

Big Bend Conservation Area
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
Program Decision Document 09-002: Land & Water Approval

Steering Committee Resolution

The Steering Committee approves Reclamation entering into a long-term lease with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) for \$872,000 to secure 15 acres of land which are an in-holding within Big Bend State Park.

The Steering Committee also directs Reclamation to add language to the Land Use Agreement stipulating that if the LCR MSCP permits are renewed at the completion of the Program that all parties agree to extend the Land Use Agreement for the new time period at no additional cost to the program beyond continuing land management costs.

Benefits

Habitat Protected: **15 acres of backwater habitat**

- Securing the 15 acre in-holding within Big Bend State Park will provide protection to an existing backwater resulting in 15 acres of backwater habitat credit for the LCR MSCP Program
- The Conservation Area is located in Reach 3 near Laughlin, Nevada.
- The MSCP has a responsibility to create or protect up to 85 acres of flannelmouth sucker habitat between Davis Dam and Parker Dam (Reach 3).
- All three native fish species (flannelmouth sucker, razorback sucker, bonytail) have been contacted in and around the backwater.
- The lease property is zoned RU, Rural Open Land, and is further limited to only recreational development by a binding covenant that was placed upon the land in 1966.
- A Land Use Agreement, being developed between SNWA, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Big Bend State Park, and Reclamation, will coordinate activities for the protection of the backwater.
- The Big Bend Conservation area is one of the few areas available for restoration activities within the State of Nevada

Cost Analysis

- A federal appraisal was completed in March 2008, which valued the property at \$872,000.
- LCR MSCP Program documents assumed the cost of creating backwaters at \$71,220/acre (2008 dollars). The cost to create 15 acres of backwater would be \$1,068,300 (2008 dollars). The cost of this transaction is below the program estimate.