



Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

PALO VERDE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE (PVER)

Lower Colorado River Terrestrial Biology Meeting
Laughlin, Nevada
January 30, 2008



Gail Iglitz

Palo Verde Ecological Reserve

- Located 5 miles north of Blythe, CA
- 1,300 acres of active agricultural land owned by California Fish & Game Department

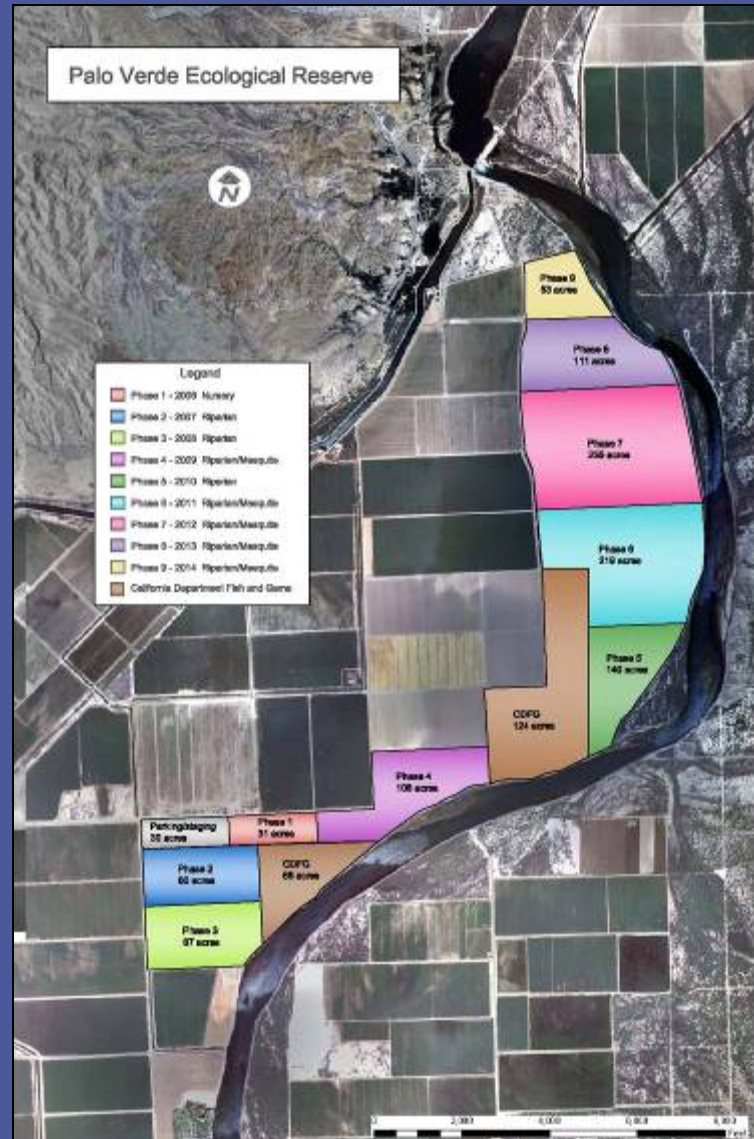


Restoration Plan

- Convert 1,100 acres of agricultural land to cottonwood-willow land cover type.

- 9 Phases

- Implementation year 2006, end 2014
Phase 9



Phase 1 – Native Nursery

30 acres planted in 2006

- 20 acres cottonwood, willow
- 10 acres honey mesquite/Atriplex



Phase 2 – 2007

- 80 acres
- Mass transplanted & hand planted
- Spring & fall plantings
- Cover crops



Mass Transplanting

- Automated planting
 - Commonly used method in agriculture
 - 1st time demonstrated at MSCP site in 2005 (CNWR)
 - Proven to be efficient and cost effective method
 - Over 15-20 acres planted a day (48,000 – 64,000 plants)



Collection & Propagation

- Small diameter poles collected while plants are dormant
- Placed in refrigerated truck and transported
- Greenhouse prep
- 10-12 weeks growing time in & out of greenhouse
- Transported to site
- Planted



Greenhouse

Computer controlled climate for healthy plantings



Planting

9,000 plants per carrier



Developed root system

Mass Transplanting



Phase 2

Spring 2007



September 2007

Nursery 2007



Planted spring 2006

Phase 3

- 80 acres
- Approximately 124,000 trees & shrubs
- Tentative planting schedule - March 2008



Questions?

