

Las Cruces Wetland Restoration, New Mexico

(Section 206)

The project is located on the east side of the Rio Grande, just north of the Mesilla Bridge in Doña Ana County. The 20-acre site is a narrow strip oriented north and south and is approximately 5,000 feet long and 170-feet wide.

The extent of riparian and wetland communities downstream from Elephant Butte Dam has been significantly reduced. In addition to direct replacement by agricultural, urban, and water resource development, the ground water elevation throughout the Rio Grande Valley has been lowered by the construction of agricultural drains. Irrigation and flood control operations have reduced the magnitude of discharges within the floodway, especially during the spring runoff period, and limit the extent of overbank flooding. Native riparian and wetland communities are scarce throughout the floodway downstream of Caballo Dam.

The project will be funded under the Continuing Authorities Program, a Construction General appropriation.

