



Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Laguna Division Conservation Area

The Bureau of Reclamation is developing the Laguna Division of the lower Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona as part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP). The Laguna Division Conservation Area is 1,200 acres, nestled between the Imperial Dam and the Laguna Dam with Mittry Wildlife Area to the east and the Laguna Settling Basin to the west (see map).

In 2007, the Laguna Division Planning Group was formed to identify potential restoration projects within the division. In 2010, the Steering Committee approved Laguna Division Conservation Area as a new start project.



An Environmental Assessment was prepared, which resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact in 2011. Laguna Division Conservation Area will replace large saltcedar stands, creating approximately 200 acres of open water and marsh, 430 acres of cottonwood/willow, and 400 acres of mesquite to create an integrated mosaic of habitats. These land cover types will be maintained with a maximum base flow of 100 cfs from the Gila Settling Basin. Laguna Division Conservation Area is expected to be completed in 2016 and will be constructed using the most cost effective and technically feasible approaches. To minimize earthwork, cuts and fills would follow the existing topography where practicable. Adjacent terraces will be graded to allow flooding and promote the establishment of native riparian species. Water control structures will be created to manage water levels and upland vegetation will receive water through a combination of flooding and drip irrigation.

The habitat of Laguna Division Conservation Area is expected to attract a variety of LCR MSCP covered species including the California black rail, Yuma clapper rail, Southwester willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, Yuma hispid cotton rat, and western least bittern.

For more information and documentation about this activity, visit the LCR MSCP website at:
www.lcrmscp.gov

E27 - Laguna Division Conservation Area Managed Acreage Through 2011

