

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)

Project Description

Reclamation, in partnership with 56 federal, state, environmental and Tribal agencies from Arizona, California and Nevada, is implementing the 50-year LCR MSCP. This program will work toward the recovery of endangered species and native wildlife habitat, and prevent additional species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act along the lower Colorado River corridor, helping ensure the certainty of existing and future water and hydropower operations essential to Southwestern communities and farms.

More than 8,100 acres of riparian, marsh and backwater habitat will be established at various sites along the river, and more than 1.2 million razorback sucker and bonytail will be stocked in its waters to augment populations of these endangered fish. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding will help further the goals of this long-term project.



Project Benefits

Recovery Act funding will be used to:

- Retrofit existing fish hatcheries to raise more endangered fish.
- Research the amount of water certain native birds need in riparian habitats during their breeding season.
- Upgrade water control structures to limit non-native fish access to existing backwater habitats, and expand the program's capability to evaluate, maintain and manage created backwaters.
- Accelerate research efforts to provide information on covered species and habitat requirements including the effects of salt cedar bio-control efforts on populations of endangered Southwestern willow flycatchers, and the habits and ranges of elf owl populations.
- Identify opportunities to secure water to ensure long-term viability of created conservation areas.



Project Status

Sixteen contracts and small purchases totaling \$2.3 million have been awarded and work is underway; completion of all projects is expected by end of September 2011.

Budget Information

Recovery funding: \$2.4 million

For more information

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