



GILA RIVER WETLANDS RESTORATION

The Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality – Water Quality Program has completed multiple restoration projects in the Gila River Wetlands during 2012 through 2014. Funding for these projects was from US EPA Non Point Source Grants.

Gila River Wetlands

The Gila River Wetlands contains more than 1,000 acres of wetland habitat and includes more than four miles of perennially flowing riverine habitat. The Gila River Wetlands is a hydrologically modified saltcedar-dominated system characterized by high salinity in soil and water. In 2008 the Gila River Wetlands was burned due to the Ethan



Figure 1 Gila River Wetlands

Wildland Fire. This fire provided the opportunity to restore the wetlands. The goal of restoration activities in the Gila River Wetlands is to demonstrate ecological potential while improving water quality through effective saltcedar management practices.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Gila River Wetlands – 13 Acre and 3 Acre Site Activities

During 2010 through 2014, over 10,000 native plants were installed at the Gila River Wetland's two project sites. Native plants installed included native salt tolerant shrubs, grasses, and trees. These plants included four-wing saltbrush, wolfberry shrubs, native saltgrass, hardstem bulrush, alkali sacaton, and desert willow, palo verde, screwbean mesquite, velvet mesquite, and iron wood trees. In preparation for native plant restoration at the site, over 11 acres of burnt saltcedar was mechanically chipped and over 4,000 feet of irrigation system installed.



Figure 2 Planting Wolfberry and Saltbrush - Gila River



Figure 3 Planting a Native Tree - Gila River