Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Cibola National Wildlife Area Unit 1 Conservation Area

Since 1999, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have collaborated on several riparian habitat restoration and demonstration projects at the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in southwestern Arizona. Cibola NWR Unit 1 Conservation Area, encompassing nearly 950 acres, is located in one of the Refuge's six management areas or "units" and includes agricultural fields, and partially improved and undeveloped lands.

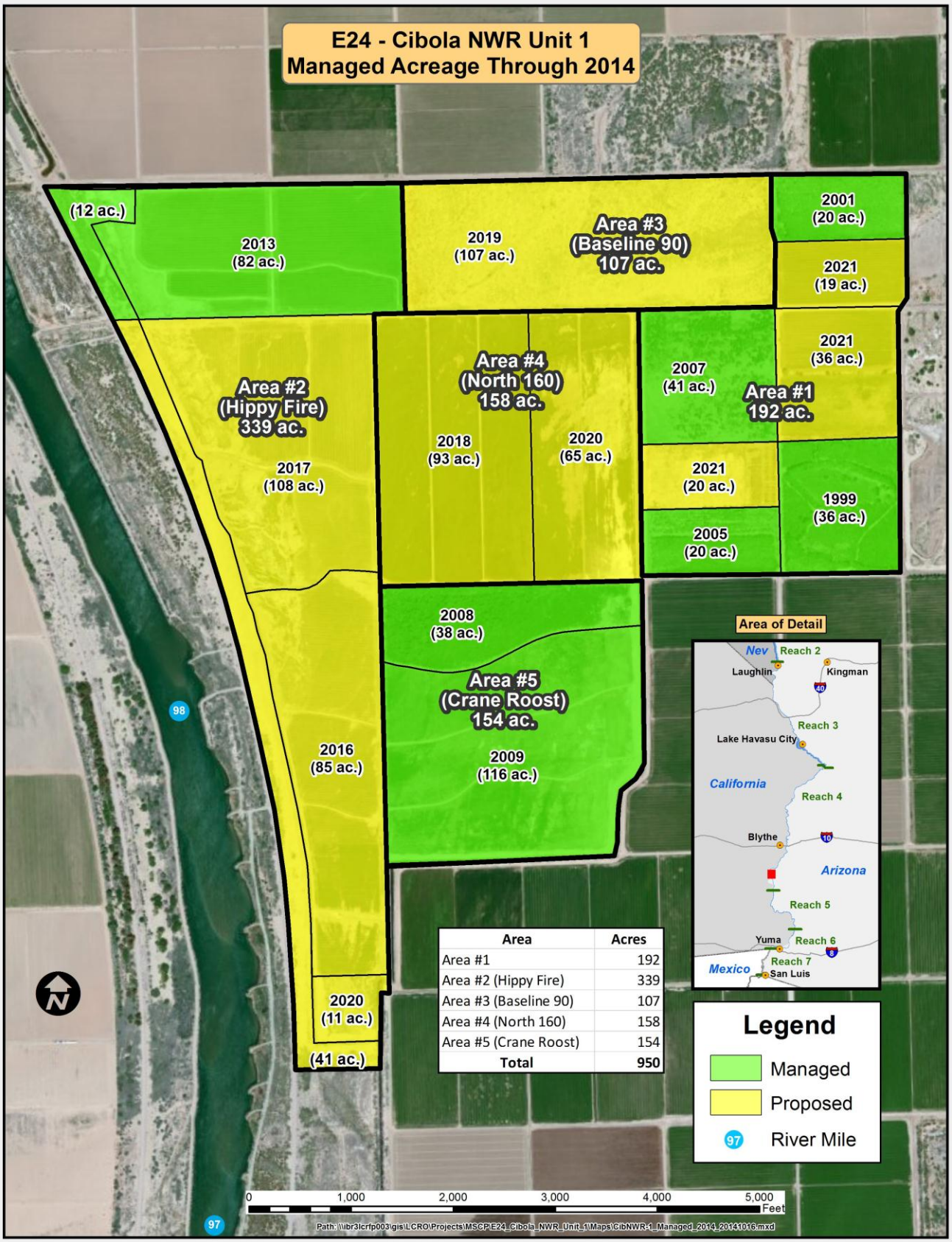
As part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, approximately 120 acres have been set aside in Unit 1 for LCR MSCP-related research and development activities. Several projects – including cottonwood genetics and seed feasibility studies, and a mass transplanting demonstration – have been established on portions of these lands. The site also includes two agricultural fields still in agricultural production.

The Conservation Area joins these existing project and agricultural lands with adjacent acreage into a single area that is being developed and managed for riparian habitat enhancement and conservation (see map). As part of this project, Reclamation and USFWS have entered into a long-term agreement securing land and water resources for the 50-year life of the MSCP. Substantial irrigation and infrastructure improvements have also made at the site to support long-term management of acreages of new riparian species.

At this site, Reclamation is primarily developing cottonwood/willow land cover-type for endangered Southwestern willow flycatchers, yellow-billed cuckoos, and a number of other native species, but will also cultivate a mosaic of native habitats including, riparian, wetland, and riparian-upland interface areas. While the created habitats are those required by MSCP-covered species, it is expected that other species that use or depend on cottonwood, willow and mesquite habitats will benefit as well.

After planting is complete, the habitat within the Conservation Area will be monitored, managed and maintained for the 50-year life of LCR MSCP. Reclamation and USFWS are also making provisions to ensure the habitat is maintained beyond that period.

LCR MSCP covered species located at this site include; Colorado River cotton rat, MacNeill's Sootywing, acoustic detections and capture of western yellow bat and California leaf-nosed bat; acoustic detections of western red bats and Townsends big-eared bats; confirmed breeding of yellow-billed cuckoos and Sonoran yellow warblers; migrants of Arizona Bell's vireos and willow flycatchers; and at MAPS banding station Sonoran yellow warbler, Arizona Bell's vireo, and willow flycatcher. For more information and documentation about this activity, visit the LCR MSCP website at: www.lcrmscp.gov.



Area	Acres
Area #1	192
Area #2 (Hippy Fire)	339
Area #3 (Baseline 90)	107
Area #4 (North 160)	158
Area #5 (Crane Roost)	154
Total	**950**

Revised December 15, 2014