Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Hart Mine Marsh

Located on the southern end of Cibola National Wildlife Refuge about 20 miles south of Blythe, California, Hart Mine Marsh was initially created by historic overbank flood flows from the Colorado River.

With changes in the river system, including water operations and management, the dynamic processes that once maintained this marsh have been all but removed. Hart Mine Marsh has instead been managed by using drainage waters from the refuge's agricultural fields. Until recently, the marsh had no outlet, resulting in poor water quality and highly saline areas mostly dominated by invasive saltcedar.

By enhancing the ability to manage water on the site, maintaining water levels and providing appropriate vegetation, suitable habitat for marsh species could be created in this location. The Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered into a long-term agreement under the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program to restore the area. The result will be a mosaic of marsh vegetation and open water.

Approximately 255 acres of Hart Mine Marsh has been restored. This has been accomplished by removing nonnative vegetation and excavating and re-contouring to provide areas for emergent marsh vegetation and permanent open water. In addition, water management has been improved by adding a series of gated control structures, including outlet structures to allow for flexibility in water control and exchange on the site.

The majority of the construction work on the marsh has been completed with the final details expected to be concluded in 2011. The resulting marsh is anticipated to provide suitable habitat for populations of the federally listed Yuma Clapper Rail, California Black Rail, Least Bittern, and Colorado River Cotton Rat as well as a number of resident and migrating bird species along the lower Colorado River. The marsh is already providing habitat for multiple species of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

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

E9 - Hart Mine Marsh
Managed Acreage Through 2010

Cell 1
FY2010 (163 ac.)

Cell 2
FY2009 (92 ac.)

Area of Detail

Nev — Reach 2
Laughlin — Kingman
Lake Havasu City — Reach 3
California — Reach 4
Blythe
Arizona
Reach 5
Yuma — Reach 6
Reach 7
Mexico — San Luis

Legend

Managed
Proposed
97 River Mile

0   1,000   2,000   3,000   4,000
Feet

RAhlbrandt-BOR - 2010.Aug.18
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Revised March 2011