Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Big Bend Conservation Area

In 2009, the Bureau of Reclamation, State of Nevada, and Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) secured the property known as Boy Scout Camp and an adjacent backwater near Laughlin, Nevada, for inclusion in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.

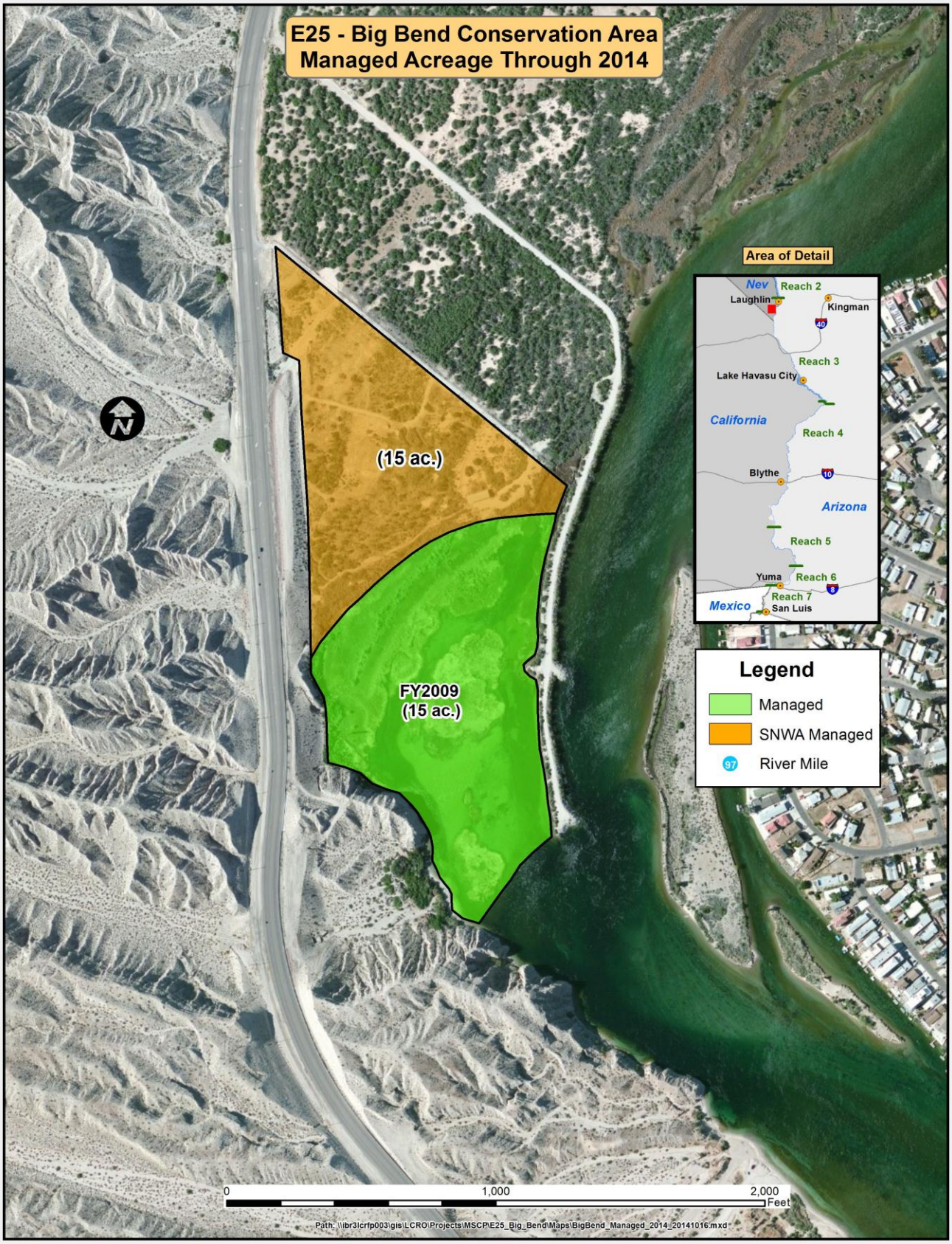
These features, known collectively as Big Bend Conservation Area, include 15 acres of Boy Scout Camp uplands purchased by SNWA and 15 acres of backwater owned by the State of Nevada (see map).

Located on the Colorado River five miles south of Laughlin along the Needles Highway, the conservation area is an in-holding within the State of Nevada's Big Bend State Recreation Area. The backwaters in this location will be managed by the LCR MSCP to help sustain and augment populations of endangered native fishes.

Native fish monitoring efforts indicate the presence of the flannelmouth sucker in and adjacent to the existing backwater. Flannelmouth sucker were reintroduced into the Colorado River below Davis Dam by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 1976. This stock has endured for almost four decades and now represents the only known population of this native species in the Colorado River, downstream of Grand Canyon. Least bitterns have also been detected at Big Bend Conservation Area.

The portion of the Colorado River between Davis Dam and Parker Dam is also experiencing extensive urban development, and has very few undeveloped backwaters. Management of Big Bend Conservation Area by the LCR MSCP provides protection to this valuable, unspoiled backwater and allows for future habitat restoration activities that are anticipated to benefit this population of flannelmouth sucker, razorback sucker and bonytail species.

For more information and documentation about this activity, visit the LCR MSCP website at: www.lcrmscp.gov



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