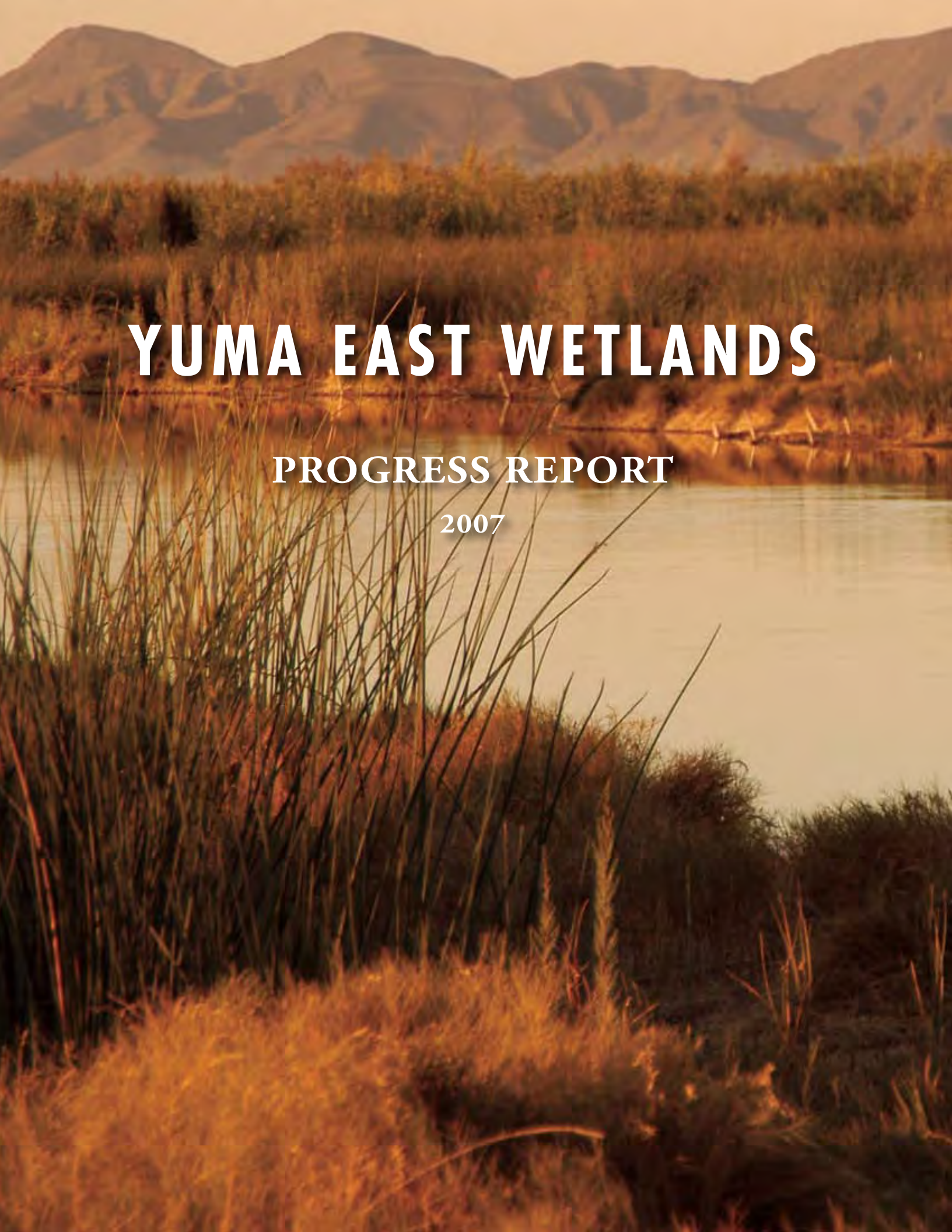

YUMA EAST WETLANDS

PROGRESS REPORT

2007

Welcome

Dear Friend:

The Yuma community has worked together for the past decade to reconnect with the Lower Colorado River—building riverfront parks, creating a network of multi-use pathways, and promoting private investment along the historic downtown riverfront.

Our greatest challenge—and we believe our most compelling success—has been to work in partnership to restore the Yuma East Wetlands. We faced formidable obstacles. The 1,400-acre project area was a jungle of exotic plants, trash dumps, and squatter camps, prone to wildfires and illegal activity. The 1400 acres were owned by 16 different property owners, involving potentially a dozen state and federal agencies. Some questioned whether restoration was scientifically possible in conditions of such high salinity and degraded soil.

We are, therefore, pleased to report significant progress. With the leadership of the Quechan Indian Tribe (which owns half of the land) and the City of Yuma, landowners came together on a voluntary basis to support a consensus plan for restoration. The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area undertook the required studies, completed the design, and secured the necessary permits in 2004 to proceed with restoration. Over $6 million in grant funding has been secured. More than 200 acres has been cleared and is being restored. The South Channel was excavated and its banks replanted. We are working on another 100 acres of restoration in 2007.

Our riverfront is one of our most important assets. Together, we are committed to full restoration of the East Wetlands. The physical improvements will enhance habitat and wildlife, as well as improve river access for our residents and visitors. We are undertaking ground-breaking restoration techniques, and are following up with research that will inform restoration throughout the Southwest. Just as importantly, the East Wetlands has brought our diverse population together around a common commitment and vision for our community.

We invite you to share the Yuma East Wetlands experience.

Sincerely,

Mike Jackson Sr., President
Quechan Indian Tribe

Gary Munk, Chairman
Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

Larry Nelson, Mayor
City of Yuma

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The Quechan and Yuma communities come together for the reopening dedication of the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge.

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The National Model for Restoration and Long-Term Sustainability

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Photography by Fred Phillips, Eric Krouse, Sam Walton and Matt Fahey
Design and Layout Fred Phillips Consulting LLC and Mary Williams Design

As represented in this report and appendices, a variety of local, state and federal funding agencies have funded portions of the Yuma East Wetlands restoration project. Funding for this report has been provided by the City of Yuma and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. However, the views and findings presented herein are the Grantee's and do not necessarily represent those of its funding partners.

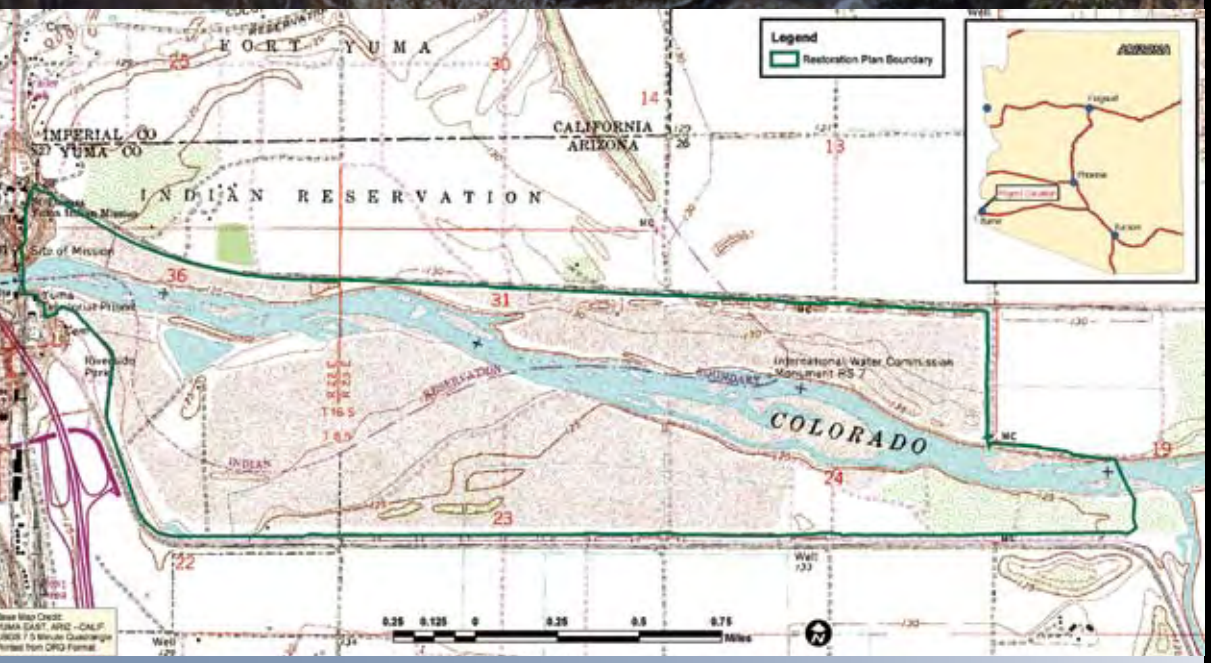
The Challenge

In 1999 the East Wetlands was a forgotten wasteland with widespread dumping, illegal activities, dying wetlands and exotic plant species.

Since time immemorial, members of the Quechan Indian Tribe and their ancestors have valued the Yuma East Wetlands area as their homeland. The river was the center of their existence, providing them with everything they needed for their livelihood. The native plants, including the mesquite, cottonwood and willow provided the tribe with fuel, food, and materials with which to make shelter, baskets, tools, medicine, clothing and even dyes and paints. Valued from birth until death, wood from the mesquite was used for cremation ceremonies.

But the river also brought flood and drought, and needed to be managed. Dams and canals brought a safe and secure source of water, power, an agricultural boom, and enhanced the ability of people to live in the desert. These changes, however, also drastically altered the Yuma East Wetlands ecosystem. Exotic plant species have now replaced most of the mesquite bosques and cottonwood/willow gallery forests. Backwaters, beaches and forests that were cherished for hunting, recreation and education have diminished and are deteriorating. The southwestern willow flycatcher and Yuma clapper rail are endangered due to loss of habitat. In less than a hundred years, this area has been transformed from a wild, meandering river to a confined, less productive ecosystem.

What this has meant for the Yuma community is that the 1,418 acres has became a "forgotten land"—a jungle of non-native vegetation, trash dumps, illegal activity and squatter camps. Yuma had lost touch with its source—the Colorado River.



Located in the southwestern corner of Arizona, Yuma has been an historic crossing point of the Colorado River and was the site of the first dam and irrigation project by the Reclamation Service in the early 1900s. Now a fast growing community, Yuma is balancing the demands of growth and environmental quality. The East Wetlands is a 1,418-acre area bounded by the north and south levees, to the west by the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge, and to the east by the confluence of the Colorado and Gila Rivers.

Degrading wetlands inside the project area with salinities of up to 30,000 ppm, close to the level of sea water.

Hobo camp, Yuma East Wetlands

Yuma East Wetlands South Channel area, May 2005.

Researchers inside the non-native thicket that dominated 90% of the Yuma East Wetlands.

The Opportunity

In less than two years the Yuma East Wetlands team forged an unprecedented partnership between the City of Yuma, The Quechan Indian Tribe, agencies and private landowners.

The first Yuma East Wetlands Stakeholders meeting in 2000.

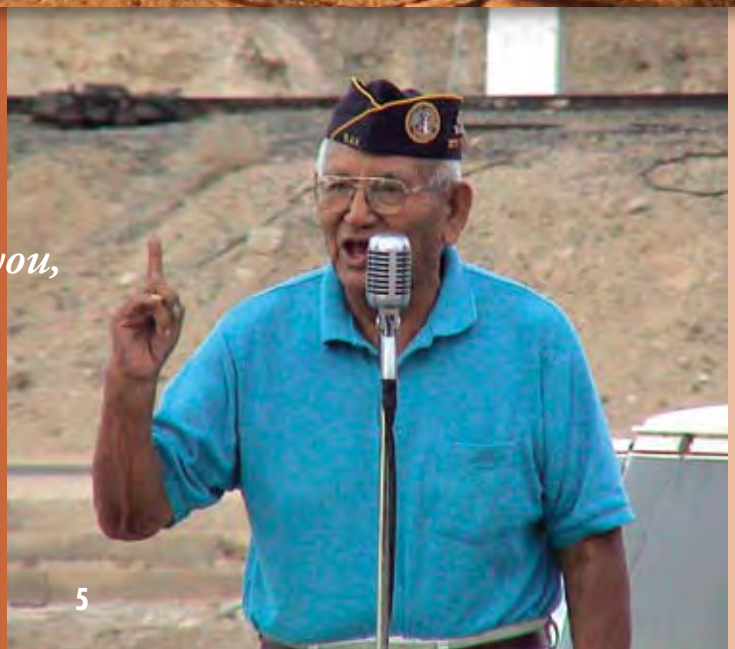
For many generations the Quechan and Yuma communities have visualized the potential for development of the Yuma East Wetlands. The ideas ranged from a large lake and park to equestrian centers and air strips. Although many of these ideas were discussed and planned, none had ever taken the shape of a real "on-the-ground" project. A patchwork quilt of multiple land ownership, conflicting claims, and just plain distrust of government had frustrated these early efforts. In 2000, the City of Yuma and Quechan Indian Tribe joined forces to formulate a plan to restore this area while utilizing it for recreation and education. This vision took shape through the acquisition of grant funding in order to bring the community together, look at the landscape, and lay out a road map for the restoration of this area. Knowing that making this vision a reality would take expertise, knowledge, and a significant effort, the Yuma East Wetlands partnership brought together an experienced design team of architects, engineers and biologists to support them during the planning effort. The key ingredients were put into place and the journey to making this vision a reality had begun.

Yuma Mayor Larry Nelson and Quechan President Mike Jackson Sr., present an appreciation plaque to Senator Jon Kyl.

Charles Flynn, Executive Director of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area explaining the project to Mexican conservation groups.

"It's not just for me or for you, it's for everybody!"

Elmer Emerson, Quechan Elder



Making it Happen

In 1999 the East Wetlands was a safe haven for rampant wildcat dumping, illegal activities and the homeless population.

Imagine a wall of 20-foot tall impenetrable invasive reed, so thick you have to climb up and over just to see what type of vegetation exists on the other side. Envision crawling on your hands and knees, moving at a pace of 100 feet an hour, under a solid thicket of tamarisk to determine the location of historic river channels. In order to work in this dense brush, protective clothing is necessary, including safety goggles, hat, dust mask, and sturdy work pants with cardboard duck taped to your shins and forearms to protect you from sharp and potentially penetrating thicket you are crawling through.

These were the conditions that the design team had to brave to perform the initial biological investigations—investigations needed to complete the design and acquire the required permits for project implementation. Soil, topographic and archeological surveys also had to be completed to formulate a viable design for the first phase of the project.

A complex mix of the Quechan Indian Tribe, the City of Yuma, private landowners, and public and private agencies made reaching a consensus on the plan to restore this area equally as difficult as scaling the dense thicket in the wetlands. Securing water rights, environmental permits and project start-up funds also proved to be formidable.

Within two years the East Wetlands partnership had reached an unprecedented consensus to restore the 1418-acre project area. The design team had crafted a master plan that laid out the road map for restoring the wetland and riparian habitats and developing recreation and education facilities. It also acquired all of the necessary permits as well as start-up funding for a pilot project.

What made all this possible was the vision of the partnership and the hard work of the design team. Based on an acceptance of water flow constraints within the Colorado River system and with a respect for the rights and concerns of its many partners, the partnership laid the foundation for redeeming the landscape and reconnecting the Quechan and Yuma communities with the river that runs through them.

Field Researcher Erik Salkeld (left) peers 15 feet down through the dense lifeless mat of invasive vegetation that used to dominate the Yuma East wetlands. This growth made for difficult passage when doing the initial site investigations.

John Makewa and Chris McIntosh proudly pose with their soil samples.

Restoration practitioner Ann Hadley enters field data.

Biologists Larry Stevens and Joe Hudson breathe a sigh of relief after 10 hours of crawling through the exotic jungle investigating wildlife.

Restoration Ecologists Bianca Perla and Fred Phillips wade through wetlands while researching soils and vegetation.

Riparian Revegetation

After two long years of planning, permitting and fundraising, the Yuma East Wetlands began to take shape.

With the plan funded and permitted, implementation got underway. The first 25 acres near the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge were cleared in the winter of 2003–2004. The Pilot Project intentionally included Quechan and City of Yuma lands on both sides of the river—reflecting the dynamic partnership that had been forged. Today, there are now more than 200 acres revegetated with native riparian plants, grasses and trees, involving a dozen sites funded by specific grants.

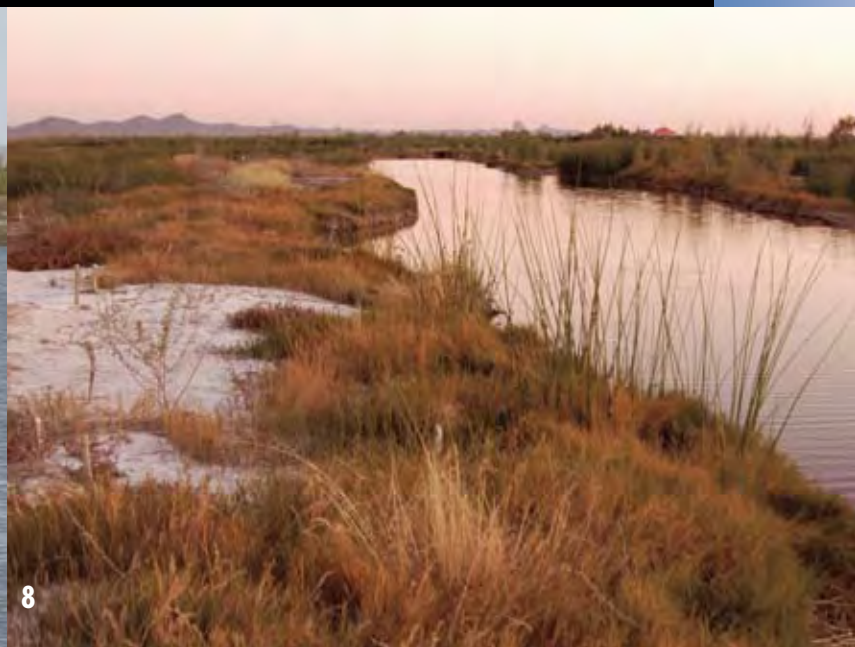
Revegetation efforts included clearing dense non-native vegetation, performing intensive soil and site analyses, and adopting experimental methods for planting, irrigation and maintenance. The ever-threatening reinvasion of tamarisk and exotic reed required aggressive measures so as to give the native species a fighting chance to survive and thrive. Minimal river flows and high salinity levels also added to the challenge.

Each project site has been designed to deal with its own unique challenges. Revegetation methods include:

- Using drip irrigation and one-gallon potted plants in areas where water is not readily available.
- Flood irrigation and native seeds to mimic historical flood events and provide a prolific ground cover to prevent exotic plant regrowth.
- Proven bioengineering methods to stabilize river banks.
- Consistently monitoring all project areas to determine the most effective and financially feasible way to restore these native forests.

The success of these projects is evident by the trees planted only two years ago having already reached heights exceeding twenty feet—as well as the proliferating wildlife. Most significantly, the Yuma and Quechan communities are rekindling their connection with the Colorado River by enjoying the beauty offered by the native forest of cottonwood, willow and mesquite.

Some areas are so saline (below left) that most native plants will not grow there. Instead of trying to drive salt out, the design team is finding native plants that will thrive in these difficult conditions (below right) such as inland saltgrass and alkali sacaton.



The area shown on the left is known as the 25-acre "pilot project." These plantings are two years old.

These bare-rooted willow "poles" were soaked and then planted along two miles of shoreline with no irrigation.

The shoreline of the phase one channel area before willow "pole" plantings. January 2006.

The shoreline of the phase one channel area after willow "pole" plantings. December 2006.

Wetland Restoration

In 2005, the restoration of the historic river channels and wetlands began.

The restoration of the historic river channels and wetlands was initiated. Once the exotic vegetation was cleared, this effort involved excavation of more than 220,000 cubic yards of sediment to create a back channel. In January 2006, the back channel was reconnected with the Colorado River by the construction of water-control structures at the inlet and outlet of this "South Channel." Agricultural drains that pump high groundwater from adjacent fields also augment the water flow in the wetlands.

The next challenge was to establish native wetland and riparian vegetation along the banks and wet areas of the newly formed channel. In the winter of 2006, a team of twenty hard-working landscapers planted over 5000 bare-pole willow and cottonwood cuttings, 2000 wetland plant plugs and 50 pounds of native seed in over forty acres of the channel's shoreline and wetlands. By using these tested bio-engineering methods, the channel now boasts a robust stand of native wetland and riparian vegetation adjacent to the free-flowing channel.

Water-control structures were installed at the junction of the river and the newly excavated channels to allow water flow into the parched wetlands.

The newly excavated channel three months after the channel banks were planted with native plants, plugs and seeds.

The NFWF marsh after site clearing and before channel excavation, June 2005.

The NFWF marsh after channel restoration and a "pulse flow" of high water after a rain event, June 2006.

Thanks to eradication of the non-native species, the restoration of flow through the marsh and the planting of native wetland plants and shrubs, the NFWF marsh is now a thriving wetland teaming with wildlife. This photo (right) was taken in September 2006.

CASE STUDY

The White Faced Ibis Returns

Envision a native cattail / bulrush marsh, where water vapor is floating off the water's surface in the early spring morning, ducks are diving for food, herons stand motionlessly erect awaiting an opportune time to strike at their prey, and white-faced ibises, in the thousands, probe into the sediment with their curved beaks seeking insects. This is a thriving marsh that sustains a diversity of ducks, egrets, herons, white-faced ibises, black-necked stilts, greater yellowlegs and a variety of other waterfowl and shorebirds. In a few weeks many of the waterfowl and shorebirds will begin migration north to their breeding habitat; however, when they return they will have to seek another area to feed and find refuge for the winter.

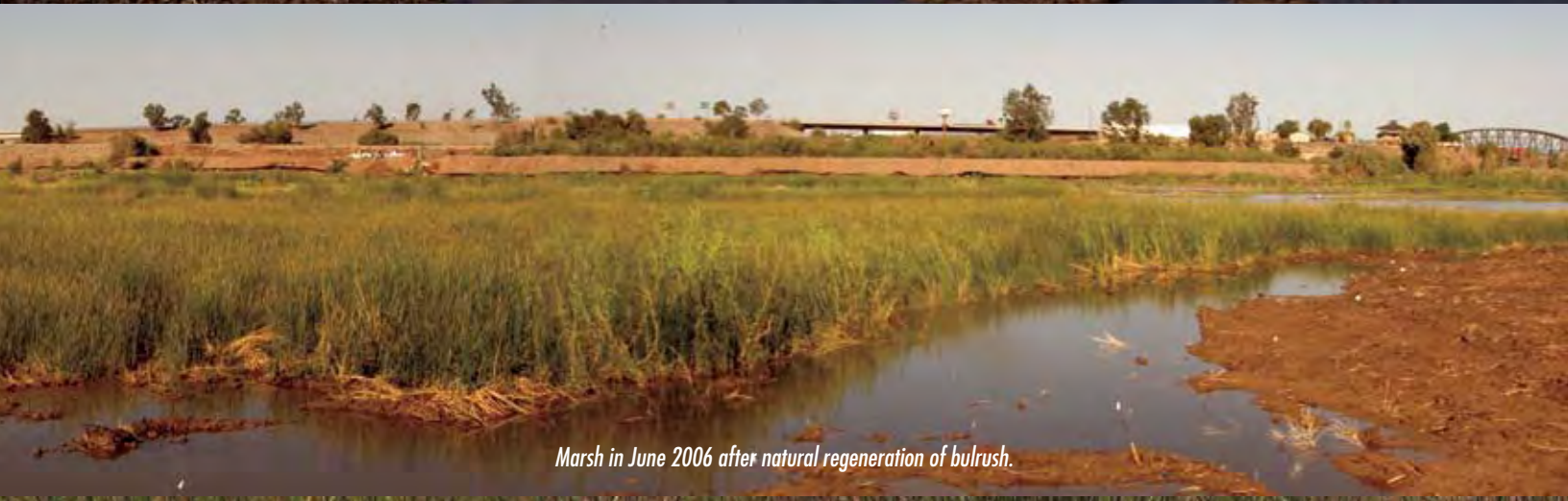
Due to lack of in stream flow, the marsh dried up in 2002. By 2003, the area became completely infested with dense non-native salt cedar. By 2004, these birds ceased to utilize the marsh.

In late 2005, a one-mile long backwater channel ("South Channel") was excavated through the dead marsh once named Ibis Lake. Because Ibis Lake is lower in elevation, the area quickly became inundated when the South Channel was connected to the Colorado River. With the return of fresh-flowing water, the native cattail / bulrush habitat naturally rebounded. Within one year, the recovery of the bird community was striking.

Post-restoration bird abundance during the breeding season is now two times greater than under degraded conditions. After only eight months, species richness is 1.6 times greater than pre-restoration conditions. Some of the most notable species observed feeding and finding refuge at the site include brown pelicans and groups of returning white-faced ibises, the site's flagship species. Great egrets, snowy egrets, least bitterns, killdeer, black-necked stilts, and greater yellowlegs have all returned and used the area for nesting, feeding and refuge. The recovering bird community at Ibis Lake is emblematic of the success of this monumental undertaking to restore environmental balance to the East Wetlands.

Ibis Lake Marsh in 2002 completely infested with salt cedar and no water flow.

Marsh after clearing in October 2005 with restored water flow.



Marsh in June 2006 after natural regeneration of bulrush.

Great egret family enjoying the newly restored Ibis Lake Marsh.

Groundbreaking Science

Restoration monitoring and research is fundamental to optimizing restoration techniques.

The East Wetlands Restoration Project has been a leader in developing innovative clearing, irrigation, and planting techniques, as well as designing experiments to conduct ground-breaking research for the burgeoning field of restoration ecology. The project integrates scientific rigor in all stages of a restoration project, including vegetation design, restoration techniques, and project success monitoring. The scientific research complements the conservation goals of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan. The research is helping to determine the optimal planting techniques for a successful restoration project; provide a template to initiate and adaptively manage a restoration project; establish future restoration goals; develop restoration practices to benefit plant growth and wildlife recovery; and determine if restored areas are mimicking native habitats and maximizing ecosystem resilience along the lower Colorado River.

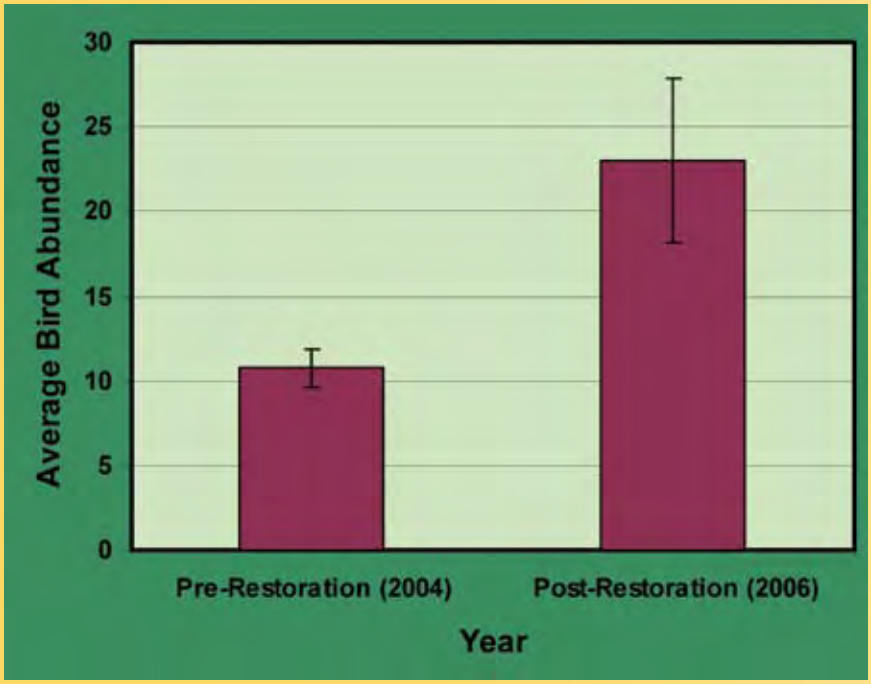
Biologists Heidi Kloeppel and Eric Krouse establish long-term monitoring transects.

Current scientific projects include:

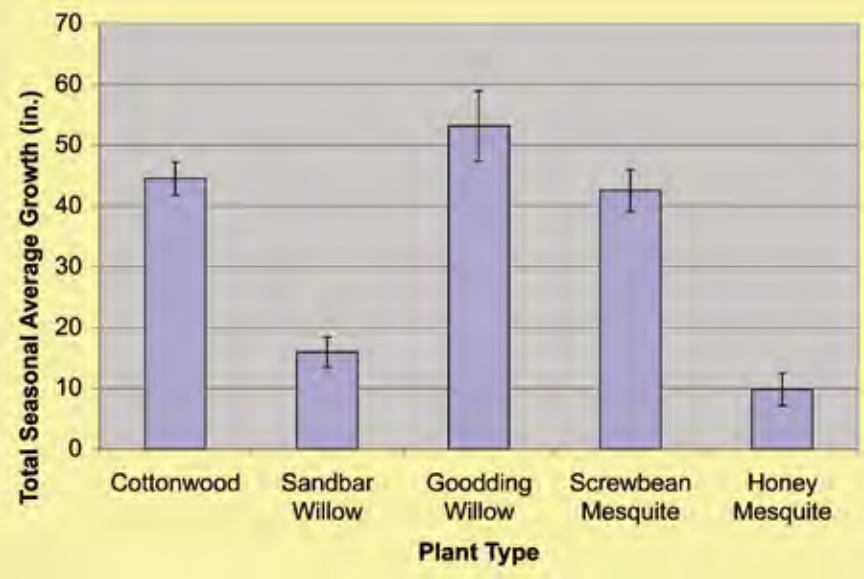
- Comparison of different bioengineering techniques to obtain optimal vegetation growth and survivorship in the environmental conditions present;
- Germination and growth experiments of different native, under-story seeds;
- On-going, long-term vegetation growth, condition, and cover monitoring;
- Soil salinity and depth-to-water analyses to determine environmental conditions;
- Endangered bird species population studies;
- Comparisons of bird community characteristics in native versus non-native plant-dominated habitats;
- Water-quality changes in constructed backwater channels.

Future scientific projects include:

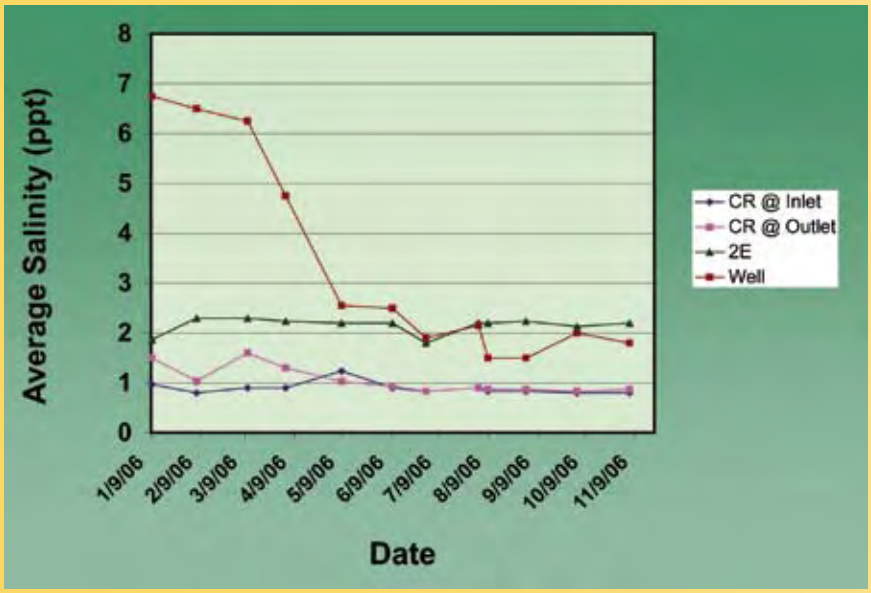
- Research on wildlife recovery in restored habitats compared to reference habitats;
- Measuring the change in wildlife community recovery over a 5-year period to provide a recovery trajectory;
- Bioengineering and growth experiments along the North Channel.



This chart shows the average bird abundance in 2004 (pre-restoration) versus 2006, one year after restoration. Bird surveys have been conducted since 2003 in eight different habitats.



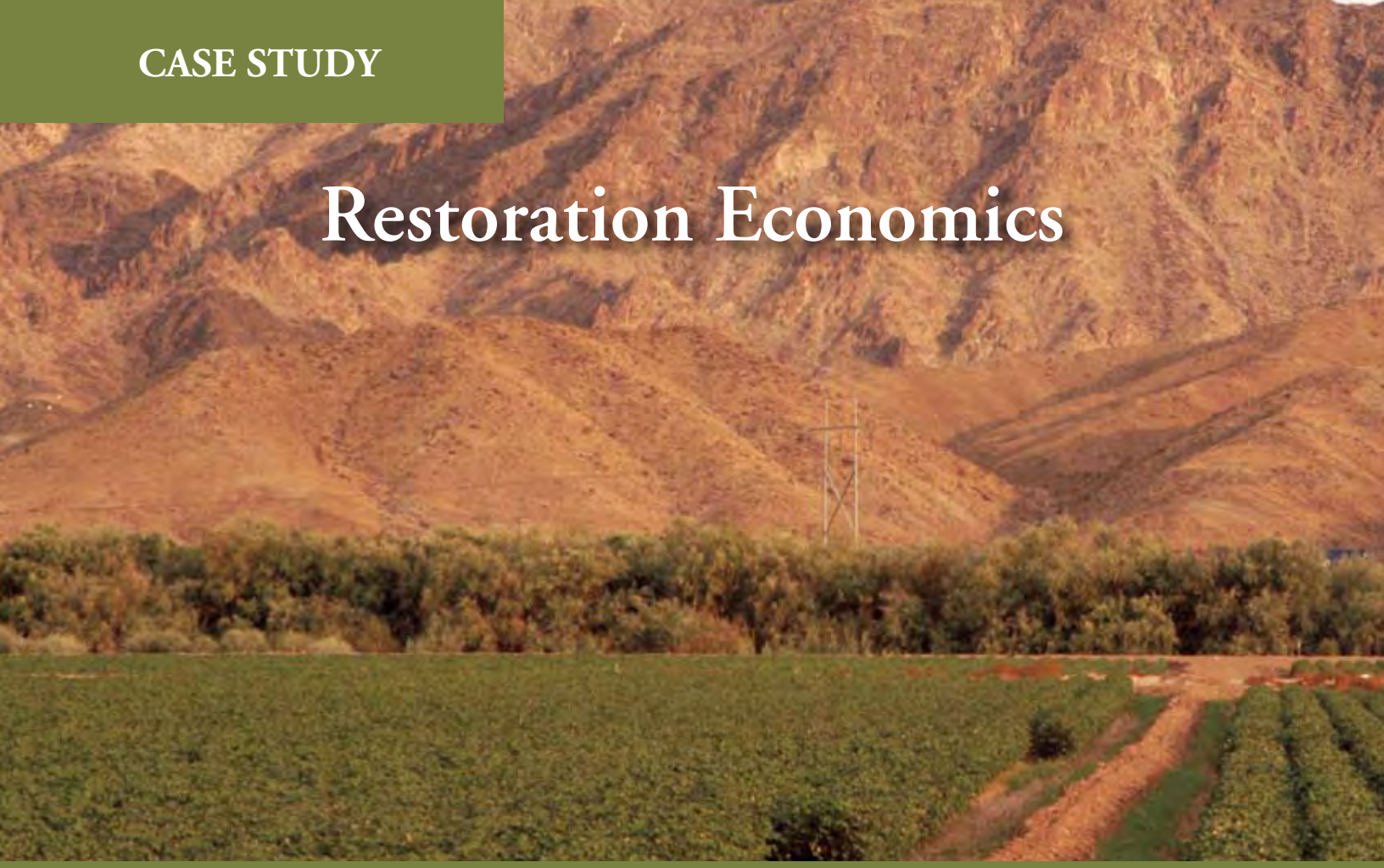
This chart shows the total seasonal growth of various tree species within the revegetation project. The design team is currently monitoring over eight different types of revegetation projects. Projects include experimentation with different planting, irrigation and weed-control scenarios.



This chart shows water-salinity data collected from the mainstream Colorado, the backwater channel, and the agricultural drain water that enters the channel. Salinity is one of the major limiting factors in establishing native riparian habitat.

CASE STUDY

Restoration Economics



Aaron Livas, a Quechan Tribal member, works part time on the project during the winter. He enjoys being a part of preserving his homeland and culture. Sergio Valenzuela, a legal immigrant, wakes up at 3:00 a.m. to wait in line to cross the border in order to make it to work on time. Sergio believes in his work of planting trees and taking care of the wetland habitats. Clair Nash, a Yuma native and Arizona Western College student who works on the wetland project, assists with soil surveys and writing articles for the college newspaper about restoring the river.

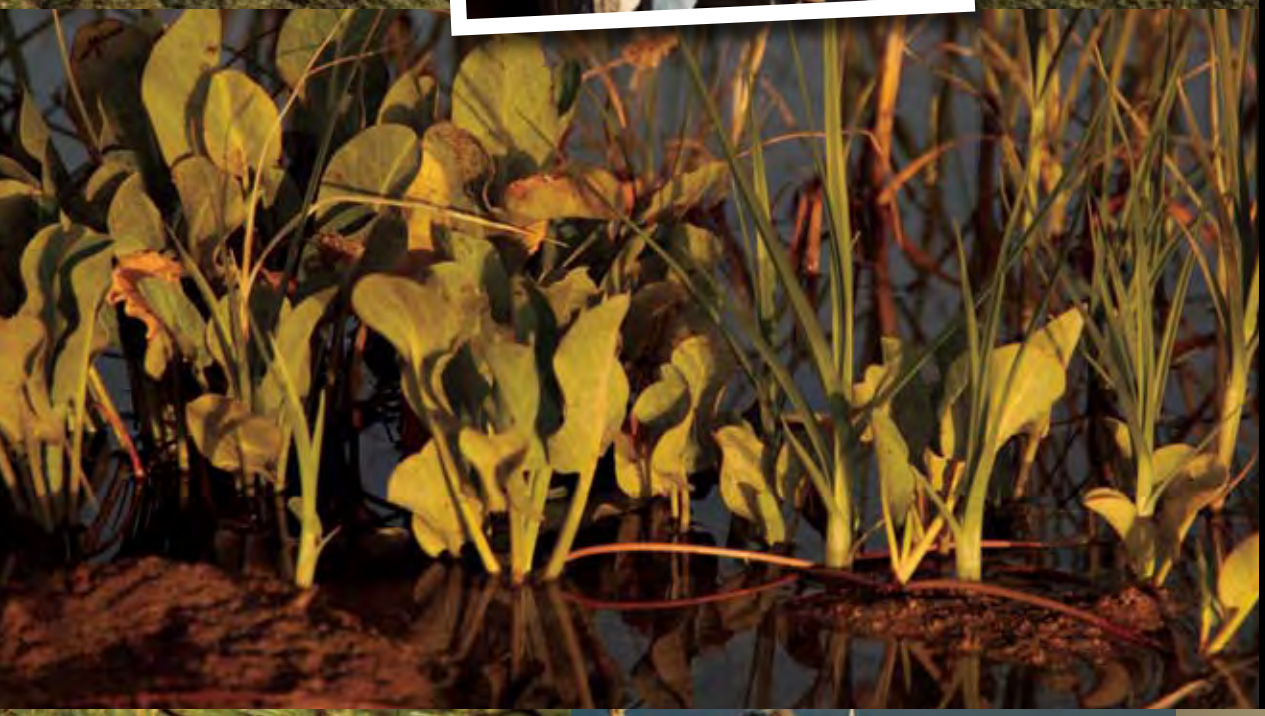
Local farmer and East Wetlands landowner Bill Ogram is already in the process of growing willow poles to be purchased by the project. The local farming community has been instrumental in providing expertise on how to grow seed and plants for resale as well as brainstorming ideas to optimize restoration techniques.

JSA Inc, a 30-year-old local landscaping company, previously had specialized in commercial landscaping and golf courses. After receiving several Yuma East Wetlands revegetation contracts through the competitive bid process, JSA is now creating an entire new division within the company that specializes in native revegetation efforts on the Colorado River.

The Yuma East Wetlands has provided more than six million dollars to the local Yuma area economy. Local agencies, laborers, farmers, contractors, consultants and suppliers benefit from the jobs and purchasing created by the project. They also enjoy being a part of restoring and protecting their most precious resource, the Colorado River.

In the years to come, the project will provide permanent and part-time jobs for the management, maintenance and programming staff needed to sustain the project. However, of even greater significance, the local expertise gained through this project also gives Yuma a competitive advantage as the business of restoration ecology becomes a $500-million industry along the lower Colorado River over the next few decades.

The Yuma Wetlands provided part- and full-time jobs for more than 100 people over the past six years.



Yerba Manza (left) is a highly valued medicinal plant. The roots sell for $4 an ounce and the leaves are worth $130 a pound.

Honey Mesquite (below left) sells for $14 a pound.

Willow and cottonwood cuttings (below center) are worth 50 cents to $2 apiece.

Native seeds are another rapidly emerging market. Bulrush seeds (below right) sell for over $70 a pound.

Education and Recreation

Learning and fun along the riverfront.

On a site tour with the project designers, Lorey Cachora, a Quechan Elder, explains how the mesquite was used for cradle boards and provided a staple food source for the Quechan people. Grant Rodney, from Yuma Parks and Recreation, tells local youth about plants and birds while on a canoe trip through the wetlands. While touring the site, restoration practitioners John Taylor and Fred Phillips explain to Senator Jon Kyl how the newly excavated South Channel is what used to be the historic confluence of the Gila and Colorado rivers. Eric Krouse, a biologist, and John Makewa, of Tewa Hopi Tribe show local college students how to transplant native salt grass from one area to another.

These are just a few examples of the various interpretive activities in the Yuma East wetlands: an outdoor classroom to teach community members, students and even other tribes and agencies about the processes of planning, implementing and monitoring a large-scale river restoration project.

Only three years ago, virtually no one utilized the area for recreation. Today you see local folks enjoying the wetlands on a daily basis. Whether it's watching the flocks of various birds in the early dawn hours, fishing for trophy-size bass, walking the family dog or enjoying a family picnic the area is once again being prized for its beauty and splendor.

New recreational opportunities and facilities are planned, including hiking and birding trails, two nature parks, a small boat launch and interpretive signage. This area will be cherished for generations by young and old.

Local parks and recreation departments are vital partners in the East Wetlands.

Yuma historian Tina Clark gives college students a local history lesson. Students camped out and worked on conservation projects for two days.

The Quechan Nature Park design includes interpretive facilities, an outdoor amphitheater, swimming beach, native plant gardens, traditional village and a playground. This park will act as a staging ground for Yuma East Wetland activities and tribal events.

The Quechan Elders enjoying a picnic lunch along the newly restored channel.

Grant Rodney, City Of Yuma Parks and Recreation, in transit to guide another canoe trip through the wetlands.

Youth Cultural Festival

For the last five years the Quechan Indian Tribe, the City of Yuma, and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area have opened their doors to host the annual Youth Cultural Festival. Since its beginning there have been more than fifteen countries and ten Indian tribes represented at the festival. Children, students and adults gather from regional tribes, universities and colleges, and the Yuma and Quechan communities to learn about the importance of restoring the Colorado River. Participants donate their sweat in volunteer conservation projects in the wetlands, and share culture, art and music. At the 2006 Festival alone, over 400 hours of volunteer work time was donated by 80 participants. Volunteers worked hard planting trees and native grasses, weeding the exotic species and cleaning up trash. The day culminates with a feast and a variety of entertainment provided by the Quechan Tribe.

It is important to remember that restoration of the river is also about bringing people and cultures together. To emphasize this, one year the festival entertainment included three Indian rock bands, Quechan and Cocopah traditional bird singing, the Yard Dogs Vaudeville Show, Thunderbird, Ki Aikido demonstrations, a Buddhist monk, a Hindu singer, a Chinese country singer and other acts. Many people return to the festival to witness the fruit of their labor. One young participant attended the festival in 2002, and upon returning in 2006, was amazed to see that the 1,000 two-foot tall trees she helped plant three years earlier had grown into a forest of thirty-foot tall trees. Hopefully this festival will become part of the East Wetlands legacy for many years to come.

Hollywood Actor and musician Floyd Red Crow Westerman perform with Keith Secolas "Wild Band" at the 2006 Youth Cultural Festival. A community dinner and entertainment are a reward for a hard days work by volunteers.

The Road Ahead

How do we meet our future challenges?

We are proud of having restored more than 200 acres. But hiking the entire 1,418 acre project area is still a daunting experience. As you approach an uncleared area, you are confronted with dense twenty-foot high exotic reed and salt cedar, strewn with trash, barren of wildlife, and as flammable as a tinderbox. Even the areas that have been restored require some ongoing weeding and patrolling. And we need to expand our outreach and education efforts to engage Yuma visitors and residents alike.

So we face several challenges. We must secure approximately $10 million to complete restoration over the next five to seven years, while continuing our methodical approach to data gathering and scientific research. Our success in garnering federal and state grants, along with the steadfast support of Arizona's Congressional delegation, has been the foundation of our funding strategy, and will continue to be so.

Quechan Elders discuss plans for the next phase of the project.

We also must work to develop a funding mechanism to maintain the Yuma East Wetlands in perpetuity. The restoration effort is monumental, but in five to seven years, we must be in a position to maintain the wetlands. That means some maintenance and weeding. It means some form of ranger system to patrol the area and coordinate with city, Quechan and county law enforcement. It means educational and recreational programming that will promote wise use and enjoyment of the East Wetlands. We are committed to work with our partners to develop a funding mechanism that includes a private foundation endowment as well as contributions from the many partners.

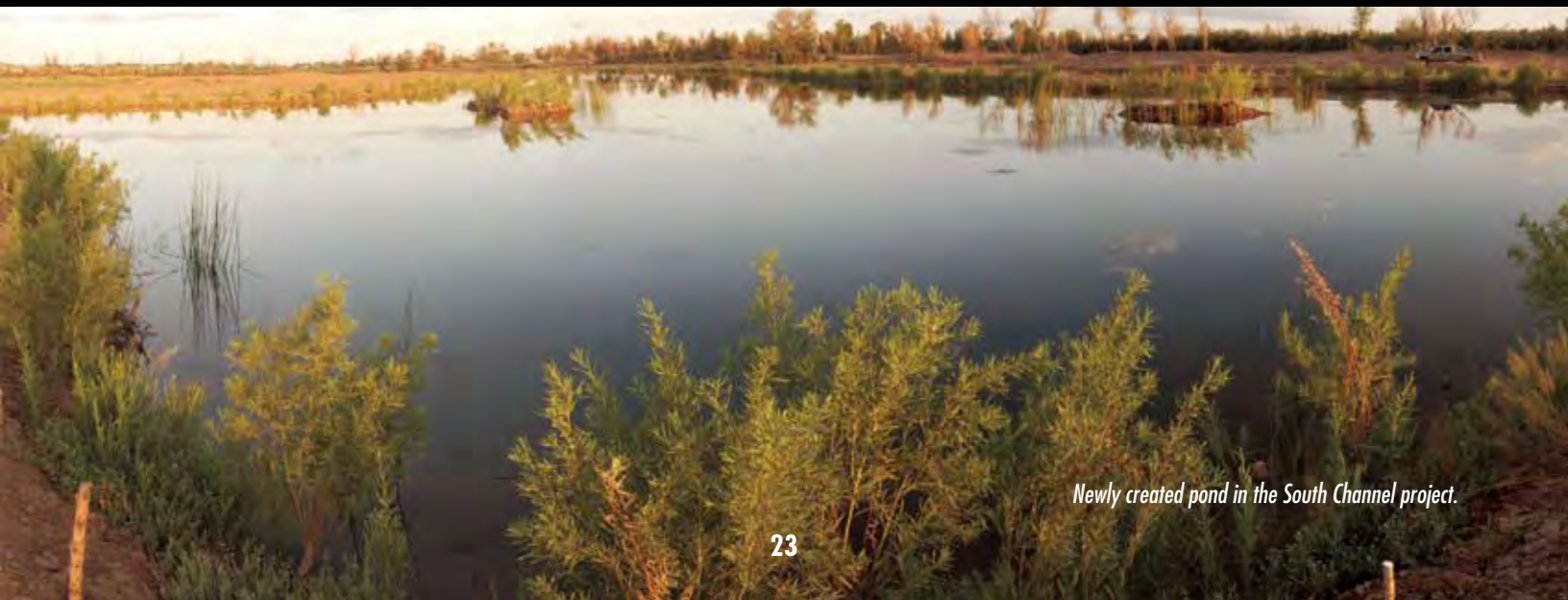
Governor Janet Napolitano and project consultant Fred Phillips explore the wetlands.

Our continued success will be based on what we have done from the very beginning: living within the existing constraints of the Colorado River and respecting the rights and concerns of the partners who are the strength of the Yuma East Wetlands.

Nighttime at Hoover Dam.

It will take adaptive management to balance water demand and preserve the environment on the Lower Colorado River.

Groundwater pumped from nearby agricultural fields has greatly assisted in the restoration of the Yuma East Wetlands.



Newly created pond in the South Channel project.

From a forgotten wasteland

Yuma East Wetlands South Channel, May 2005

Acknowledgements

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE YUMA EAST WETLANDS SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS, PARTICIPANTS and CONTRACTORS

QUECHAN INDIAN TRIBE
CITY OF YUMA
YUMA CROSSING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
and its BOARD OF DIRECTORS
U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT
SONORAN JOINT VENTURE
ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
YUMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE
CAL STATE LOS ANGELES
UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS
NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVSERITY
U.S. BORDER PATROL
DON McCAIN
YUMA COUNTY
BILL OGRAM
HEADSTREAM FAMILY
McVEY FAMILY
FRED PHILLIPS CONSULTING, LLC

...to a thriving wetland.

Yuma East Wetlands South Channel, May 2006

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DOWNRIVER PRODUCTIONS
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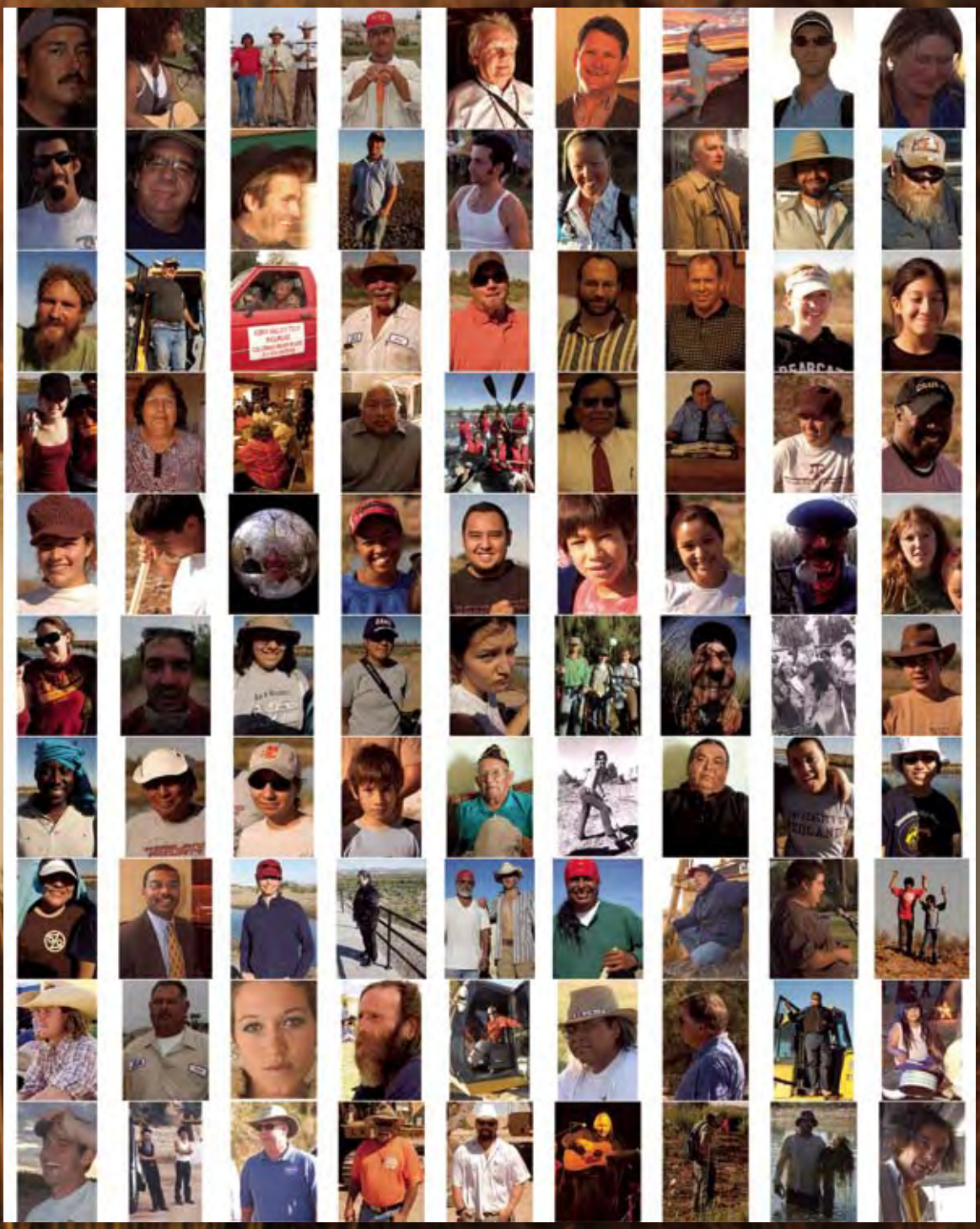
NATURAL CHANNEL DESIGN
AU-AUTHUM KI, INC.
WATER TECH AG SUPPLY
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

YUMA CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION
YUMA ROD AND GUN CLUB
MATTHEW SPRIGGS
KEVIN EATHERLY
HERB GUENTHER
THE YARD DOGS ROAD SHOW
KEITH SECOLA AND THE WILD JAVALINAS

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO SENATOR JON KYL, SENATOR JOHN McCAIN, CONGRESSMAN ED PASTOR AND CONGRESSMAN RAUL GRIJALVA. WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT, THE YUMA EAST WETLANDS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

AND THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF THE YUMA COMMUNITY.