

Date:

October 18, 2013

Applicant:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Contact: Darrin B. Miller
702-445-2447

Applicant's Representative:

N/A

Project Name:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Pretty Water Conservation Area, WDID No. 7B133035001

Receiving Water:

Colorado River

Location:

City or area: Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial County, California

Longitude/ Latitude: 114.707339W/33.335325N

Township/Range: 10 South / 21 East

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to restore approximately 566 acres of upland habitat, maximizing the honey mesquite habitat acreage while incorporating the other native land cover types where appropriate. The restoration will be accomplished by removing non-native vegetation, and planting honey mesquite and other native upland plant species, as well as providing a smaller area of cottonwood and willow riparian habitat. The work will be conducted in multiple phases over several years, to allow integration with other ongoing Multi Species Conservation Program (MSCP) habitat restoration efforts on the lower Colorado River.

By removing non-native phreatophytic vegetation (primarily salt-cedar) and replacing it with native vegetation, the LCR MSCP is establishing suitable habitat for a number of wildlife species covered under the program, and will provide resources to maintain the Conservation Area.

To accomplish restoration, heavy equipment will be used extensively. Vegetation, consisting primarily of salt cedar, will be cleared on the 566 acre site using dozers fitted with brush rakes. Root masses will also be removed using root knives/root rakes attached to the dozers. All woody debris will be roughly compacted and buried on site in designated disposal areas or incorporated appropriately throughout the site as woody debris piles for wildlife habitat enhancement, when appropriate.

The Vegetation/Restoration Plan will incorporate native honey mesquite along the LCR into a mosaic of created habitats. Patch sizes of created habitats are designed and managed to

provide habitat for more than one species as based on information in the LCR MSCP Habitat Conservation Plan and California Endangered Species Act Permitting (CESA) Permit for each species. Open areas (low shrubs) will be incorporated into the design. By employing this approach, a diverse habitat is anticipated. Selective clearing of the site may or may not leave all existing mesquite, depending on the condition of the mesquite

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

Jay Mirpour, Water Resources Control Engineer

(760) 776-8981

jmirpour@waterboards.ca.gov