



July 1, 2026

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY
Riparian Reserves Vegetation Management
2019-NPS-1910C

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Below is a summary of project related information.

The purpose of the above referenced project was:

The goal of this project is to support vegetation management and maintenance activities along the Muddy and Virgin Rivers for enhancement of native riparian species of concern on the MSHCP. National Park Service Invasive Plant Management Team (NPS) will survey and treat noxious and invasive weeds throughout County Riparian Reserve Units. The assessment and location of non-native plants will be provided to the County for future management.

The major accomplishments or findings of this project include:

Project achieved progress in controlling high-priority noxious weeds across the Virgin and Muddy River Units, with treatments targeting tamarisk, tall whitetop, camelthorn, Malta starthistle, Russian knapweed, and others. Tamarisk management has been successful, through mastication, basal spraying and frill-cut techniques. Native species establishment has expanded throughout treatment areas. Native plant communities are increasingly dominant due to combined factors including biological control by tamarisk leaf beetles, flooding events, wildfires and targeted restoration work. Natural revegetation of native shrubs and grasses indicate promising long-term restoration. Challenges remain due to cattle trespass, equipment-related disturbances, and the continued presence of noxious weeds. The highest priority is to stop recruitment of noxious weeds in new areas to minimize their spread amongst the Riparian Reserve Units. Continued monitoring and control is recommended, with overall conditions showing strong ecological improvement and high potential for continued restoration success.



For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our [website](#).

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Caryn Wright, at (702) 455-2972.