

## Work Task E7: Mass Planting Demonstration

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| <b>Partners:</b>              | Cibola National Wildlife Refuge   |
| <b>Contact:</b>               | Gail Iglitz, LC-8459  |
| <b>Purpose:</b>               | Continues evaluation of mass planting techniques for cottonwood and willow using mechanized planting equipment to increase the cost effectiveness of future habitat creation projects.  |
| <b>Conservation Measures:</b> | WIFL1-R, WRBA2-R, WYBA3-R, CRCR2-R, YHCR2-R, LEBI1, BLRA1-R, YBCU1-R, ELOW1-R, GIFL1-R, GIWO1-R, VEFL1-R, BEVI1-R, YWAR1-R and SUTA1-R  |
| <b>Long-term Goal(s):</b>     | Restoration research to reduce the cost of habitat creation and development of riparian habitat.  |
| <b>Location:</b>              | 31.5 acres of previous agriculture fields within Unit #1 on Cibola National Wildlife Refuge.  |
| <b>FY2006 Estimate:</b>       | \$10,000 includes Reclamation staff and contractual services in support of the mass planting demonstrations.  |
| <b>FY2007 Estimate:</b>       | \$10,000. Same as previous year.  |
| <b>FY2008 Estimate:</b>       | \$10,000. Same as previous year. In FY2008, the project will be evaluated for continued funding under the LCR MSCP.   |
| <b>Project Description:</b>   | Reclamation is demonstrating automated mass-planting techniques using native riparian species. The fields were planted in FY2005. Expenditures in FY2006-2008 are will allow monitoring and evaluation of the planted fields. This project represents a combination of research and habitat |

creation. The intent is to investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of using this technique in restoration of agricultural fields. The cost benefit of this method will be evaluated along with its effectiveness and appropriateness in the creation of native habitat to meet LCR MSCP goals. The technique involves mechanized, rapid, dense planting of 4,500 seedlings per acre to inhibit growth of non-native plant species and to achieve dense growth of native tree species. A study plan is available.