

CHAPTER 5. MAINTENANCE PLAN

5.1 Maintenance Activities

Reclamation is responsible for the routine inspection and maintenance of the MA but may choose to contract out or adopt some other method, as determined by Reclamation, to accomplish the monitoring and maintenance. The livestock enclosure fences will be periodically inspected and repaired as-needed. Weed problem areas will be re-inspected regularly during the post-mitigation monitoring period and supplemental treatments will be applied as-needed to ensure that weeds do not exceed a maximum of 10 percent areal coverage.

Where streambank stabilization and channel-floodplain restoration measures are implemented, maintenance at these sites will be in response to new bank instabilities detected during the course of the mitigation monitoring. Maintenance activities will consist primarily of replanting vegetation that has died or been removed by erosion or trespass grazing. Both regrading and replanting could be required at the southern mitigation parcel if severe bank/channel instabilities occur due to large flood events. However, assuming neither extreme flooding nor vegetation die-off occur prior to the re-establishment of the riparian vegetation, no bank maintenance should be necessary.

Issues of overall resource management such as irrigation, fire control and visitor management will be addressed in a resource management plan for the MA. This plan will be created during the wetland/riparian habitat development. Until a long term plan is put in place, the management of the MA will be guided by the interim resource management plan generated by Reclamation.

5.2 Maintenance Schedule

Operation and maintenance activities will continue for the life of the ALP Project. When it is determined that the mitigation and enhancement work has been completed in the MA, the operation and maintenance of the MA will then be transferred from the ALP Project construction status into ALP Project operation and maintenance status.

5.3 Responsible Parties

Reclamation is expected to be the long-term owner of the MA property. Part or all of the property could, after notice and consultation with regulatory agencies and affected entities including the LWCD, be managed by the State (Colorado Division of Wildlife), one or both of the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes (Southern Ute Indian and/or Ute Mountain Ute Tribe) or by a conservation organization or private entity with appropriate covenants to ensure the continued protection of habitat values established by mitigation actions, and to guarantee that the provisions of Section 3.12 will be followed.

Reclamation will retain the ultimate responsibility for the long-term maintenance of the MA.

5.4 Operations and Maintenance Costs

Operation and maintenance costs of the mitigation for wetland and wildlife are estimated and shown in Table 8.

Table 8. ALP Riparian Habitat and Wildlife Mitigation Operation and Maintenance Cost Estimates

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEM	EST. COST**
1. Maintain control of noxious weeds.	\$50,000
2. Maintain upland habitat type ratios.	\$12,000
3. Maintain and operate water resource infrastructure.	\$12,000
4. Monitoring	\$10,000
5. Reporting	\$2,000
6. Infrastructure (roads, fence and signs) maintenance.	\$20,000
7. Overhead/Personnel cost estimate.	\$180,000
Operation and Maintenance TOTAL per year.	\$286,000

***Note that these cost estimates are broken out per year and all are not likely to occur in every single year.*