



EasyGrantsID: 54750

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Pulling Together Initiative 2016, Pre-Proposal

Title: Establish and Develop the Lower Colorado River CWMA

Organization: National Park Service Lake Mead NRA

Grant Request Information

Title of Project	Establish and Develop the Lower Colorado River CWMA
Project Description	The funding provided for this project will initiate the establishment of a Lower Colorado River Cooperative Weed Management Area. This project will help restore and maintain native vegetation from Hoover Dam to Yuma, Arizona approximately 250 river corridor miles.
Abstract	<p>There is a dramatic need to develop a CWMA for the Lower Colorado River. Many of the critical partners have already been coordinating together for decades related to water operations and the Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Plan/Program. The timing and need for this CWMA has never been greater due to the advancement of the tamarisk beetle biological control entering portions of the drainage. Currently tamarisk (salt cedar) dominates most of the riparian corridor throughout the drainage and its critical to prevent other weeds from establishing in beetle suppressed tamarisk forests to allow and promote desirable native plants to establish. The project will compile existing data and conduct some preliminary surveys to determine the current and potential (EDRR) weed species of concern. Deliverables will include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by willing project partners. Anticipated partners include federal, state and local agencies/governments, tribal entities, private landowners, ranchers, farmers, irrigation districts, NGO's and others interested. Community outreach, public and partner awareness will be an important goal. A list of priority plant species of concern will be developed with the anticipation of focusing on early detection rapid response (EDRR) scenarios. Partner information/data will be exchanged and sharing of all resources will occur.</p>
Project Location Description	The Lower Colorado River corridor and immediate surrounding watershed from Hoover Dam to the Mexican Border. Including the states of Nevada, Arizona and California. Terrestrial, riparian and aquatic invasive plant species will be included.
Total Amount Requested	\$25,000.00
Matching Contributions Proposed	\$30,000.00
Proposed Grant Period	01/16/2017 - 07/31/2018
Organization	National Park Service Lake Mead NRA
Organization Type	Federal Government
City, State, Country	„
Primary Contact	Curt Deuser
Position/Title	
Phone and E-mail	702-293-8979 Ext: ; curt_deuser@nps.gov



NFWF

EasyGrantsID: 54750

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Pulling Together Initiative 2016, Pre-Proposal

Title: Establish and Develop the Lower Colorado River CWMA

Organization: National Park Service Lake Mead NRA

Additional Contacts

Role	Name



NFWF

EasyGrantsID: 54750

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Pulling Together Initiative 2016, Pre-Proposal

Title: Establish and Develop the Lower Colorado River CWMA

Organization: National Park Service Lake Mead NRA

Matching Contributions

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$10,000.00
Type:	Cash
Status:	Intend to Apply
Source:	Tamarisk Coalition
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	The Tamarisk Coalition has stated through and email correspondence that this could qualify for their Restore Our Rivers campaign.

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$20,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Intend to Apply
Source:	Non federal participants labor and travel time
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	There will be many non-federal state, local and private partners who will participate in the establishment of this CWMA

Total Amount of Matching Contributions	\$30,000.00
---	-------------



NFWF

EasyGrantsID: 54750

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Pulling Together Initiative 2016, Pre-Proposal

Title: Establish and Develop the Lower Colorado River CWMA

Organization: National Park Service Lake Mead NRA

The following pages contain the uploaded documents, in the order shown below, as provided by the applicant:

Upload Type	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
Pre-proposal Narrative	NFWFPre-proposalLower ColoradoRiverCWMAe.doc	Deuser, Curt	08/03/2016
Project Map	LowerColorado_CWMA.jpg	Deuser, Curt	08/03/2016
Project Map	LowerColorado_CWMA.pdf	Deuser, Curt	08/03/2016

The following uploads do not have the same headers and footers as the previous sections of this document in order to preserve the integrity of the actual files uploaded.



Pre-proposal Project Narrative

Writing Instructions: Please provide a two-page narrative that describes project outcome(s); how progress will be measured; the strategy (activities) for achieving project outcomes, including the status of their planning and implementation; and how that strategy is appropriate for addressing priority conservation needs in the specific project location.

Establishment of the Lower Colorado River CWMA

The primary outcome is to create a cooperative of partners working and communicating together to prevent, control and reduce the spread of noxious and invasive weeds to improve habitats for wildlife and land production along the Lower Colorado River drainage. Another outcome is to effectively manage weeds across jurisdictional boundaries before they become so widespread that they cause deleterious effects inhibiting desired land management objectives. Additional outcomes will be to produce a self-sustaining cooperative that will maintain capacity, expertise and funding from a variety of sources throughout the river corridor.

The funding provided for this project will initiate the establishment of a Lower Colorado River Cooperative Weed Management Area. The proposed geographic boundary will be from Hoover Dam to Yuma, Arizona approximately 250 river corridor miles including the states of Nevada, Arizona and California. Deliverables associated with this project include the administrative establishment of the cooperative including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) voluntarily approved by willing project partners. Anticipated partners include federal, state and local agencies/governments, tribal entities, private landowners, ranchers, farmers, irrigation districts, NGO's and others interested. Community outreach, public and partner awareness will be an important goal. A list of priority plant species of concern will be developed with the anticipation of focusing on early detection rapid response (EDRR) scenarios. Partner information/data will be exchanged and sharing of all types of resources will occur.

There is a dramatic need to develop a CWMA for the Lower Colorado River. Many of the critical partners have already been coordinating together for decades related to water operations and the Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Plan/Program led by the Bureau of Reclamation. We plan to parlay many of these working group efforts and take advantage of the opportunity to maximize involvement since many of the key players and organizations are already at the table in other forums. The timing and need for this CWMA has never been greater due to the advancement of the tamarisk beetle (biological control agent) and its recent establishment in portions of the drainage. Currently tamarisk (salt cedar) dominates most of the riparian corridor throughout the drainage and its important to prevent other weeds from establishing in beetle suppressed tamarisk forests to allow and promote desirable native plants to establish. We will compile existing data and information from partners to determine the current and potential (EDRR) weed species of concern.

There are many wildlife species including some threatened and endangered that should benefit from the project efforts such as the yellow billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher, razorback sucker and bonytail chub.

The plan will be to have multiple foundation meetings within the first year with partners in locations that represent the geographic scope of the CWMA. Meeting locations will likely include Laughlin, NV; Blythe, CA; and Yuma, AZ. To maximize participation, efficiency, and networking capacity the meetings will coincide with other working group meetings that occur on a regular basis along the river. By the start of the second year of this project a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be finalized with initial willing partners approvals on the signature page.

A list of priority invasive terrestrial and aquatic plant species and best management practices will be developed by the CWMA during the first year of the project. This information will be used to determine prevention protocols and decontamination procedures to stop the spread and isolate the weeds while control is being implemented.

The capacity to get things done on the ground exists. There are many restoration and weed control implementation projects that are actively occurring throughout the river corridor. An example of capacity is the partnership of the Lake Mead Exotic Plant Management Team working with the USFWS Arizona Invasive Strike Team to control fountain grass along portions of the river. This long term partnership has dramatically reduced fountain grass on Lake Mohave, Lake Havasu and the Bill Williams River. The establishment of the CWMA will expand and build upon these successes into places where fountain grass is beginning to establish elsewhere in the river corridor. There are also long term agreements in place with the Bureau of Reclamation and the NPS EPMT for weed control .

To add to the urgency, buffel grass was recently detected at the Laughlin Heritage Greenway Trail along the river and control has been implemented but we need more awareness and surveys throughout the river corridor that would be accomplished by this CWMA. In addition aquatic invasive plant species water hyacinth and water lettuce have recently been detected by the USFWS at Ferguson Lake.

Potential for successful launch of this CWMA is very high since most of the potential partners are already at the table working together in different capacities. Potential partners include Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, USFWS Refuges, National Park Service, The Tamarisk Coalition, State Department of Agriculture and Wildlife agencies of AZ, NV and CA, Southern Nevada Water Authority, The Colorado River Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, multiple agricultural irrigation districts, marinas, farmers, ranchers, and private landowners to name a few.

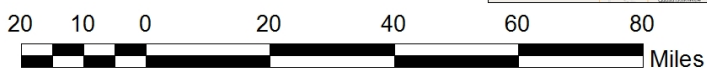
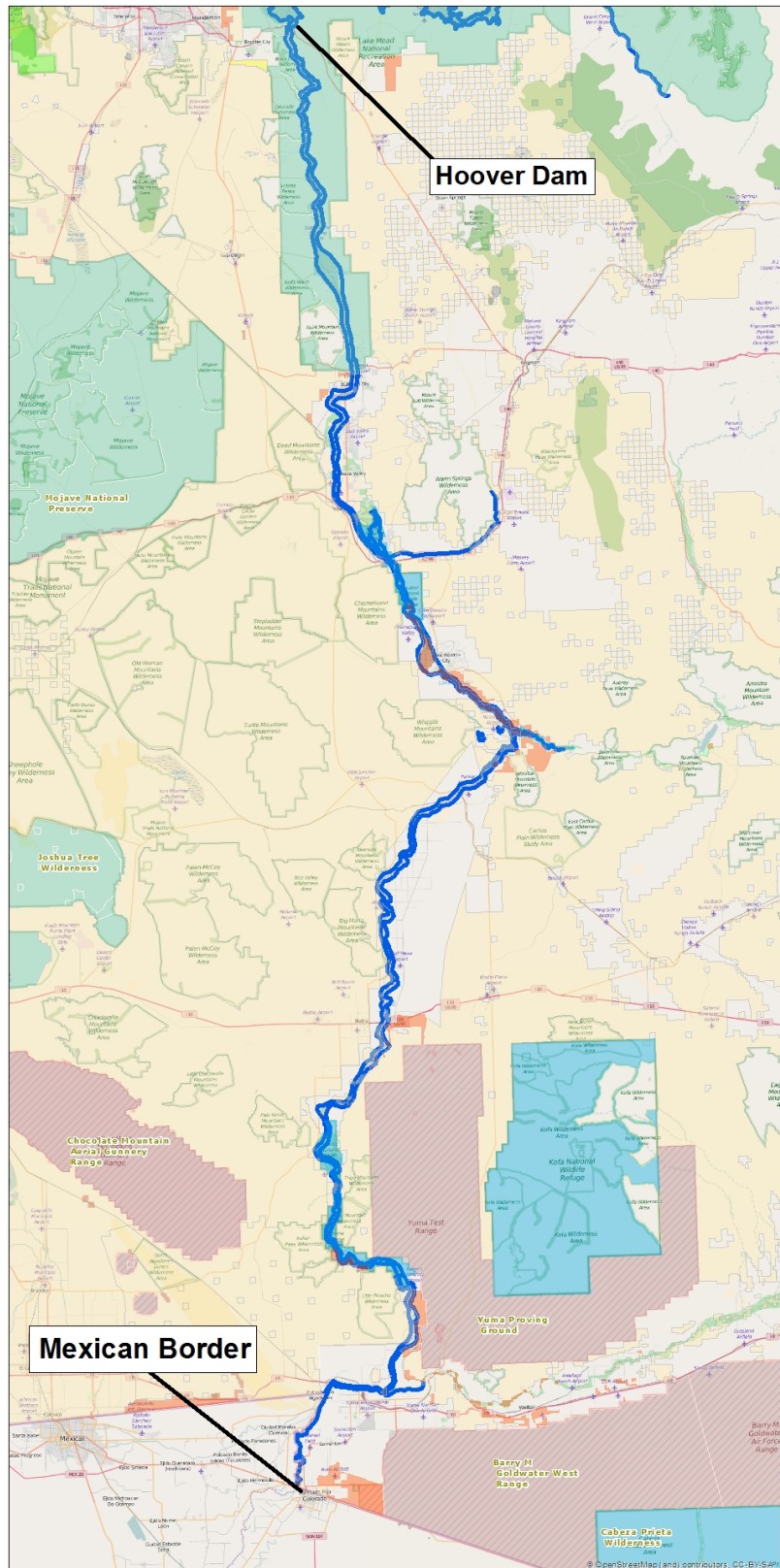
Curt Deuser with the Lake Mead EPMT has 25 year experience working in the watershed and has an extensive network in the region and can assist with providing technical expertise in managing weeds. Betsy Macfarlan, Executive Director of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (non- profit group) has agreed to be the fiduciary manager, administrative coordinator and partner for this project. She has an excellent history and experience with the successful development and management of multiple CWMA's. There is a lot of technical capacity within the area to succeed as well including the USFWS Arizona Invasive Strike Team based in Yuma that supports several refuges along the river and also the NPS Lake Mead EPMT which has well establish partnerships with multiple agencies along the river.

Lower Colorado River Overview: Hoover Dam to Mexican Border

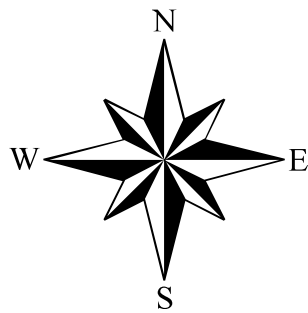


Legend

- Other Agencies
- Forest Service
- Department of Defense
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Lower Colorado River



Lower Colorado River Overview: Hoover Dam to Mexican Border



Legend

- Other Agencies
- Forest Service
- Department of Defense
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Lower Colorado River

