

Work Task E8: Use of Seed in Riparian Habitat Restoration

Partners:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Contact:	Barbara Raulston, LC-8453
Purpose:	Determine the best methods to establish native riparian habitat from seed consisting of cottonwood, willow, and other native groundcovers and shrubs to increase the cost effectiveness of future habitat creation projects.
Conservation Measures:	WIFL1-R, WRBA2-R, WYBA3-R, CRCR2-R, YHCR2-R, LEBI1, BLRA1-R, YBCU1-R, ELOW1-R, GIFL1-R, GIWO1-R, VEFL1-R, BEVI1-R, YWAR1-R and SUTA1-R
Long-term Goal(s):	Use restoration research to reduce the cost of habitat creation, increase the quality of created habitat, preserve the genetic diversity of vegetation used for restoration, and develop high quality riparian habitat for all covered species.
Location:	Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, Unit 1 (20 acres)
FY2006 Estimate:	\$150,000 contract for conducting study and on-site demonstrations, \$50,000 for Reclamation staff and travel.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$10,000 for monitoring and evaluation of the site.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$10,000 for monitoring and evaluation of the site. In FY2008 the project will be evaluated for continued funding under the LCR MSCP.

Project Description:

Reclamation's goal for this study is to explore the use of seed to produce a dense mosaic of cottonwood, willow, native shrubs and groundcovers with as little saltcedar as possible. Use of locally collected seeds may be less labor intensive than other methods such as pole and rooted nursery stock. This method will also preserve the genetic diversity and integrity of the riparian vegetation found on the LCR. A study plan is available.