

Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Program Meeting
Reclamation Albuquerque Area Office
September 19, 2006 9am-3pm

1. Introductions
2. Status of Previous Action Items (May 2006 Meeting Notes)
 - a. Reclamation will update the map of the Carlsbad work areas.
 - b. Reclamation will provide the Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP) for the Brantley Area.
 - c. SWCD will update on the number of acres and locations of spraying.
 - d. Denver Reclamation office will provide new beetle locations and numbers (if beetles become available for release).
 - e. Reclamation will post the power points presented at the meeting on the Reclamation Web Site: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/albuq/library/eaba/saltcedar/saltcedar.html>
3. Review work conducted to date, field work completed (see handouts)
 - a. Revegetation sites
 - b. Bank stabilization sites (Jesse Roberts)
 - c. Saltcedar leaf beetle release activities at Brantley Reservoir (Susan Broderick)
 - d. Aerial spraying sites (Billy See & Aaron Curbello)
 - e. Status of IPM (Nancy Umbreit)
 - f. Seeding and restoration status
 - g. Interior Least Tern update
4. Next years' work projections (FY2007)
5. Set next meeting date

To: Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Team
From: Marsha Carra
Date: May 19, 2006
Re: Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Program May 16, 2006

This memo outlines the outputs and action items from subject Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Program Meeting, held on May 16, 2006 at the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District Office, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Attendees:

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Tom Davis	505-885-3203 Carlsbad Irrigation District 201 S. Canal, Carlsbad NM 88220 cid@plateautel.net
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Handouts:

- 1) Meeting Agenda
- 2) Pamphlet on "How Tamarisk Leaf Beetles Affect Tamarisk"
- 3) Pecos River Banks Analysis Utilizing GIS
- 4) Pecos River Non-Native Phreatophyte Management Program Update
- 5) Minutes from September 2005 Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Program Meeting
- 6) H.R. 2720 Bill – Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992

Agenda:

1. Introductions

Each attendee made their introduction, the agency they represented, and their role in the program.

2. Status of Previous Action Items

- a. Aerial application of arsenal and monitoring - SWCD briefed no spraying was accomplished this fall due to lack of funding and currently have the dollars for 1000 acres to be sprayed. Previously approved sites will be looked at for this action.
- b. Noxious Weeds/Invasives/other hand applications (Nancy Umbreit). No update at this time.
- c. Revegetation (Ken Lair/Mark Walthall) sites research project to study impacts of herbicidal control of kochia, and mechanical manipulation of kochia residue and soil seedbeds was briefed and followed by field visits the next day.
- d. Herbicide dissipation study (Mark Walthall) of the residual effects of imazapar at an 18 month site had samples analyzed by Reclamation Denver Tech Center. A power point slide presentation on the results and the

areas sampled showing before and after pictures were presented. A new herbicide (AIM) is being looked at for possible use.

e. A bank stabilization/soil stability (Jesse Roberts) was briefed and a hand out of the Pecos River Banks Analysis utilizing GIS was given. No further updates at this time. Information and the new photos are also on a UNM website (USGS website).

f. Saltcedar leaf beetles did not fair well due to flooding and the masses of grasshoppers in the areas last year. A new location for release of beetles will be determined and updates provided by Denver, if beetles are available.

g. No new wildlife inventory were taken in areas with live saltcedar and dead/ sprayed saltcedar. The butterfly component to the wildlife monitoring work in the area was looked at and it was determined they are not doing well in the area although no numbers were available at this time.

g. Status of the Interior Least Tern as emailed by Dr. Doster: As per the "gap" BO issued for the summer of 2006, Reclamation, with the assistance of CID, is creating nesting and brood-rearing habitat for Interior Least Terns at Brantley Lake. Habitat creation consists of the complete removal of vegetation in two areas totaling 56 acres near the site where Interior Least Terns nested in 2004. These habitat areas will likely be completed this week. Small numbers of Interior Least Terns have already been observed foraging at Brantley Lake this month. Bi-weekly monitoring of the tern population will continue through August.

3. Action Items

a. Reclamation will update the map of the Carlsbad work areas.

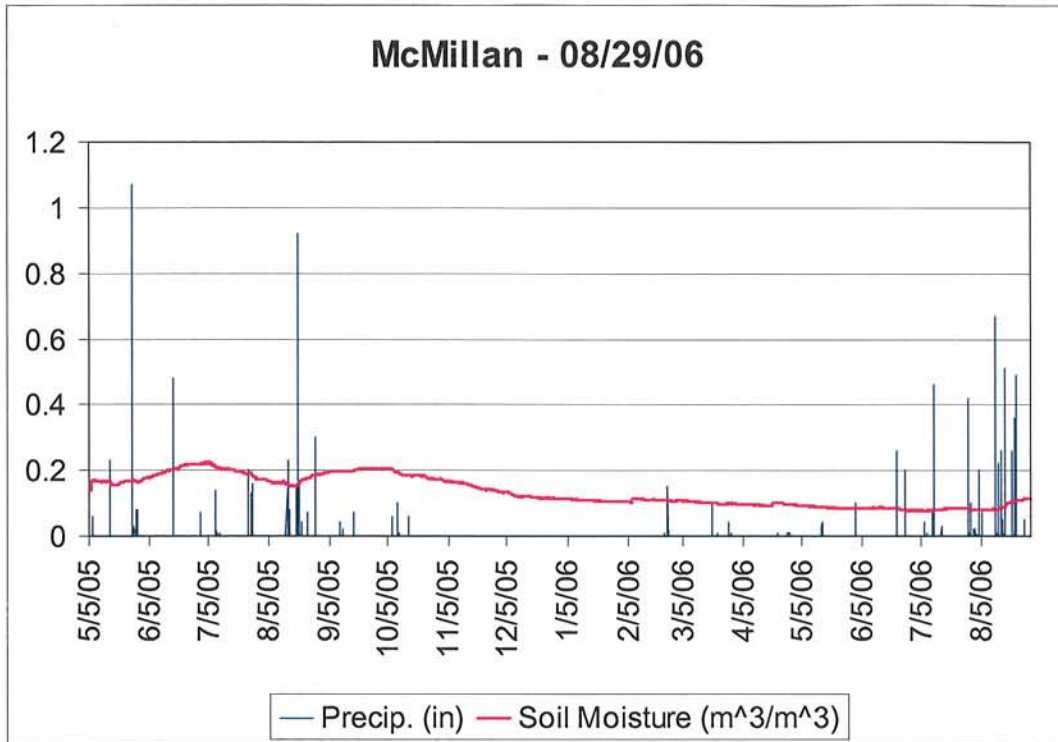
b. Reclamation will provide the Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP) for the Brantley Area.

c. SWCD will update on the number of acres and locations of spraying.

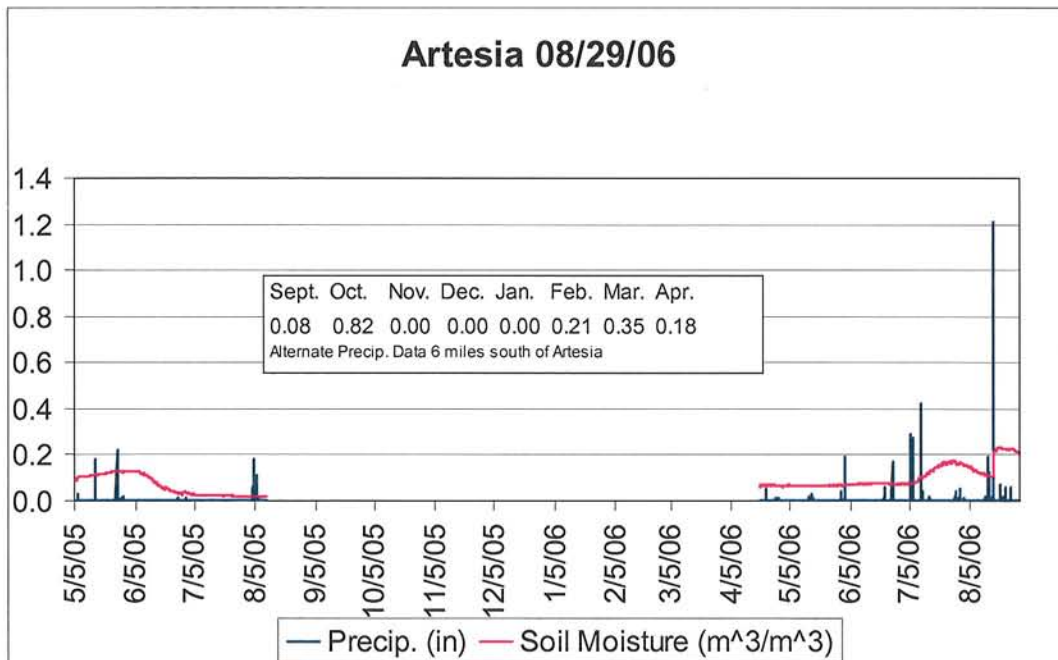
d. Denver Reclamation office will provide new beetle locations and numbers (if beetles become available for release).

e. Reclamation will post the power points presented at the meeting on the Reclamation Web Site:
<http://www.usbr.gov/uc/albuq/library/eaba/saltcedar/saltcedar.html>

4. Upcoming Meetings - A date of September 27, 2006 has been set for the next meeting at the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District Office.



From 01/01/06 to 06/14/06 the McMillan Site received 0.61 inches of precipitation. From 06/14/06 to 08/29/06 the McMillan Site received 6.72 inches of precipitation; 4.90 inches of this fell between 7/28/06 and 8/28/06.



From 01/01/06 to 06/14/06 the Artesia Site received 1.19 inches of precipitation. From 06/14/06 to 08/29/06 the Artesia Site received 4.61 inches of precipitation; 2.70 inches of this fell between 07/28/06 and 08/29/06.

On examining the study sites on 07/20/06, very little change in weed growth was observed compared to what was reported in the 06/14/06 update. The monsoon season for 2006 began on 07/28/06 and until this past week has limited accessibility to the plots. The photo documents to follow reveal serious attention is needed for the Artesia Site. This site alone blossomed in an incredible manner mostly in kochia, but also in pigweed/careless weed (*Amaranthus*, sp.). I would like your recommendation as to how best to approach weed control regarding minimization of reseeding. I would think that we might initially bushhog the site as was done originally, followed by chemical treatment. I recommend we act as soon as possible.



Artesia Demonstration Plot (Alkali Scald Site) 08/29/06. No vegetation observed in site.



McMillan Reveg Site. 08/29/06. Scattered kochia with no grass.



Reveg Site. 08/29/06. Scattered kochia, volunteer sorghum/sudan, with no grass.



Weather Station/Control Site.



Broadcast/Imprinter Plot, 08/29/06.



Disked/Trillion Plot, 08/29/06.



Disked/Trillion Plot, 08/29/06. One of the few survivors.

Pecos River Non-Native Phreatophyte Management Program Update

Control-

Aerial application within the McMillian Delta and South of the railroad bridge covered approximately 600 acres on BOR and CID lands. Completed on 9/8/06.

Restoration-

Fire- BLM completed a prescribed burn Winter 2005 and Spring 2006, covering approximately 21 river miles from the Texas/NM state line up to McDonald crossing.

Extraction- Total removal of treated Salt cedar has occurred in several locations within the project:

Avalon Reservoir to Calloway Drive- Approximately 110 acres were extracted, piled, and burned. This occurred in Fall 2005.

Dark Canyon to Six Mile Dam- Approximately 130 acres were extracted, piled, and burned. This occurred in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006.

Approximately 30 acres near Malaga were extracted, piled, and burned in Fall 2005.

Puerto de Luna to Santa Rosa- Approximately 100 acres with extraction, piling, and burning and plantings. Completed in Summer 2006.

Mulching- Downing of material by mulching has occurred in several locations within the project.

Chaves County- North of Roswell Approximately 150 acres were mulched.

Eddy County- East of Artesia, South of HWY 82 mulching occurred 200 acres and completed in July 2006. This area will also have removal along the Keiser Channel, with material being cut at ground level and removed off of the channel's edge. The stump will remain in the ground.

Tree planting- Plantings of native trees has occurred in areas where Salt cedar removal has occurred. Tree species were: Cottonwood, NM Olive, Desert willow, Coyote willow, Black willow, and Netleaf hackberry.

Chaves County- Eight groves of 35 trees (each grove is approx. one acre) were placed.

Avalon to Calloway Drive- Approximately 30 trees were planted near the larger permanent pool (directly behind Ford Motor Company) through the NRCS Plant Materials Center. This was done to determine best depth, best technique, etc.

Dark Canyon to Six Mile Dam- Approximately 100 trees were planted most in small groves (5 plants or less).

Malaga- A one acre grove of 35 trees was planted in this area.

Puerto de Luna to Santa Rosa- Numerous Cottonwood and Willow plantings were done as well as grass seeding on WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project) contracts and planted according to NRCS specifications.

Grass Seeding- Grass seeding has occurred in areas where removal of Salt cedar has occurred. Most grass mix was: Plains bristle, Sand dropseed, Alkali Sacaton, Bluestem (spp.)

Avalon to Calloway Drive- "in process" two small areas (approx. 5 acres) will be seeded through WHIP contracts.

Dark Canyon to Six Mile Dam- Approximately 30 acres of seeding has taken place along embankments around Six Mile Dam.

Malaga- Approximately 30 acres were seeded.

Chaves County- Approximately 150 acres were seeded.

Puerto de Luna to Santa Rosa- Areas were seeded through the WHIP contracts following NRCS specifications.

Other-

Bingaman funds- These funds will be utilized in the Artesia site for a maximum of 500 acres of removal (mulching and cut and clear off of Keiser Channel).

There are two demonstration sites; one behind Ford Motor Company (Avalon to Calloway) and one in Santa Rosa where Interstate 40 goes across the Pecos River. These areas will (or have had) Salt cedar removed, grass seeding/transplantings, and tree plantings.

We have began efforts from Six Mile Dam south toward McDonald crossing (funding permitting), removing salt cedar and piling and burning.

BLM has removed Salt cedar along the Delaware River from the Texas state line to the Pecos river. This was done by extracting, piling, burning, and following up with spot spraying, restoration with grass seeding, and tree planting will follow, however many natives already exist.

EFFECTS OF SALT CEDAR CONTROL MEASURES ON WILDLIFE, PECOS RIVER, NEW MEXICO



**2006: 2nd Year
of a 3-Year
Research Effort**



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Acoustic Bat Surveys



Setting out an
Anabat Bat
Detector at
Scott's New
Release Site



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Bureau of Reclamation

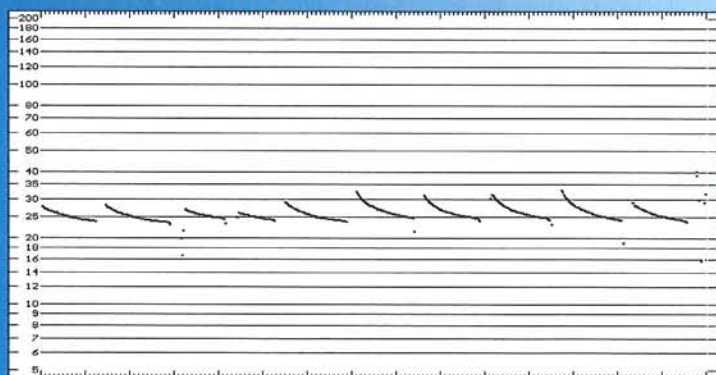


- Anabat Bat Detectors Record Ultrasonic Bat Calls on Compact Flash Cards.
- Detectors record all night
- Calls can be identified to species &/or species groups



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A Bat Call File Looks Like This:



Tag: Lsoton Date: 82001 Loc: Pueblo, CO
 Note: Entasiscus fuscus
 Note: Downstream tributary (Bones Cr.) 100m downstream of trail crossing. Remote
 detection on Lsoton. Early evening (18:00-20:00) little clearing. 85f
 100' x 100' x 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10' 10'
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- There were approximately 20,000 bat call files recorded for the 2006 Field Season for the Pecos River sites.
- Sampling was conducted 3 times during May, June & July
- Species identified by comparing calls to a library of known call signatures



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Acoustic Bat Sampling Conducted at:

2 Treatment Sites:

Biocontrol (Scott O'Meara's New
Saltcedar Leaf Beetle Release Site) &

Aerial Herbicide Near Dayton Road

2 Control Sites: Seven Rivers Waterfowl Area &
Brantley Wildlife Area Adjacent to Pecos

1 Native Site: Black River



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Avian Point Counts



- All Birds Heard & Observed are Recorded for 5 Minutes Per Point.



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- 10 to 12 Points per Site Were Sampled 3 Times in May, June & July.
- Avian Point Counts Were Conducted at the Same Times & Locations as the Acoustic Bat Surveys.



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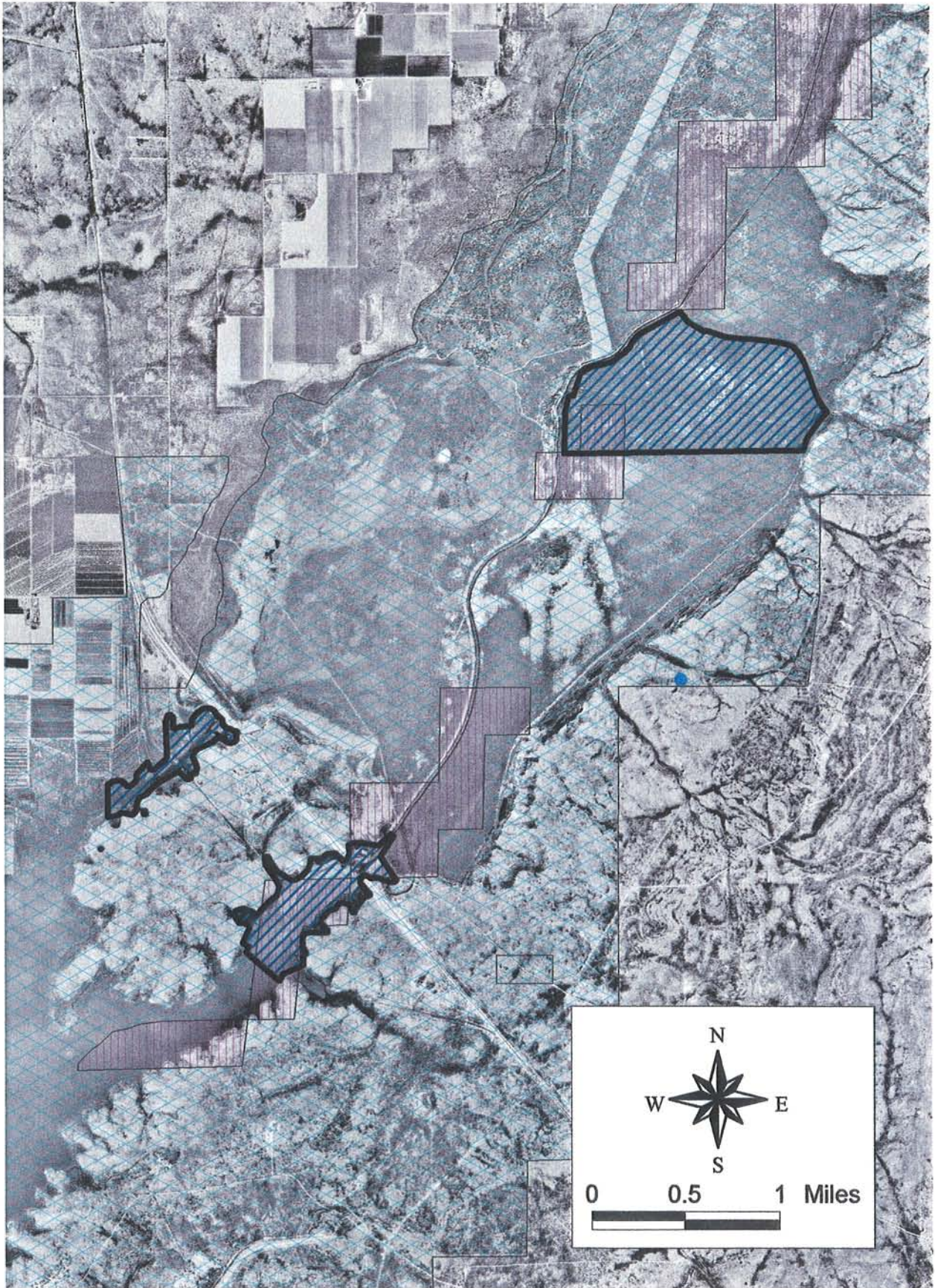
RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

- Data Analysis to be Conducted Winter of 06/07
- 2007 Will Continue Avian Point Counts & Acoustic Bat Surveys (Final Year) At Saltcedar Treatment, Control & Native Sites on the Pecos
- Riparian Butterfly Surveys Were Conducted on the Pecos in 2005
- Wildlife Research Also Conducted on the Arkansas, Rio Grande & Canadian Rivers



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2006 Aerial Treatment - McMillan Delta (approximately 667 acres)



Carlsbad Project Vegetation Management Program Meeting
 Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque NM
 September 19, 2006

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