

Work Task D4: Tribes	Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Colorado River Indian Tribes
Partners:	Colorado River Indian Tribes Bureau of Reclamation
Point of Contact:	Barbara Raulston, LC-2453 (702) 293-8788
Purpose:	Two distinct projects are underway at the Tribal Preserve. First, restoration technique testing is underway on agricultural fields which will test planting, maintenance and irrigation methods to assess success at producing cottonwood and willow in a large habitat block. Secondly, a research and development agreement was awarded to the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) for research and development which will test planting, maintenance and irrigation methods on CRIT farmlands. Future discussions with the CRIT will determine whether habitat creation is going to be requested and only if there is a long term commitment for operation and maintenance.
Conservation Measures:	Develop techniques in support of all covered species habitat creation requirements and a potential site for creation of habitat.
Long-term Goal:	Initiate and evaluate a suite of restoration research techniques to reduce the cost of restoration while increasing the value of the restored habitat. Restoration work at the Preserve is being conducted with a final goal of providing habitat required under the LCR MSCP.
Location:	The Ahakhav Tribal Preserve is located on the lower Colorado River south of Parker, AZ.
Obligation:	\$1,037,791 in total of which \$200,000 was obligated in FY01 and \$200,000 was obligated in FY03 specifically for habitat creation and the remaining \$673,791 for a Research and Development (R&D) Agreement was obligated in FY04.
Accomplishment:	In FY01-03 approximately 135 acres of cottonwood and willow were planted on fallow agricultural lands. In FY04 the competitive cooperative R&D Agreement process was completed and awarded to the CRIT in September of 2004. .
Project Description:	In 1995, the Colorado River Indian Tribes established the Preserve to protect fish, wildlife and plants in

riparian areas along the river. The Preserve has become an important gathering place for Tribal members and the public for recreational and educational purposes. Restoration projects to improve native riparian habitat have been successful here.

Riparian Habitat Creation. Phase I began in 2001 when 73 acres were cleared of non-native vegetation, leveled, and subdivided into 3-acre parcels to allow for efficient irrigation. Soil analysis was completed, lined irrigation canals were installed, and cuttings of local plant stock were collected to begin providing propagates for planting. Over 7000 cottonwood, willow and mesquite trees 18-24” in height were planted in November 2001 and April 2002. Monitoring is being conducted by personnel at the Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

Phase II converted an additional 62 acres of fallow agricultural lands to cottonwood and willow. Phase I and II are both located adjacent to the tribal preserve.

Research and Development Agreement. The project will utilize four areas to test different mass planting techniques, irrigation methods, weed control, seed collection, and site maintenance. All work will be done in an effort to find the most successful, efficient, and cost-effective methods for various types of habitat creation projects. The project will utilize a variety of methodology and procedures from start to finish. Adaptive management of the project restoration effort will include standard restoration efforts and modern farming techniques. Ahakhav staff will closely document all steps so they will easily be able to be recreated and expanded upon in the future. The end result of this project will be approximately 120 acres of newly created habitat, a 135-acre maintenance project, and valuable data on many aspects and methods of the restoration process.