

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Cibola Valley Conservation Area

In 2007, the Bureau of Reclamation secured 1,309 acres of land within the Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District in southwestern Arizona and established the Cibola Valley Conservation Area (CVCA). In September 2007, the property was conveyed to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) through an agreement among AGFD, Reclamation, the Mohave County Water Authority, and The Conservation Fund. Under the agreement, AGFD retains title to the property and leases the land and water rights to Reclamation until April 5, 2055 as part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. Several farmers also have short-term leases on portions of the land for crop production.



Within the CVCA, Reclamation is planting former agricultural fields with native riparian cottonwood-willow, and mesquite habitats for species defined in the LCR MSCP Final Habitat Conservation Plan, including the southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo.

Cottonwood, willow, and honey mesquite are planted to create an integrated mosaic of habitats (see map) resembling riparian communities that were historically present in the Colorado River floodplain. When feasible, areas of standing water or moist soil, and open areas with ground cover and low shrubs, are incorporated into the design.

The CVCA will be developed over a number of years through phased restoration activities. A phase-specific restoration plan is prepared each fiscal year which documents the planning, design, planting, and monitoring requirements of that phase. An annual report is prepared each year summarizing restoration and monitoring activities conducted during the previous year.

To date, 264 acres (Phases 1, 2, and 3) of the site have been mass-planted with riparian habitat in varying densities of trees per acre to help determine the most suitable planting methodology. Additionally, 245 acres of mesquite, atriplex, and a native seed mixture was established in Phase 4; 71 acres in Phase 5; and 89 acres in Phase 6. For more information and documentation about this activity, visit the LCR MSCP's CVCA website at http://www.lcrmscp.gov/conservation/cibola_valley.html.

**E5 - Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area
Managed Acreage Through 2011**

