



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
February 17, 2011

### **MARCH 2 PUBLIC MEETING IN YUMA TO DISCUSS HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER**

Federal habitat restoration projects along the lower Colorado River will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens Forum (CRCF). The CRCF was established by the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to facilitate the exchange of information between the community and the Commission about USIBWC activities and related projects in the region. The meeting will take place Wednesday, March 2, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. MST at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Yuma Desalting Plant, 7301 Calle Agua Salada in Yuma, Arizona.

Mitch Ellis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Complex Manager for the Southwest Arizona National Wildlife Refuge Complex, will give a presentation about habitat restoration activities currently underway at the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, located near Blythe, California. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and other partners in conjunction with the Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) are actively restoring wetlands and forests to provide habitat for native wildlife. The presentation will also touch briefly on projects currently underway that are restoring habitat damaged by recent wildfires on the Refuge. Some of the projects to be discussed include: the Hart Mine Marsh Restoration Project, a component of the MSCP to develop marsh habitat for endangered Yuma clapper rails; the Farm Unit 1 project, another MSCP project that is converting retired agricultural fields to riparian habitat for cuckoos and other songbirds; the Island Fire rehabilitation project, which is restoring a mesquite bosque lost to fire in 2009; and the ongoing Cibola fire restoration efforts.

In another presentation, Erica Faulkner, Fire Ecologist with the Bureau of Land Management's Colorado River District, will explain the Laguna Burned Area Rehabilitation Project, which started as a result of the 140-acre Laguna wildfire in 2008. The fire destroyed

valuable marsh and riparian habitat while also causing the emergency evacuation of Hidden Shores RV Park and closure of SR-24 in California. Prior to planting, the native seed was allowed to germinate, invasive species were cleared, and holes were drilled in preparation for planting native species vegetation. In January 2011, volunteers planted 8,500 locally-grown mesquite trees and 5,000 lower Colorado River cottonwood and willow poles. Major partners for this project include the Arizona State Forestry Division, Arizona Western College, and the MSCP.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC's Yuma Office at 928-782-1598 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at 915-832-4175 or [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).

For more information:

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**COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS FORUM**  
**Wednesday, March 2, 2011**  
**4:00 - 6:00 P.M. MST**  
**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Desalting Plant**  
**7301 Calle Agua Salada**  
**Yuma, AZ 85364**

**AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions – Anna Morales, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, Habitat Restoration in Partnership with the Multi-Species Conservation Program - Mitch Ellis, Complex Manager, Southwest Arizona National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Laguna Burned Area Rehabilitation Project – Erica Faulkner, Fire Ecologist, Colorado River District, Bureau of Land Management
- Public Comment
- Suggested Future Agenda Items
- Board Discussion

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 928-782-1598 or e-mail [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).