

## Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

*Terry Murphy*

*Presented by: Jimmy Knowles*

US Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Basin Region, Boulder City, NV, USA

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP) is a multi-stakeholder federal and non-federal partnership responding to the need to balance the use of lower Colorado River water resources and the conservation of native species and their habitats in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The LCRMSCP is a 50-year program to conserve at least twenty-seven covered species along the lower Colorado River, from Lake Mead to the Southerly International Boundary with Mexico, through the implementation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

The Bureau of Reclamation began implementation of the HCP in October 2005. Initial efforts concentrated on continuing ongoing research and monitoring programs for covered fish, wildlife, and habitat; developing new research and monitoring programs; planning and initiating several large-scale habitat creation projects; and establishing procedures necessary for implementation of the LCRMSCP, including the development of a science strategy to ensure that implementation of the conservation measures outlined in the HCP is based on scientific information, methods, principles, and standards in a transparent manner.

Species research, system monitoring, and post-development monitoring are being conducted on covered and evaluation species and their habitats. Single and multi-species monitoring protocols have been established. Species and vegetation monitoring is conducted on habitat creation sites to determine if goals and objectives are being met for each habitat creation site. Traditional restoration methods and approaches have been modified to function in a highly managed riverine system. Pilot scale restoration projects have led to full scale implementation. Results are presented in annual accomplishment reports and posted on the LCR MSCP Website at [www.lcrmscp.gov](http://www.lcrmscp.gov).

Contact Information: Jimmy Knowles, US Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Basin Region, Boulder City, NV 89005, Phone: 702-293-8555, Email: [jknowles@usbr.gov](mailto:jknowles@usbr.gov)