

# Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



*Balancing Resource Use and Conservation*

## Hunters Hole Conservation Area

Hunters Hole is located in Arizona, within the historic floodplain of the Colorado River, approximately three miles north of the U.S./Mexico Southerly International Boundary. The site was initially formed by flooding in the 1950s, which formed a series of interconnected ponds with adjacent marsh areas and cottonwood-willow stands. Water levels were maintained by groundwater, irrigation drain flows, and a connecting channel with the main river channel.

Over time, the habitat degraded due to reduced mainstream flows, sediment buildup which isolated the area from the mainstem of the river, fire, and groundwater pumping.



In 2001, local officials from state, tribal, and federal agencies worked together to develop a plan to restore the area, as well as increase public safety and border security. In 2010, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Corporation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, restored 44-acres at Hunters Hole. After the project was completed in 2013, the LCR MSCP agreed to manage the site as a Conservation Area and provide funding for its long-term operation and maintenance.

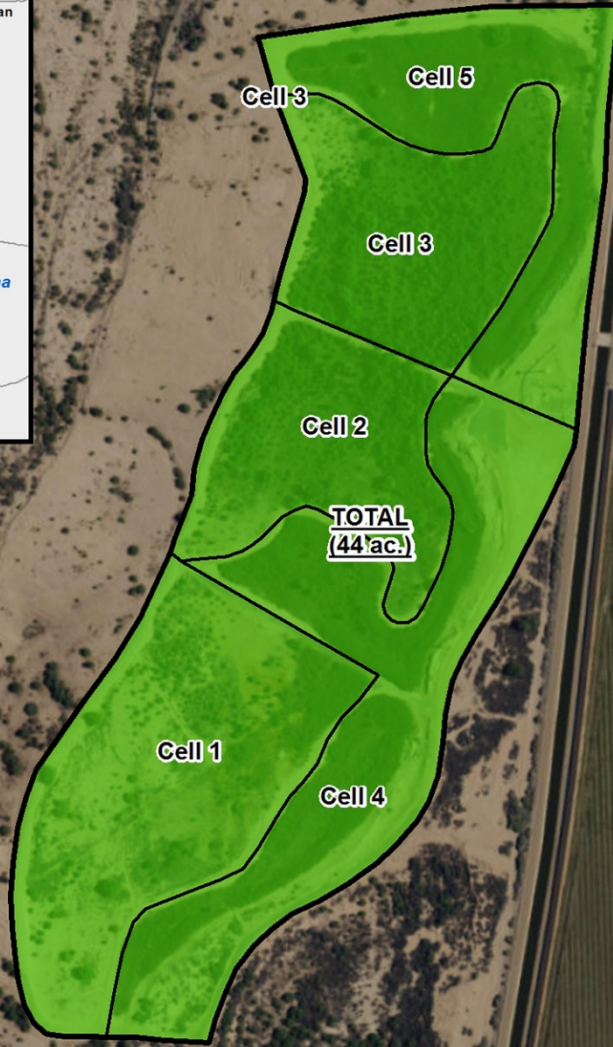
The restored site consists of riparian and dry upland habitats. Restoration activities included selective clearing of invasive reeds and salt cedar, installation of infrastructure to allow for managed flooding, and the planting of cottonwood-willow and honey mesquite.

Irrigation is automated and managed by a groundwater pump, controllers, and valves, which deliver water to five cells within the site. This infrastructure allows the entire irrigation to be managed and monitored remotely. Irrigation cycles run every three weeks from February through November.

Restoration of this area is anticipated to provide habitat for native species, including the southwestern willow flycatcher. LCR MSCP covered species found and/or detected at the site include migrant willow flycatchers, Sonoran yellow warbler, the western red bat, western yellow bat, California leaf nose bat and the Yuma hispid cotton rat. This cooperative restoration effort was developed with representatives from Mexico 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  
Managed Acreage Through FY 16**

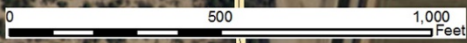


**Legend**

**Land Cover**

Cottonwood-willow (CW)

| Managed Area | Land Cover Type | Year Established | Acreage   |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| Cell 1       | CW              | FY2012           | 11        |
| Cell 2       | CW              | FY2012           | 6         |
| Cell 3       | CW              | FY2012           | 7         |
| Cell 4       | CW              | FY2012           | 12        |
| Cell 5       | CW              | FY2012           | 8         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                 |                  | <b>44</b> |



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