

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Creation of Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Habitat and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Habitat – Site I40 - 6b

*New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission,
and the U.S Bureau of Reclamation
in cooperation by the City Open Space Division
and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
funding through the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative
Program and State of New Mexico*

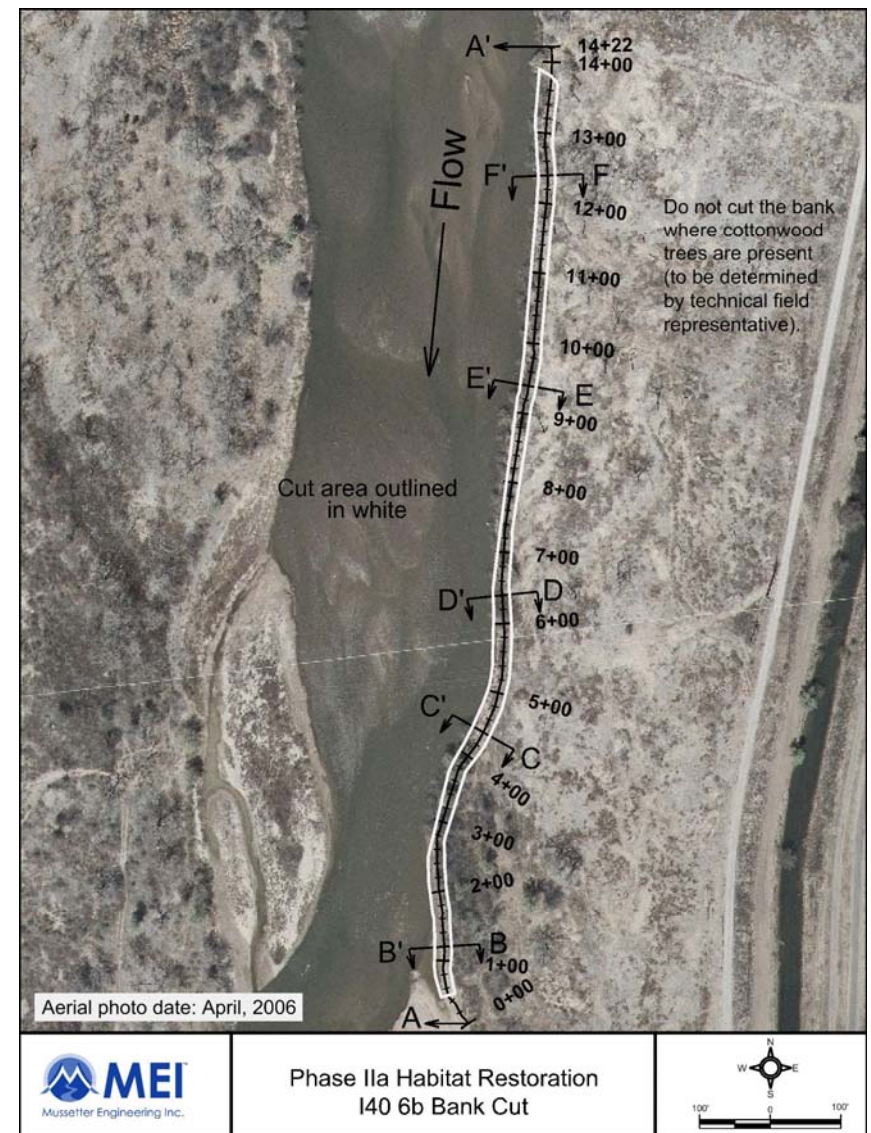
The Middle Rio Grande Riverine Habitat Restoration Project Ila restoration site is one of several being completed in the Rio Grande channel that helps create habitat for Rio Grande native fish and bird species, especially the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow. It is located between Campbell Road and I-40 on the east bank of the river. As you may have observed, the bank line along much of the river in this area is armored with Russian Olive and Tamarisk (saltcedar). One way to improve the problem of fixed banks and thick nonnative vegetation is to remove the trees and roots and lower the bank line so that at normal spring runoff this area can become flooded. This action encourages native plants like willow and sedges to grow and proliferate. The shallow flooded area will be great habitat for fish and other aquatic animals.

To create these habitats, large amphibious excavators called Marsh Buggies are used to remove the undesired vegetation. The Interstate Stream Commission has worked with Albuquerque City Open Space to determine what is allowable to remove. Then the bank line is cut down and back to create a lower shelf. Most of the soil excavated can be placed in the river and actually becomes an extension of the site. Vegetation is then seeded or planted on a seasonal basis.

The Interstate Stream Commission will monitor this and other sites to ensure the restoration is working the way it is intended. There might be a need to plant vegetation, for instance, but it has been found that almost all sites constructed are dominantly native plants.

If you have any questions or suggestions on this and other restoration work to help make a healthier river please call Grace Haggerty at (505)765-2053.

Refer to the photos of a completed bank modification.



For more information about the project, please contact:

Grace Haggerty
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
505.765.2053
grace.haggerty@state.nm.us