

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Hunters Hole

Hunters Hole is a partnership between the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) and the Bureau of Reclamation. The conservation area was established to create cottonwood-willow habitat in Arizona. Hunters Hole is located approximately 3 miles north of the U.S./Mexico Southerly International Boundary. Flood events in the 1950s formed a series of interconnected ponds with adjacent marsh areas and cottonwood-willow stands. These habitats were maintained by groundwater, irrigation drain flows, and periodic surface flows from 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 main stem of the river; fire; and groundwater pumping. Groundwater levels decreased to the point that no surface water exists and the water table is below the rooting depth of cottonwood-willow. In 2001, local officials from State, Tribal, and Federal agencies worked together to develop a plan to restore habitat in this area, as well as increase public safety and border security. After the habitat restoration project was completed in 2010, the LCR MSCP agreed to be responsible for the long-term operation, management, and monitoring of the newly formed conservation area for the benefit of LCR MSCP wildlife species.

Cottonwood-Willow. After removal of non-native vegetation, the site was contoured and planted with cottonwood-willow trees. The result was a 44-acre cottonwood-willow stand that is being managed for LCR MSCP wildlife species. Irrigation is conducted to establish native plants and to create moist soil conditions during the migratory bird breeding season. The irrigation system is fully automated and managed remotely. Irrigation cycles run every 3 weeks from February through November.

Wildlife detected at Hunters Hole include the Arizona Bell's vireo, Sonoran yellow warbler, yellow-billed cuckoo, western red bat, western yellow bat, California leaf nose bat, MacNeill's sootywing skipper, and the Yuma hispid cotton rat.



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

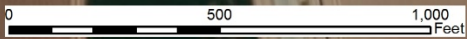
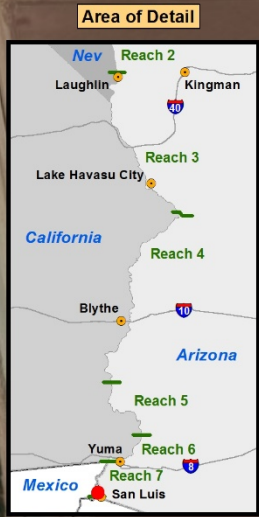
**E31 - Hunters Hole
Managed Acreage Through FY18**



Legend

Land Cover

-  Cottonwood-willow (CW): 44 ac.
-  Conservation Area Boundary



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