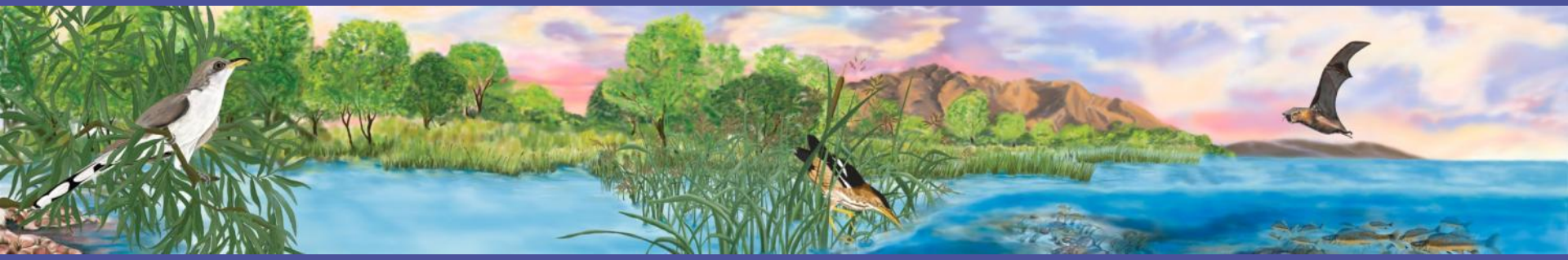
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

LCR MSCP RESTORATION GROUP



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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FACTS & FIGURES

Watershed

-Length is approx. 1,400 miles

-Drains 246,000 sq miles (7 states)

Headwater snowmelt

-96% of water from above Lake Mead

-4% Tributaries Lake Mead to Mexico

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HISTORICAL FLOWS

Recorded flows at Yuma (USGS, 1973)

-High spring flow (250,000 cfs)

-Low summer flow (18 cfs)

ANNUAL FLOWS

-24 maf (high)

-5 maf (low)

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CURRENT COLORDAO RIVER

Highly Managed

-Controlled releases

-Cold & clear water

-Over 1,500,000 irrigated acres

-Over 20,000,000 people

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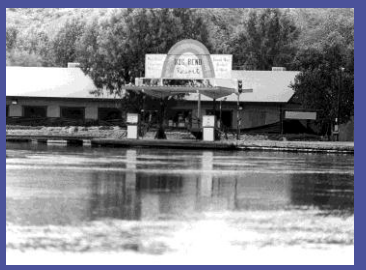

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LCR MSCP GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- 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 through the implementation of a HCP

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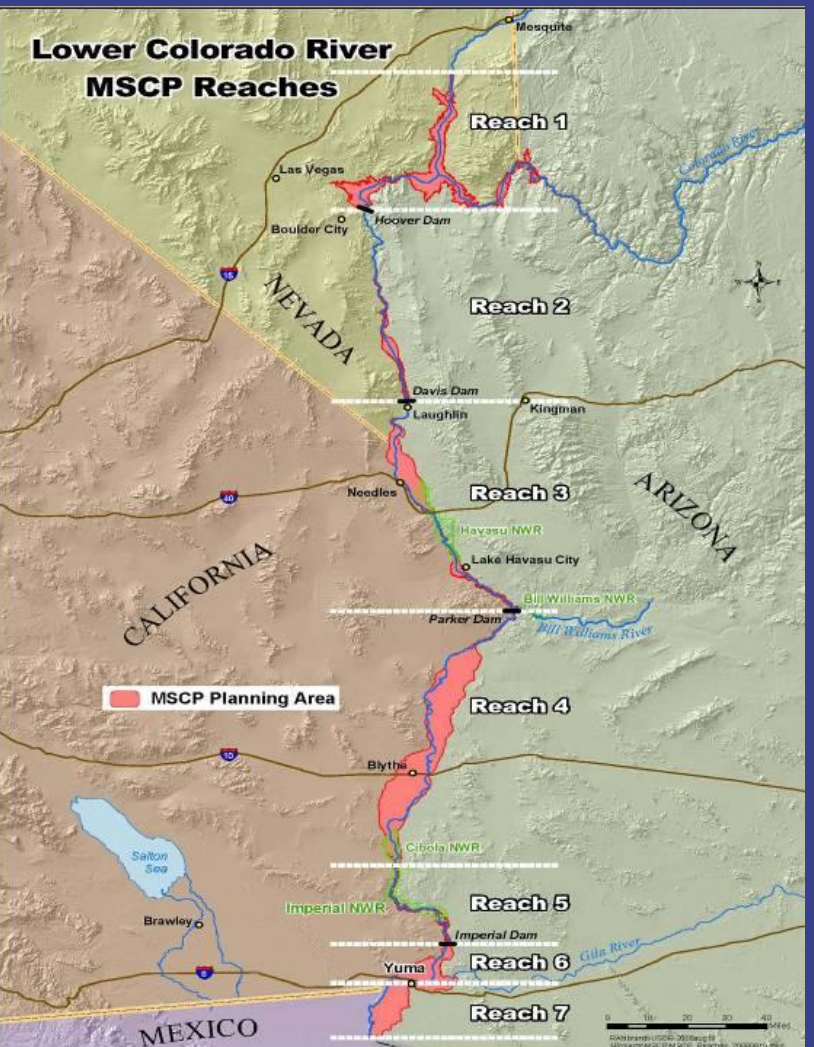

Reach 1 – Lake Mead

Reach 2 – Lake Mohave

Reach 3 – Davis Dam to Parker Dam

Reach 4 - Parker Dam to Cibola Gage

Reach 5 – Cibola Gage to Imperial Dam

Reach 6 – Imperial Dam to NIB

Reach 7 – NIB to SIB

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CONSERVATION AREA DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- Cottonwood-Willow - 5,940 Ac
- Mesquite - 1,320 Ac
- Marsh – 512 Ac
- Backwaters – 360 Ac

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Established Acreage Through 2012 = 2, 447 acres

Projected Acreage Through 2015 = 4,200 acres

640 acres in one square mile.

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Pre-MSCP (Restoration Research & Demonstrations

-Mass Transplanting

-Seed Feasibility

-Cottonwood Genetics

-Nature Trail

-Ahakhav Tribal Preserve

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Initial Years (2006-2008)

-PVER
-CVCA
-Cibola Unit #1
-Imperial Ponds

H_20 + Drainage = GOOD

H_20 - Drainage = SALT

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Years (2008-2013)

-Hart Mine Marsh
-Big Bend Cons. Area
-Yuma East Wetlands
-Laguna Div. Cons. Area
-Pretty Water Cons. Area

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Future Projects

-Backwaters in California
  Parker Dam Camp
  Park Moabi

-Marsh in California

-Planet Ranch

-Lower Gila River

-Virgin River

FEB-23, 2005
7k cfs release
(Alamo @ max)

Suggestions

-Partnerships (Clearly define roles & responsibilities)

-Identify & address issues early

-Information & support is available

-Don’t skimp on monitoring and long-term management

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SUMMARY

We've set the stage

Monitor & react….but don't overreact.

Species Response…

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