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**Arizona Game and Fish Department****Bureau of Reclamation****NEWS RELEASE**

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**Open house to discuss proposed management strategy  
for new wildlife area in the Cibola Valley**  
*Project to restore 1300-acre site back to native riparian habitat*

PHOENIX — The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Bureau of Reclamation will host a public open house from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 2, to discuss the draft cooperative management plan for restoring native riparian habitat in the newly acquired wildlife area in the Cibola Valley.

The open house will be held at the main office of the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Cibola, Ariz., which is about 90 miles north of Yuma and 25 miles south of Blythe, Calif.

The presentation will begin at 6 p.m. with a brief PowerPoint of the plan, project history and management objectives. Following the presentation, representatives from both agencies will be on site to answer questions to close out the meeting.

“This wildlife area will play a significant role in the even-larger Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program,” says Troy Smith, habitat specialist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. “The first week in September is a great time to share this with the public, as we typically have a lot of visitors in our region at that time.”

The Bureau of Reclamation is the implementing agency for the multi-stakeholder Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP), a 50-year effort to conserve threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife and habitats native to the lower Colorado River.

Smith adds, “Key proposed enhancements for the wildlife area are to replace existing agricultural fields with native riparian cottonwood, willow, and mesquite land cover types which would be managed as habitat for LCR MSCP-covered species and other wildlife.”

Native riparian habitats along the lower Colorado River will provide critical feeding, cover, and nesting resources for many avian species, including federally- and state-listed and sensitive species, neotropical migrants, raptors and game birds, as well as important habitat components for mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

To learn more about the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, visit [www.lcrmscp.gov](http://www.lcrmscp.gov).

Directions:

From **Blythe**, go approximately three miles west on I-10 to Neighbours Boulevard, exit 78. Go south on Neighbours for 12 miles to the Cibola Bridge. After crossing the bridge, continue south for 3.5 miles to the refuge headquarters. For more information call the refuge at (928) 857-3253 or visit [www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/CibolaNWR](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/CibolaNWR).

From **Yuma**, go approximately 10 miles west on I-8 to Ogilby Road, exit 159. Go north on Ogilby for approximately 30 miles to route 78 and go north (right) for approximately 31 miles to 35<sup>th</sup> Ave., go east (right) follow to Neighbours Boulevard, go south to Cibola Bridge. After crossing the bridge, head south for 3.5 miles to the refuge headquarters. For more information call the refuge at (928) 857-3253 or visit [www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/CibolaNWR](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/CibolaNWR).

If you have questions, please contact Troy Smith [trsmith@azgfd.gov](mailto:trsmith@azgfd.gov).

A PDF map of the wildlife area can be downloaded from the Department's web site at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)

-30-

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