

Appendix E

FY 2005 Border Project

BLM—Yuma Field Office

Project Name: Yuma Border Restoration

Unit Name: Lower Colorado River

Date of Project: February 25 to September 30, 2005

Location: Township: 16 South, Range: 22 East, Section: 28 (within). San Bernadino Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona.

Participants: David Repass, Fred Wong, Jennifer Green, Kim Klementowski, Joseph Colton, Michael Dobyns, Youth Corps of Southern Arizona,

Project Coordinator(s): Ron Morfin, Fred Wong, David Repass, Mike Behrens

The project consisted of restoring native trees in a burned area associated with border smuggling activities in an area spread over approximately 8 acres. Prior to planting the site was prepped by the removal of dead and non-native vegetation. A crew of 10 from the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona assisted Yuma BLM staff from March 6 to 17, 2005 with the planting of 175 cottonwood and willow trees from sprouted pole stock along with 880 potted mesquite trees. Wire cages were constructed around each tree for protection from beavers and rabbits.

A temporary irrigation system was established to allow the planted trees to develop to a size where they would survive without watering. A volunteer was recruited to assist BLM staff with watering for a 3-month period over the hottest part of the year. Equipment and materials were purchased for the irrigation system and protective wire cages.

Additional equipment purchases included a chipper to treat dead material that poses a risk for the restoration that has been accomplished. Radios were also acquired to address security concerns for a survey project being conducted to identify wildlife management areas that have been impacted by illegal border activities.

Results:

There was a 50% survival rate for the tree pole plantings. The average survival rate for tree pole plantings is 5-10%. As a result of the success rate for the pole stock, this project will be used as a model to formulate site selection criteria for future restoration projects. The survival rate for potted tree stock was approximately 20%. A contributing factor to the survival rate of the potted stock was browsing by rabbits before the protective cages could be installed.



Before



During



During



After