

# Atrisco Habitat Project for Endangered Species and Ecosystems

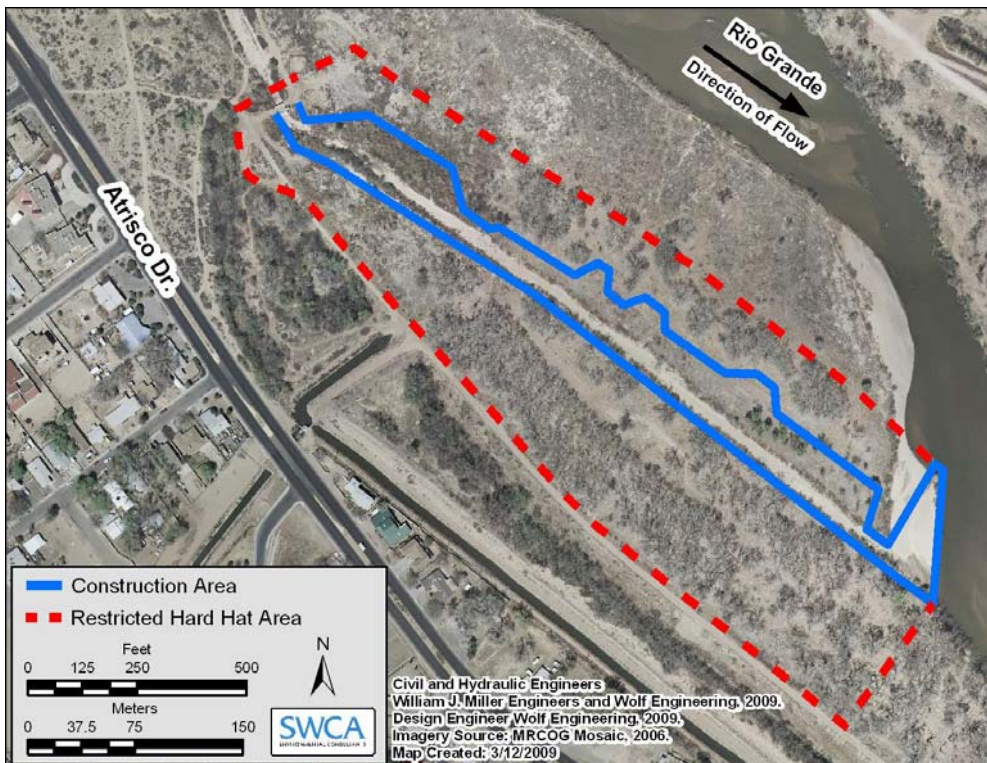
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission,  
City of Albuquerque Open Space and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District  
assisted by William J. Miller Engineers, Inc. and SWCA Environmental Consultants  
funding through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and State of New Mexico  
Schedule: March - December 2009



The Atrisco Habitat Project will improve an existing return flow channel that leads from the MRGCD's Atrisco irrigation diversion structure, which is currently not used for irrigation purposes. The channel will be graded, widened, and contoured so that the river can form an approximately 3-acre backwater during spring runoff. The site will provide habitat for the silvery minnow, which seek shallow, low velocity environments to spawn, and for newly hatched fish to grow. Vegetation, primarily invasive species such as Russian olive and salt cedar, will be removed from the area and the site will be replanted or reseeded with native plants and grasses.

During extremely dry periods, as in recent history, the backwater can be used to contain water to hold rescued fish. This 'refugia' will be maintained to hold water within the backwater area and groundwater will be pumped into the refugia. A groundwater well and a series of gates will be installed for this purpose.

Project implementation will occur March - December 2009. The City of Albuquerque Open Space will be performing the excavation and revegetation work. Environmental compliance documents can be found at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation website – [www.usbr.gov](http://www.usbr.gov). Funding for the project is both federal and state sources, including the *Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program* – [www.mrgesa.com](http://www.mrgesa.com).



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