

### Work Task E3: Ahakhav Tribal Preserve

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$120,000	\$43,928	\$1,081,719	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$160,000

**Contact:** Barbara Raulston, (702) 293-8788

**Start Date:** FY04 **Expected Duration:** FY09 decision point

**Long-term Goal:** Restoration Research

**Conservation Measures:** CLRA, WIFL1, WRBA2, WYBA-3, CRCR2, YHCR2, LEBI1, BLRA1, YBCU1, ELOW1, GIFL1, GIWO1, VEFL1, BEVI1, YWAR1, SUTA1, and MNSW2.

**Location:** Reach 4, Colorado River Indian Tribes, River Miles 173-174, AZ

**Purpose:** This demonstration project is designed to test planting, maintenance, and irrigation methods on fallow agricultural fields while developing over 200 acres of cottonwood, willow, mesquite, and marsh.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** This Work Task was previously included in the FY04 Work Tasks and Draft FY05 Work Tasks as Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Colorado Indian Tribes (D4) and (E5) respectively. Vegetation and species monitoring are being addressed in F1-F4.

**Project Description:** In September 2004, Reclamation finalized a 5-year agreement with the CRIT to conduct habitat restoration at the Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, located just south of Parker, Arizona. The agreement expires in FY09 at which point a decision will be made to continue restoration activities, manage created land cover types for the 50-year term of the LCR MSCP, or discontinue funding.

In 1995, the CRIT established the Ahakhav Tribal Preserve to protect fish, wildlife, and plants in the riparian areas along the river. Reclamation began assisting the Preserve with restoration activities in 2003, prior to implementation of the LCR MSCP. A variety of methods and techniques such as seeding, planting cuttings of various sizes, etc. are being used to create approximately 200 acres of cottonwood, willow, and mesquite land cover types on out-of-production agricultural areas dominated by tumbleweed and sparse saltcedar. All work is done in an effort to evaluate efficient and cost-effective methods for various re-vegetation projects. Maintenance and management of approximately 135 acres of riparian land cover types created since 2003 is ongoing, and an additional 120 acres of restoration are planned.

**Previous Activities:** Work began in 2003 by way of restoring CRIT 9 with native riparian plant species. This involved site preparation (clearing, root-ripping, leveling), soil testing,

installation of irrigation infrastructure, and planting. Monitoring has been on-going throughout the process.

**FY05 Accomplishments:** Under the 2004 Cooperative Agreement, funding from this Work Plan was used for the following activities on the Preserve:

1. Irrigation and monitoring of approximately 135 acres of cottonwood, willow, and mesquite land cover types established on CRIT 9.
2. Maintenance activities on irrigation infrastructure (repair and/or replace as necessary) to allow for continued flood irrigation.
3. Weed control implemented by planting of a cover crop of native understory species.
4. Fertilization of native vegetation using foliar application.
5. Vegetation monitoring for survival and condition.
6. Surveying for LCR MSCP targeted species.
7. Clearing of CRIT 11 (herbicide application, root ripping and burning of debris piles).

Expenditures in FY05 were less than anticipated, due, in part, to the delay in initiating any habitat creation at CRIT 12, and an overestimate of staff time. Future cost estimates for FY06-08 have also been reduced accordingly.

**FY06 Activities:** Irrigation and monitoring of approximately 135 acres of cottonwood, willow, and mesquite land cover types ranging in age from one to four years previously established on CRIT 9 is anticipated in FY06. Disking and burning of debris piles; purchase and installation of irrigation infrastructure; and other site preparations are underway at CRIT 10. Planning and installation of irrigation infrastructure are underway at CRIT 11. The administrative process is underway to allow the Preserve to potentially restore and manage CRIT 12 as LCR MSCP habitat. Reclamation and CRIT are in discussions regarding whether this area and/or others can be included as LCR MSCP projects.

**Proposed FY07 Activities:** Irrigation and monitoring of approximately 135 acres of cottonwood, willow, and mesquite land cover types established on CRIT 9 are proposed in FY07. Irrigation will be directed to the areas with the densest vegetation to create moist soil conditions for southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL). Cutting, thinning, clearing, and replanting under- to mid-story vegetation to create microhabitats suitable for the SWFL and other species is anticipated. CRIT 10 will be planted using cottonwood-willow cuttings and mesquite seed. Reclamation will monitor habitat, survey for LCR MSCP targeted species, and report results. Site preparation of CRIT 11 continues (installation of irrigation infrastructure), to be followed by planting using a variety of techniques and irrigation methods.

**Pertinent Reports:** 2005 Summary Report, *'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve: CRIT 9 Restoration* and study plans for future actions will be posted on the LCR MSCP website.



Figure E3a: Re-vegetation of the Colorado River Indian Tribes' Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, CRIT 9 and CRIT 10 Projects, November 2005.