

# Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



*Balancing Resource Use and Conservation*

## Hunters Hole Conservation Area

Hunters Hole is located along the Colorado River, in Arizona, approximately three miles north of the US/Mexico Southerly International Boundary. Hunters Hole once consisted of a series of interconnected ponds with adjacent marsh and a few stands of cottonwood-willow. Water levels were maintained by groundwater, irrigation drain flows, and by a connecting channel to the main river channel. Unfortunately, the site has been degraded and most of the habitat lost due to declining water levels, establishment of invasive plant species, and wildfires. Local officials from state, tribal, and federal agencies have joined together in an effort to restore the area while increasing public safety, and border security.



The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area has secured funding from the Arizona Department of Water Resources to restore 50 acres within the Hunters Hole area and the Lower Colorado Multi-Species Conservation Program has agreed to provide funding for the long-term maintenance. This 50 acre restored area, referred to as a Conservation Area, will contain marsh, riparian, and dry upland habitats. The restoration design is expected to attract native and migratory birds and wildlife species and incorporates restoration needs, international security, cost-sharing, and allows for continued lower Colorado River operations within this reach of the river.

Restoration activities include; selective clearing of invasive reeds and saltcedar while leaving existing native trees, installation of infrastructure to allow for managed flooding, and planting with native cottonwoods-willow, marsh plants, salt grass, and honey mesquite. A groundwater well and pump have been installed to provide a reliable fresh water supply.

Once completed, the native riparian area should provide habitat for mammals and birds, including the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. This cooperative restoration effort was developed with representatives from Mexico and should complement restoration efforts underway across the river, in Mexico, at Miguel Aleman and serves as a model for other bi-national restoration efforts.

For more information and documentation about this activity, visit the LCR MSCP website at:  
[www.lcrmscp.gov](http://www.lcrmscp.gov).



**E31 - Hunters Hole Conservation Area  
Managed Acreage Through 2012**

