

Work Task E18: Law Enforcement and Fire Suppression

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$200,000	\$226,303.00	\$1,608,764.76	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

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Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Protect created habitat

Conservation Measures: CMM1

Location: Reaches 1–7

Purpose: To 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 integral management components for all habitats created through Conservation Area Development and Management (Section E) work tasks.

Project Description: A law enforcement and fire protection effort for created habitat is funded under this work task. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, CAL-Fire, and other agencies conduct law enforcement and firefighting activities on the river. Law enforcement and fire suppression strategies have been developed at the programmatic level for each individual conservation area. As new conservation areas are incorporated into the LCR MSCP, site-specific law, fire, and access plans will be developed to help reduce fire and other risks.

Previous Activities: The BLM, Colorado River District Office based in Lake Havasu, Arizona, has been responsible for handling fire- and law-related activities for conservation areas on both State and Bureau of Reclamation lands. Conservation areas located on Federal refuges are managed for wildland fire and law enforcement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The BLM also conducts planning, coordination, monitoring, outreach, risk assessments, site mapping, and site inspections activities. Inspections are intended to proactively identify and address potential wildland fire management issues, and recommendations are discussed with the landowner and the LCR MSCP Office. These recommendations help identify high risk areas, areas in need of fuel reduction, damage to infrastructure, and management of visitor use areas.

FY15 Accomplishments: Work with local fire and law agencies in support of the law and fire management activities continued in FY15. Activities included patrols, monitoring, site visits, coordination meetings, and attendance at agency staff meetings. Efforts served to protect established habitats from risk factors that could result in lost habitat and costly re-establishment.

In addition, two new Interagency Agreements were signed with the BLM through FY20. One agreement supports law enforcement activities, and the other supports fire suppression activities at LCR MSCP conservation areas. Due to the development of new law and fire Interagency Agreements and discussions related to access with stakeholders at certain conservation areas, law, fire, and access plan updates anticipated to be developed in FY15 were postponed until FY16 and FY17.

FY16 Activities: In support of LCR MSCP conservation areas, coordination with law and fire agencies will continue through the Interagency Agreements with the BLM. Funding will continue to be allocated to the BLM for law enforcement and fire management activities, including patrols, fire prevention, activity reporting, site visits, coordination meetings, and other related activities. Law, fire, and access plans will be developed or updated for the Laguna Division Conservation Area and Planet Ranch.

Proposed FY17 Activities: BLM law and fire personnel will continue with proactive patrols similar to those in FY16. Site-specific fire, law, and access plans will be developed for the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, the Cibola Valley Conservation Area, the Big Bend Conservation Area, and Hunters Hole.

Pertinent Reports: N/A