Work Task D2: Pintail Slough, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge

Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Reclamation

Point of Contact: Kim Kirkland, LC-2451 (702) 293-8151

Purpose: The site will be used to demonstrate restoration

techniques with native riparian vegetation to create habitat for willow flycatchers, yellow-billed cuckoos, black rails and other LCR MSCP covered species.

Conservation Measure: Develop techniques in support of all covered species

habitat creation requirements.

Long-Term Goal: The goal is to develop restoration techniques. Primary

technique used here has been mass planting pole stock. Future discussions with the Refuge will determine whether habitat creation is going to be requested and only if there is a long term commitment for operation and maintenance. This area will provide a suitable habitat which will benefit the southwestern willow flycatcher and the yellow-billed cuckoo, by restoring up to 88 acres of riparian breeding habitat. This large increase in available breeding habitat should enhance the flycatcher population and provide sufficient acreage to support breeding cuckoo at the refuge. The habitat value

of the riparian areas located adjacent to seasonal wetlands will be enhanced will provide additional

foraging opportunities.

Location: Pintail Slough is located in Arizona at the north end of

Topock Marsh on Havasu National Wildlife Refuge

(NWR) which is just south of Needles, CA.

Obligation: \$95,000 for a grant to Ducks Unlimited. The funding

was obligated in FY2001; however, only \$35,000 was expended in FY02 and the remainder is anticipated to be

expended in FY05.

FY04 Accomplishment: To date, the main concrete irrigation canal has been

lined, but the seasonal wetland has not yet been

contoured. Due to extenuating circumstances, including weather, the agreement has been extended and siteleveling is expected to be completed in FY04-05.

Project Description: Riparian restoration work at Pintail Slough is being

conducted with a final goal of providing habitat required under the grant agreement with Ducks Unlimited. Work will consist of improving a water conveyance and control system and expanding the acreage of riparian and seasonal wetland habitats. Improvements to the water system will focus on maximizing the use of the existing pump system by concrete lining the main canal, establishing an independent fill and drain system for each unit in the slough, and improving water distribution and drainage for each unit. Habitat work will focus on removing nonnative vegetation, recontouring select areas to facilitate water distribution and drainage, and restoring native riparian and seasonal wetland vegetation.