Palo Verde Ecological Reserve

- Located 5 miles north of Blythe, CA

- 1,300 acres of active agricultural land owned by California Fish & Game Department
Restoration Plan

• Convert 1,100 acres of agricultural land to cottonwood-willow land cover type.

• 9 Phases

• Implementation year 2006, end 2014 Phase 9
Phase 1 – Native Nursery

30 acres planted in 2006

- 20 acres cottonwood, willow
- 10 acres honey mesquite/Atriplex
Phase 2 – 2007

- 80 acres
- Mass transplanted & hand planted
- Spring & fall plantings
- Cover crops
Mass Transplanting

• Automated planting
  – Commonly used method in agriculture
  – 1st time demonstrated at MSCP site in 2005 (CNWR)
  – Proven to be efficient and cost effective method
  – Over 15-20 acres planted a day (48,000 – 64,000 plants)
Collection & Propagation

- Small diameter poles collected while plants are dormant
- Placed in refrigerated truck and transported
- Greenhouse prep
- 10-12 weeks growing time in & out of greenhouse
- Transported to site
- Planted
Greenhouse

Computer controlled climate for healthy plantings
Planting

9,000 plants per carrier

Developed root system
Mass Transplanting
Phase 2

Spring 2007

September 2007
Nursery 2007

Planted spring 2006
Phase 3

- 80 acres
- Approximately 124,000 trees & shrubs
- Tentative planting schedule - March 2008
Questions?