



Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Program Implementation

*Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program*

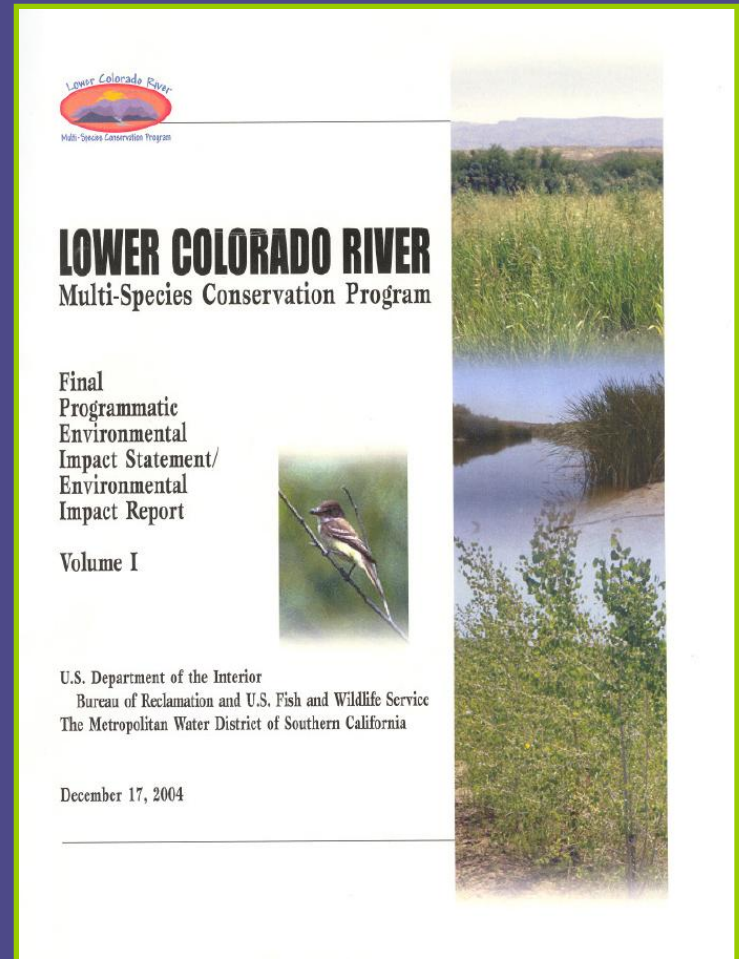


Program Area



LCR MSCP Overview

- **50-Years of ESA and CESA (for CA Parties) Compliance**
 - Unique - Section 7 and 10
- **Covered Actions (Non-Federal and Federal)**
 - Delivery and Diversion of 9 MAF
 - Maintenance Activities
 - Movement of 1.574 MAF



LCR MSCP Goals & Objectives

- A conservation plan that will:
 - Conserve habitat and work toward recovery of T&E species as well as reduce the likelihood of additional species being listed
 - Accommodate present water diversions and power production and optimize opportunities for future water and power development
 - Provide the basis for incidental take authorizations

Unique Status of the LCR MSCP

- Reclamation manages river operations but does not own the water.
- AZ, CA, and NV users own the water
- This required a combination of a section 7 consultation for Reclamation's activities and a section 10 permit for the non-Federal activities
- Unlike most section 7 or section 10 projects, the Colorado River was already significantly modified and the effects of those past actions had to be considered.

Steering Committee Membership

- **Federal Participant Group**
- **Arizona Participant Group (26 Permittees)***
- **California Participant Group (11 Permittees)***
- **Nevada Participant Group (5 Permittees)***
- **Native American Participant Group**
- **Conservation Participant Group**
- **Other Interested Parties Group**

***Participates as a funding agency**

Considering a River Managed for Three States and Mexico

- **Effects of all past actions (dam construction, channelization, diversions) put into the environmental baseline.**
- **Effects of those past actions not yet expressed were put into the Effects Analysis, for example, continuing sediment transport and resultant upstream channel armoring.**
- **Effects to river flows reaching Morelos Diversion Dam in Mexico were evaluated.**

LCR MSCP Covered Species

Total of 26 Species

- 6 T&E species
 - 2 birds, 1 reptile, 3 fish
- 20 other species
 - 4 mammals, 10 birds, 2 reptiles, 1 fish, 1 insect, 2 plants
- 5 “evaluation species”*
 - 3 mammals, 2 reptiles

*Evaluation species are those which would qualify as covered species except sufficient information on their biology, habitat use, and occurrence within the project area are not sufficient at the time the HCP is completed.

Mitigation Package: **Acres and Numbers**

- **Mitigation acreage based on species needs from recovery plans, conservation recommendations in past biological opinions, other planning documents, and input from scientific literature and species experts.**
- **Fish stocking numbers based on a robust effort to establish self-sustaining populations through stocking and other management actions.**
- **Preservation of existing covered species habitats that may be degraded over time is provided for through the Maintenance Fund.**

Riparian Restoration
Cottonwood-Willow - 5,940 Acres
Mesquite - 1,320 Acres



Marsh Restoration
512 Acres



Backwater Restoration
360 Acres



**660,000 Razorback
Suckers**
- 620,000 Bonytail

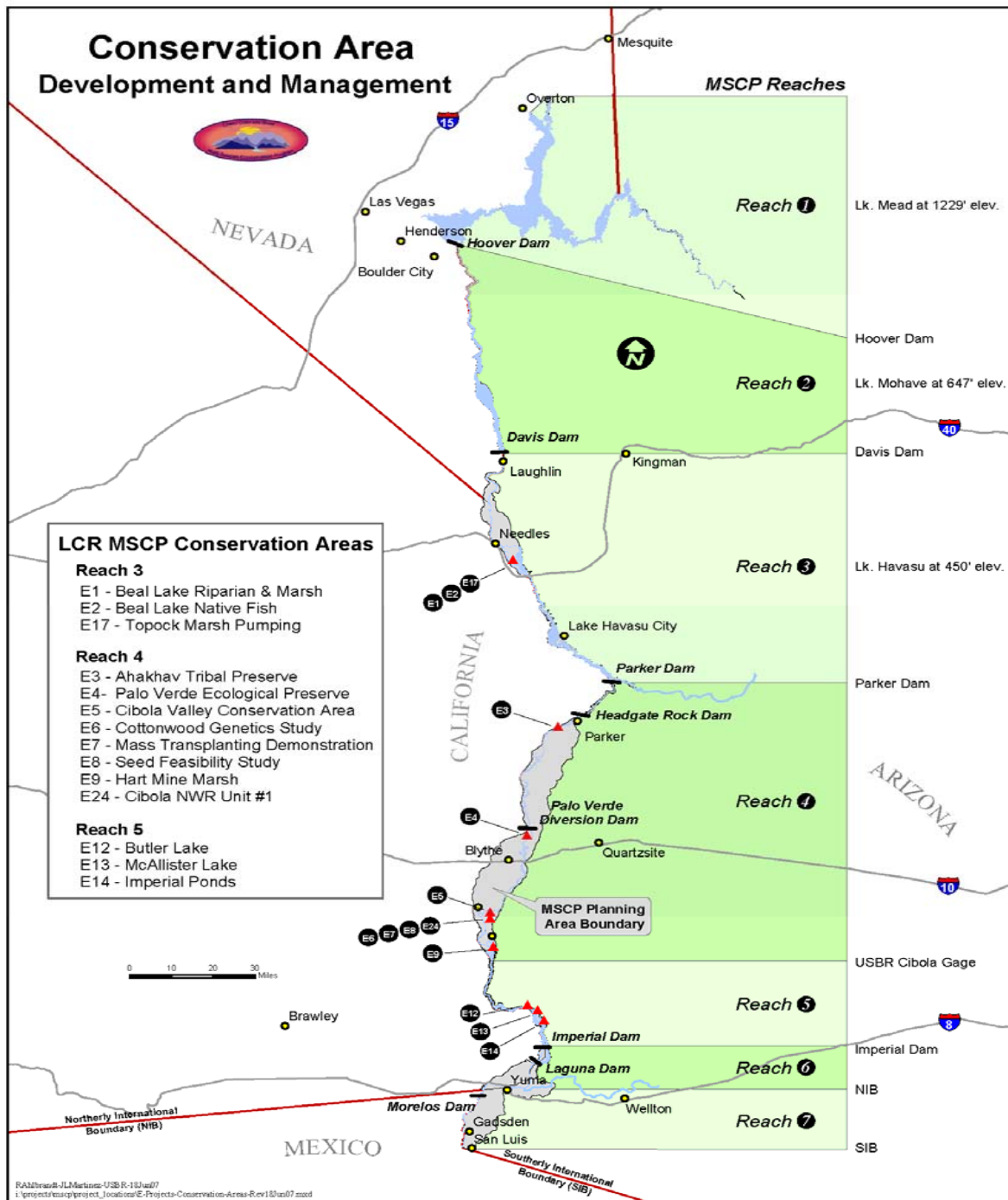
Programmatic Accomplishments

- **Final Science Strategy**
 - Strategy for implementing research and monitoring
 - Planning and Review processes
 - Annual work plan and accomplishment report
 - 5 Year research and monitoring priority report
- **Draft 5 Year Research & Monitoring Priorities (08-12)**
- **Site Selection Criteria**
- **Native Fish Augmentation Plan**
- **Annual Accomplishment / Work Plans**

Restoration Demonstration & Habitat Creation Sites

- **Beal Lake – 200 Acres**
- **'Ahakav Tribal Preserve – 240 Acres**
- **Palo Verde Ecological Reserve – 1300 Acres**
- **Cibola Valley Conservation Area – 1000 Acres**
- **Imperial Ponds**
 - 50 acres of backwater ponds for native fish
 - 34 acres of CW
 - 12 acres of marsh (black rail)

Conservation Area Development and Management



- LCR MSCP Conservation Areas**
- Reach 3**
- E1 - Beal Lake Riparian & Marsh
 - E2 - Beal Lake Native Fish
 - E17 - Topock Marsh Pumping
- Reach 4**
- E3 - Ahakhav Tribal Preserve
 - E4 - Palo Verde Ecological Preserve
 - E5 - Cibola Valley Conservation Area
 - E6 - Cottonwood Genetics Study
 - E7 - Mass Transplanting Demonstration
 - E8 - Seed Feasibility Study
 - E9 - Hart Mine Marsh
 - E24 - Cibola NWR Unit #1
- Reach 5**
- E12 - Butler Lake
 - E13 - McAllister Lake
 - E14 - Imperial Ponds

Research & Monitoring

- **Species Research**
 - Draft Species Accounts
 - Draft Monitoring Protocols
- **System Monitoring**
 - Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
 - Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 - Avian Riparian Obligates
 - Marsh Birds
 - Bats
 - Native Fish
- **Post Development Monitoring**
 - Pre- and Post-development surveys at habitat creation sites
 - Avian
 - Bats
 - Small Mammals
 - Insects
 - Fish
 - Habitat
- **Adaptive Management Program**

Questions?

