Program Implementation

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
Program Area
LCR MSCP Goals & Objectives

• A comprehensive 50-year species conservation and habitat management program that will:
  
  ★ Conserve habitat and work toward recovery of T&E species as well as reduce the likelihood of additional species being listed

  ★ Accommodate present water diversions and power production and optimize opportunities for future water and power development

  ★ Provide the basis for incidental take authorizations
Steering Committee Membership

- Federal Participant Group
- Arizona Participant Group (26 Permittees)*
- California Participant Group (11 Permittees)*
- Nevada Participant Group (5 Permittees)*
- Native American Participant Group
- Conservation Participant Group
- Other Interested Parties Group

*Participates as a funding agency
Cost Sharing

- Total Program Cost
  - $626 million (2003 dollars)
  - Adjusted Annually for Inflation

- Federal / State Cost Share
  - Split 50/50

- Cost Cap
Partnerships

- Game and Fish Agencies (Arizona, Nevada, and California)
- Farmers Advisory Board
- Tribes
- National Wildlife Refuges
LCR MSCP Covered Species

Total of 26 Species

6 Threatened and Endangered Species
2 birds, 1 reptile, 3 fish

20 Other Covered Species
4 mammals, 10 birds, 2 reptiles, 1 fish, 1 insect, 2 plants

5 “Evaluation Species”
3 mammals, 2 reptiles
Key Program Elements

- Creation and restoration of native riparian, marsh, and aquatic habitats
- Native fish populations augmentation
- Measures to maintain and enhance existing habitats
- Species-specific conservation measures
- Avoidance & minimization measures
- Long-term monitoring & research
- Adaptive management principles
Habitat Restoration

Total of 8,142 acres

- Cottonwood-Willow: 5,940 acres
- Mesquite: 1,320 acres
- Marsh: 512 acres
- Backwaters: 360 acres
Conservation Area
Development and Management

LCR MSCP Conservation Areas
Reach 3
E1 - Beal Lake Riparian & Marsh
E2 - Beal Lake Native Fish
E17 - Topock Marsh Pumping
E21 - Planet Ranch
E25 - Big Bend Conservation Area

Reach 4
E3 - Ahaahov Tribal Preserve
E4 - Palo Verde Ecological Preserve
E5 - Cibola Valley Conservation Area
E9 - Hart Mine Marsh
E24 - Cibola NWR Unit #1

Reach 5
E13 - McAllister
E14 - Imperial Ponds

Reach 6
E27 - Laguna Division Conservation Area
E28 - Yuma East Wetlands
Riparian Restoration
Marsh Restoration
Backwater Restoration
Native Fish Augmentation

- Razorback sucker
  - 660,000 fish over 50 years

- Bonytail
  - 620,000 fish over 50 years

- Humpback chub
  - $10,000/year to GCDAMP for 50 years

- Flannelmouth sucker
  - $80,000 over 5 years + 85 acres of backwaters
Existing Habitat Maintenance

$25,000,000 Fund
- Established within the first years of the program
- Funds actions to avoid impacts to existing habitats within the planning area

Available to Land Managers with consent of Reclamation, USFWS, and State participants
Conservation Measures

- Maintenance of existing habitat
- Creation and long-term management of habitat specific to each species
- Avoidance & minimization of impacts on Covered Species and their habitats resulting from program implementation
- Population enhancement measures
- Monitoring & research to assess and improve program effectiveness through Adaptive Management
Adaptive Management Elements

- Measure effectiveness of Conservation Measures
- As need arises, propose revised or alternative Conservation Measures
- Address changed or unforeseen circumstances
- Provide consistency with relevant existing and future USFWS Recovery Plans
Monitoring & Research Elements

- System Monitoring
- Species Monitoring & Research
- Post-development Monitoring
- Database Management
- Adaptive Management
Species Monitoring & Research

- Covered species life history studies
  - Southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo intensive studies
  - Small mammal genetics and habitat studies
  - Brown-headed cowbird and starling control
  - Bat roost and forage site identification
  - Insect population studies
SPECIES MONITORING AND RESEARCH
Post-development Monitoring

Evaluation of created and restored habitat

- Vegetation survival and growth
- Avian use of restored sites
- Small mammal colonization
- Bat foraging use
- Other Covered Species use