science Strategy was developed in FY06-FY07. Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian Ecosystem (CRTR) and CRAB meetings were attended. The first *Five-Year Monitoring and Research Priorities* report was drafted in FY07.

A draft procedure was developed for tracking conservation measure accomplishment pertaining to the habitat creation conservation measures in FY10.

FY11 Accomplishments: Research activities were reviewed in accordance with the priorities established in the current five-year plan. The draft procedure for tracking conservation measure accomplishment was peer reviewed by outside agencies, species experts, experts in the management of large scale projects, and ecologists with a background in riparian systems.

FY12 Activities: Research activities are being reviewed in accordance with the priorities established in the current five-year plan. The Final Habitat Creation Conservation Measure Accomplishment Tracking Process was approved by the Steering Committee on October 31, 2011. The 2013-2017 Research and Monitoring Accomplishment and Priorities Report, and the Big Bend and Beal Lake Conservation Area Management Plans have been initiated.

Proposed FY13 Activities: Research activities are being reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the priorities established in the current five-year plan. Work will continue and is expected to be completed on the 2013-2017 Research and Monitoring Accomplishment and Priorities Report, and the Big Bend and Beal Lake Conservation Area Management Plans. Other site Management plans for existing conservation areas may be initiated. External peer review of research and monitoring activities will be initiated in FY13.

Pertinent Reports: The *Final Science Strategy*, the *LCR MSCP Five-Year Monitoring & Research Priorities—2008-2012*, and the *Final Habitat Creation Conservation Measure Accomplishment Tracking Process* are posted on the LCR MSCP website.