

Work Task E26: Headquarters Lake

| FY07 Estimates | FY07 Actual | Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY07 | FY08 Approved Estimate | FY09 Proposed Estimate | FY10 Proposed Estimate | FY11 Proposed Estimate |
|----------------|-------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$265,000 | *\$750,000 | *\$255,000 |

*The estimated construction costs for FY10-11 will be revised after the final design and compliance activities are completed in FY09.

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Start Date: FY09

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Habitat creation.

Conservation Measures: CLRA1, BONY2, RASU2, and LEBI1.

Location: Reach 5, Imperial NWR, AZ, River Mile 59.7.

Purpose: Work Task E15: Backwater Site Selection process has identified and prioritized a range of potential backwaters to fulfill the LCR MSCP's backwater habitat creation objectives throughout reaches 5 and 6. This process is expected to result in the selection of 4-5 sites to undergo quarterly sampling efforts, after which site assessments and conceptual designs will be prepared.

During the drafting of the Site Selection Guidelines, the Technical Work Group agreed to accelerate development of one backwater project, to commence construction in FY10. This work task addresses this need, by selecting Headquarters Lake in Reach 5 to be developed during FY10. The selection of Headquarters Lake was discussed with the Technical Work Group in February of 2008.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work task addresses development of one potential backwater that was identified under the backwater site selection process (E15).

Project Description: Reclamation has completed an initial backwater inventory (Step 1) of LCR MSCP reaches 5 and 6. This inventory identified over 768 backwaters over the two reaches, which ranged in size from less than 1 acre to greater than 40 acres. Of these, 201 were in California, and 160 were in Arizona. The sites ranged from very remote and virtually inaccessible except by helicopter, to easily accessible from the river by boat and/or motor vehicle. Of these sites, 25 were selected to undergo brief site visits and habitat ratings under the revised backwater rating system. This process yielded biological suitability ratings and habitat creation opportunity ratings, which are being used to prioritize and sequence development of future backwater projects.

This work task addresses the development of the first backwater to be selected from this process. For estimating purposes, Headquarters Lake has been selected. Headquarters Lake is a connected backwater on Imperial NWR, which was surveyed during the summer of FY07. Headquarters Lake was chosen for accelerated implementation based on site characteristics, which decrease risk factors involved in fast-tracking a backwater creation project. First, the site scored in the moderate suitability range, although this rating could be improved through minor excavation and other habitat enhancements. Second, the site is currently closed to public access and can be accessed easily by land-based equipment, which is anticipated to decrease construction costs. Finally, the land and water resources would be provided by Imperial NWR under their existing entitlement.

Previous Activities: This work task is a new start in FY09.

FY07 Accomplishments: This work task is a new start in FY09.

FY08 Activities: This work task is a new start in FY09.

FY09 Activities: During FY09, Reclamation intends to complete site surveys, final design and construction documents, required environmental compliance activities, and procurement of heavy equipment and materials to begin construction in FY10 and be completed in FY11.

Pertinent Reports: *Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas; Colorado River Backwaters Restoration, Final Model Evaluation Report; and Backwater Inventory: Reaches 5 & 6, Step 1: Identification of Backwaters for Screening and Evaluation.*