PARIA BEACH RIPARIAN RESTORATION IN GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, LEES FERRY, ARIZONA

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GLEN CANYON NRA AND GRAND CANYON WILDLANDS COUNCIL, INC.
Launched: 1 March 1996
Mission: Safe havens and safe passages for all the Grand Canyon region's native wild creatures
Staff: Kelly Burke (ED), Larry Stevens (Ecologist), Brian Stultz (Environmental Coordinator)

GCWC Projects:
• Ecological inventory and assessment
• Agency advisement
• Landscape and species conservation and rehabilitation
• Educational outreach
The Paria Beach is one of the most intensively visited recreation sites downstream from Glen Canyon Dam, but with the advent of the tamarisk leaf beetle, it is now covered with dead and dying tamarisk.

Building on several previous riparian restoration projects, and working with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, GCWC requested and received support from the Arizona Water Protection Fund to rehabilitate the 4 ac riparian zone of Paria Beach in 2020-2023.
THE PARIA BEACH

Problem: Tamarisk dominance “solved” by introduction of *Diorhabda* leaf beetles, decimating tamarisk but no recovery of native phreatophyes or habitat.

Result: Degradation of headwater and higher stream order riparian wildlife habitat, function, visitor experience.

Solution: Riparian restoration/rehabilitation, likely permanent improvements in site- and river corridor habitat through enhanced habitat, native seed production, visitor experience
AWPF-Funded
GCWC and Fred Philli
Lees Ferry Riparian Resto
2001 - 2012

Methods
10 ac (4 ha), easy access
Mechanical tamarisk removal
Irrigation system installation
Revegetation with native species
Monitoring

Results
Native vegetation cover, 5 yr
Avian diversity rebounded >2 yr
Use of landscape by wildlife
Recreational use for camping

Fig. 2.2: Lees Ferry pilot rehabilitation site. A – Pre-treatment, 2001; B – Post Treatment, 2002; C – native phreatophyte growth in 2011.

AWPF-funded GLCA Hidden Slough (-6.5R) Riparian Restoration: 7 acre, remote site, 2008-2017
GLCA “Lunch Beach” (-7 L) Rehabilitation by Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Staff

**Timeframe**: 2018-2020

**Area**: 1 ha (2.5 ac)

**Tasks**: 1) Planning  
2) Compliance  
3) Volunteer-based removal of tamarisk  
4) Providing firewood to public  
5) Replanting/reseeding  
6) Monitoring
PARIA BEACH REHABILITATION GOALS AND TASKS

Goals

Goal 1: Further the GCWC mission through active collaboration with land management agencies
Goal 2: Restore natural shoreline configuration, native riparian vegetation, and natural habitats along the Colorado River
Goal 3: Conduct restoration activities in a fashion fully consistent with the NPS mission, and in accord with NPS management policies, practices, and public education.

Tasks

Task 1: Obtain permits, authorizations, clearances and agreements
Task 2: Compilation and assessment of background information
Task 3: Develop restoration, maintenance, monitoring plans
Task 4: Monitor vegetation, inverts, herps, birds, mammals
Task 5: Implement restoration
Task 6: Public outreach
Task 7: Final report
**ON-THE-GROUND WORK**

Mechanical cut/clear decadent tamarisk
Slash disposal – several options
Make firewood available to the public
Replant with native vegetation:
  - Goodding’s Willow
  - Fremont Cottonwood
  - Coyote Willow
  - Box Elder
  - Upper terrace – Saltbush, grasses
  - Experimental spp – Hoptree, etc.

Monitor
Feedback to improve future mgt.
GCWC expresses its deep gratitude to GLCA and to AWPF for past and on-going support

Questions and Discussion