

# Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



*Balancing Resource Use and Conservation*

## LOWER COLORADO RIVER MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM 10 YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



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## PROGRAMMATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Final Science Strategy
- Five- Year Research & Monitoring Priorities (2013-17)
- Site Selection Criteria
- Native Fish Augmentation Plan
- Habitat Maintenance Fund Process
- Habitat Creation Accomplishment Process
- Land and Water Fund
- Remedial Measures Fund
- Annual Accomplishment / Work Plans



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## CONSERVATION MEASURES COMPLETED

- DETO1: Acquire and protect 230 acres of existing unprotected occupied desert tortoise habitat
- FTHL1: Acquire and protect 230 acres of existing unprotected occupied flat-tailed horned lizard habitat
- AMM2: Avoid impacts of flow-related covered activities on covered species habitats at Topock Marsh



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## NATIVE FISH AUGMENTATION GUIDELINES

- Razorback sucker and bonytail augmentation program based on effort ("level of funding") needed to raise and stock 1.2 million subadults
- Stocking numbers are reach and species specific
- Increased stocking over a ten-year period for research counts towards augmentation goals
- Fish stocked in created backwater habitats count towards augmentation goals
- Razorback suckers stocked in Lake Mohave do not count towards augmentation goals



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## FISH AUGMENTATION GOALS

- 660,000 Razorback Suckers
- 620,000 Bonytail



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## FISH AUGMENTATION ACCOMPLISHMENT THROUGH FY15\*

SPECIES	LAKE MOHAVE	DAVIS-PARKER	BELOW PARKER	TOTAL	AUGMENTATION TOTAL
RAZORBACK SUCKER	114,626**	72,865	79,736	267,227	152,601
BONYTAIL	0	55,403	20,733	76,136	76,136
TOTAL	114,626**	128,268	100,469	343,363	228,737

\*Approximate

\*\*Don't count towards augmentation goals – separate conservation measure





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## CONSERVATION AREA DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- LCR MSCP is habitat based
- HCP conservation measures are species specific
- Total habitat creation acre goals are based on creating habitat mosaics (i.e. each acre should provide habitat for multiple species)
- Total habitat creation acre goals are a minimum which allows flexibility in meeting species specific conservation measures





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## CONSERVATION AREA DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT : TOTAL MINIMUM ACRES

- Cottonwood-Willow - 5,940 Ac
- Mesquite - 1,320 Ac
- Marsh – 512 Ac
- Backwaters – 360 Ac





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## LAND COVER TYPE BY STATE THROUGH FY15\*

STATE	COTTONWOOD- WILLOW	HONEY MESQUITE	MARSH	BACKWATERS	TOTAL
ARIZONA	1,465	575	628	80	<b>2,748</b>
CALIFORNIA	980	578	40	0	<b>1,598</b>
NEVADA	0	0	0	15	<b>15</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>4,361</b>

\*APPROXIMATE



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## HABITAT CREATION PROGRESS

LAND COVER TYPE	ESTABLISHED THROUGH FY15	ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE FROM HCP (PERCENT COMPLETED)	PERCENT OF MINIMUM TOTAL ACRES
COTTONWOOD- WILLOW	2,445	1,000 (244%)	5,940 (41%)
HONEY MESQUITE	1,153	300 (384%)	1,320 (87%)
MARSH	668	150 (445%)	512 (130%)
BACKWATERS	95	120 (79%)	360 (26%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,361</b>	<b>1,570 (284%)</b>	<b>8,132 (54%)</b>



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## CESA HABITAT CREATION PROGRESS

LAND COVER TYPE	ESTABLISHED THROUGH FY15	PERCENT OF MINIMUM TOTAL ACRES REQUIRED IN CALIFORNIA
COTTONWOOD-WILLOW	980	1,566 (62%)
HONEY MESQUITE	578	1,048 (55%)
MARSH	40	240 (17%)
BACKWATERS	0	194 (0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,598</b>	<b>3,048 (52%)</b>



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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- “Build it and they will come” - Most riparian and marsh species are responding to the created habitat
- Razorback suckers are being observed in greater numbers in some reaches, especially Reach 3
- The Flexibility in the program documents and the adaptive management approach have allowed us to meet challenges



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## CHALLENGES

- Securing land & water in California to meet CESA requirements
- Increasing native fish survivorship within the constraints of the program
- Developing long-term management guidelines for created habitats
- The “Unknown” (i.e. Drought, Climate Change, Invasive Species, etc.)

