

Planet Ranch
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
Program Decision Document 09-001: Land and Water Approval

Steering Committee Resolution

The Steering Committee approves Reclamation entering into a long-term lease with Freeport-McMoRan Corporation for \$8,300,000 to secure 3,418 acres of land and 4,894 ac-ft per year of consumptive use water right at Planet Ranch.

Benefits

Habitat Created: **550 acres on the Planet Ranch property**

350 acres of cottonwood-willow planted

50 acres of marsh

150 acres of cottonwood-willow established along the active river channel using flows from Alamo Dam.

**396 acres of cottonwood-willow protected on Bill Williams
River National Wildlife Refuge**

- Planet Ranch is a unique property and has long been sought by numerous resource agencies.
- The Ranch offers one of the only large scale opportunities for habitat restoration within Reach 3 of the LCR.
- The size, isolation, and water right, teamed with the opportunity to use flows from Alamo Dam to generate and maintain stands of cottonwood-willow, are just a few of the intrinsic values associated with the property.
- In addition, the Bill Williams River maintains the largest stand of cottonwood-willow on the LCR and supports a robust community of yellow-billed cuckoos.

Cost Analysis

- Lease Covers: 3,418 acres of land and 4,894 ac-ft per year of consumptive use water right.
- A federal appraisal valued the property and associated water rights at \$8,300,000.
- For planning purposes, the LCR MSCP Program Documents assumed the cost of private land and water acquisition to be \$7,122 per water right acre (2008 dollars).
- The cost for Planet Ranch is \$8,988 per water right acre (2008 dollars).
- Although this figure is higher than the program estimate, it does not take into account the cost of establishing the existing 396 acres of cottonwood-willow which is estimated at \$14,336,586 (2008 dollars).