

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Pretty Water Conservation Area

The Pretty Water Conservation Area consists of approximately 566 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the Colorado River on Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in California. The property lies east of the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) main drain, south of active agricultural lands within the PVID, and north of the old river channel known as Pretty Water.



In July 2006, lightning ignited a fire on Cibola NWR, burning approximately 4,600 acres of saltcedar with some intermixed mesquite in both California and Arizona. The Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have entered into a long-term agreement under the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) to restore a portion of this burned area.

The restoration will be accomplished by removing nonnative vegetation, and planting honey mesquite and other native upland plant species, as well as providing a smaller area of cottonwood and willow riparian habitat. The work will be conducted in phases over several years, to allow integration with other ongoing restoration efforts on the Colorado River, and is expected to be complete in 2020. The resulting vegetation mosaic is expected to provide suitable habitat for populations of the Arizona Bell's vireo and the vermilion flycatcher, as well as a number of resident and migrating bird species and some game species along the lower Colorado River. Portions of the area may be closed during restoration; however, after restoration is complete, the area will be open to the public.

By removing non-native phreatophytic vegetation and replacing it with native vegetation, the LCR MSCP is establishing suitable habitat for a number of wildlife species covered under the program, and will provide resources to maintain the Conservation Area. Pretty Water Conservation Area is the most recent addition to the two Conservation Areas established at Cibola NWR. These Conservation Areas have targeted three distinct land cover types: cottonwood/willow riparian at Unit 1, marsh at Hart Mine Marsh, and honey mesquite woodland at PWCA. Together, they help to enhance the diversity of habitats available for wildlife at Cibola NWR at a landscape scale.

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

**Pretty Water Conservation Area
September 2012 Photo**

