

# Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



*Balancing Resource Use and Conservation*

## Cibola National Wildlife Refuge Unit 1 Conservation Area

Since 1999, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have collaborated on several riparian habitat restoration and demonstration projects on the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in southwestern Arizona. Cibola NWR Unit 1 Conservation Area, encompassing nearly 950 acres, is located in one of the Refuge's six management areas or "units" (Unit 1) and includes agricultural fields, and partially improved and undeveloped lands. Restoration and management of the area was supported through a long-term agreement between Reclamation and USFWS securing land and water resources for the 50-year life of the LCR MSCP.



As part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, approximately 120 acres were set aside for LCR MSCP-related research and development activities. Several projects including cottonwood genetics and seed feasibility studies, and a mass transplanting demonstration were completed. The Conservation Area joins these past projects with agricultural lands into a single area that is being developed and managed for riparian habitat development, enhancement, and conservation. As development of the Conservation area progresses, new habitat is created and in some areas substantial irrigation and infrastructure improvements have been completed or are planned for the near future.

At this conservation area, Reclamation is primarily developing cottonwood/willow land cover-type for endangered Southwestern willow flycatchers, yellow-billed cuckoos, and a number of other native species, but will also cultivate a mosaic of native habitats including, riparian, wetland, and riparian-upland interface areas. While the created habitats are those required by LCR MSCP-covered species, it is expected that other wildlife that utilize or depend on cottonwood, willow, and mesquite habitat will benefit as well.

After planting is complete, the habitat within the Conservation Area will be monitored, managed and maintained for the 50-year life of LCR MSCP. Reclamation and USFWS are also making provisions to ensure the habitat is maintained beyond that period. LCR MSCP covered and evaluation species located at this site include: Arizona Bell's vireo, Gila woodpecker, Sonoran yellow warbler, summer tanager,

vermilion flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, California leaf-nosed bat, pale Townsend's big-eared bat, western red bat, western yellow bat, MacNeill's sootywing, and Colorado River cotton rat. For more information and documentation about this activity, visit the LCR MSCP website at: [www.lcrmscp.gov](http://www.lcrmscp.gov).

**E24 - Cibola National Wildlife Refuge Unit #1 Conservation Area  
Managed Acreage Through FY 16**

