



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**[®]
Albuquerque District



A Joint-Press Release

**From the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District and
The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District**

For Information Contact: Joan Mier/505-342-3171

Los Lunas Habitat Restoration project moving full-speed ahead

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. --- Work is proceeding full-speed ahead on the Los Lunas Habitat restoration project, a 40-acre stretch of bosque that was burned during the New Mexico fires in the summer of 2000. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Albuquerque District, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, and the Bureau of Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office are all working together on the project to restore the area and create habitat for endangered species such as the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Currently, jetty jacks are being removed from 6,000 feet of bank line near the Mid Valley Airport south of Los Lunas. Forty acres of burned bosque adjacent to this bank

-MORE-

line will then be excavated two to three feet, so the river will submerge it and create a wider and more shallow area that will generate improved habitat for the minnow. In addition, excavated material will be placed along the existing levee to enhance the levee's reliability. Some of the cottonwood trees burned by the fire will be buried along the new bank line to add stability and willows will be planted along it as well.

The excavation will probably be completed in the fall, and new plantings should be seen one year from now. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1.5 million