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# Muddy and Virgin River Reserves and Property Acquisition Activities

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August 22, 2013





- Overview
- Muddy River Management Activities
  - Property maintenance
  - Weed management
- Virgin River Property Acquisition Activities
  - Cadastral survey
  - Priority ranking criteria tool
- Future Steps for the Riparian Reserves



## Permit Requirement Condition K

- Acquire lands on the Virgin and Muddy Rivers, and Meadow Valley Wash to preserve as habitat for the three riparian birds covered by the MSHCP

- Virgin River, 101 acres
- Muddy River, 118 acres

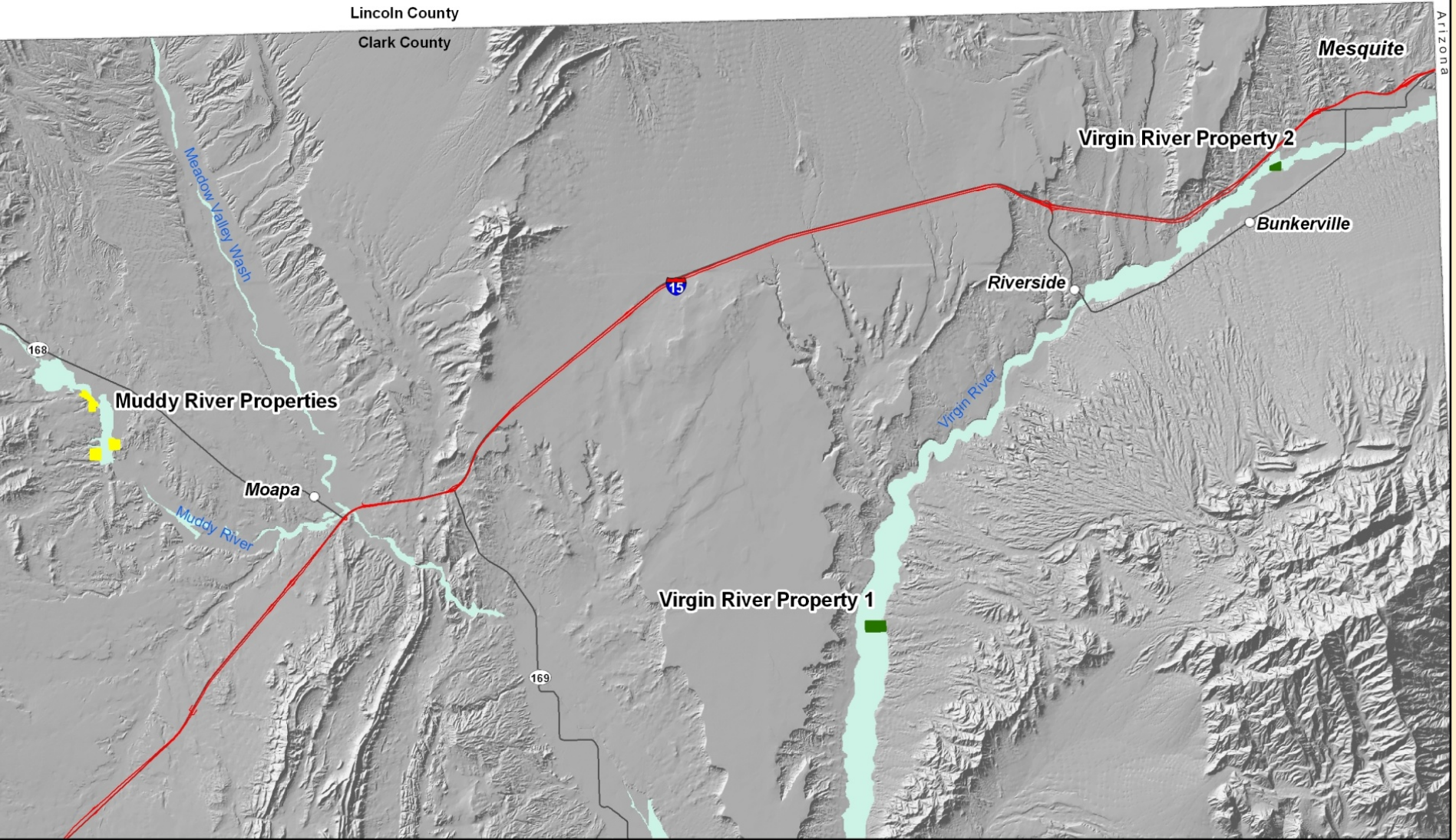
Southwestern willow flycatcher  
Yellow-billed cuckoo  
Arizona Bell's vireo



Lincoln County

Clark County

ARIZONA



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## Desert Conservation Program Riparian Reserve Properties

Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 11  
Datum: NAD83  
Date: 7/27/2011

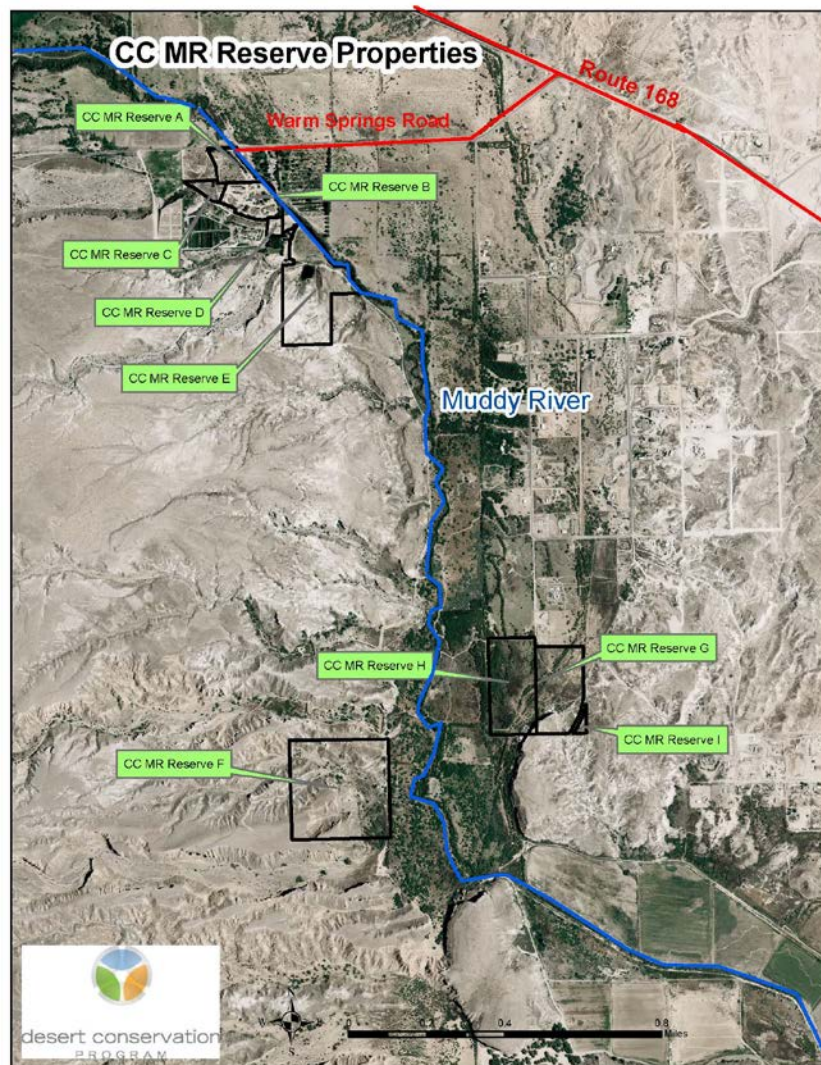
This information is for display only.  
No liability is assumed as to the  
accuracy of the data provided  
hereon. (Draft - 7/27/11)  
Clark\_County\_riparian\_reserve.mxd





## Property Management and Restoration

- Protection and enhancement of habitat for three covered riparian birds





## Property Maintenance Needs

- Major rain event
  - 1.18 inches < 1 hour, Sept 11, 2012
  - filled irrigation canal with mud
  - road wash out
- Trespass issues





## Continued Property Maintenance

- Annual Property Maintenance
  - Clean out canal
  - Maintain firebreaks
  - Monitor properties
  - Maintain bank
  - Maintain pond water level
- Installed a gate and fence

Annual Property  
Maintenance

2009-NANCE-805P

12/21/2012–1/31/2014

\$21,740 Section 10





## NPS Weed Management

- Survey and map location and extent of weeds
- Treat annual and perennial weeds
- Provide recommendations for further management if needed

Muddy River Weed  
Management 2013

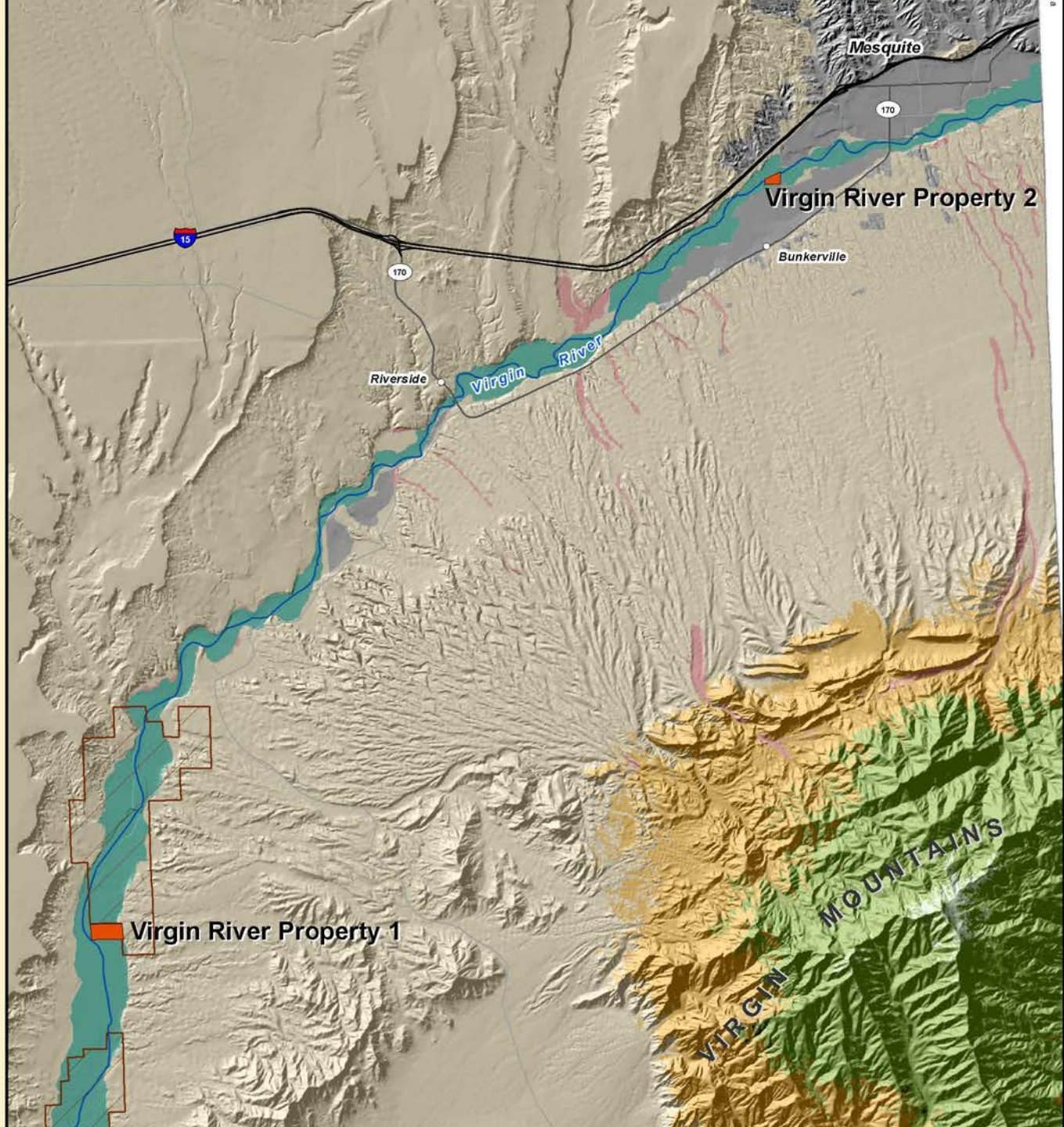
2011-NPS-915A

2/19/2013–10/30/2015

\$108,000 Section 10







Mesquite

170

Virgin River Property 2

Bunkerville

Riverside

Virgin River

Virgin River Property 1

VIRGIN MOUNTAINS



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# Property Acquisition Activities

## Cadastral Survey

- Conduct surveys to define federal lands
  - Create "New Official BLM Cadastral Survey Plats" that identify federal lands
    - In review by Chief Cadastral Surveyors Office
    - Local BLM office work with landowners

Cadastral Survey

2009-BLM-805H

6/21/2011–12/31/2012

\$105,000 Section 10



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# Property Acquisition Activities

## Completed Activities

- Updated list of willing sellers
- Briefing meetings
  - Bunkerville Town Advisory Board
  - City of Mesquite Mayor and Councilman
- Met with County Real Property Management
- Met with County Surveyors Office
- Updated Priority Ranking Criteria





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# Priority Ranking Criteria Tool

## Updated Priority Ranking Criteria for Acquisition

- FWS, NDOW meeting
- Species data
  - NNHP
  - Reclamation
  - SWCA
- Riparian habitat model
  - NPS
- Scour data
  - Stillwater Sciences
- Updated criteria matrix



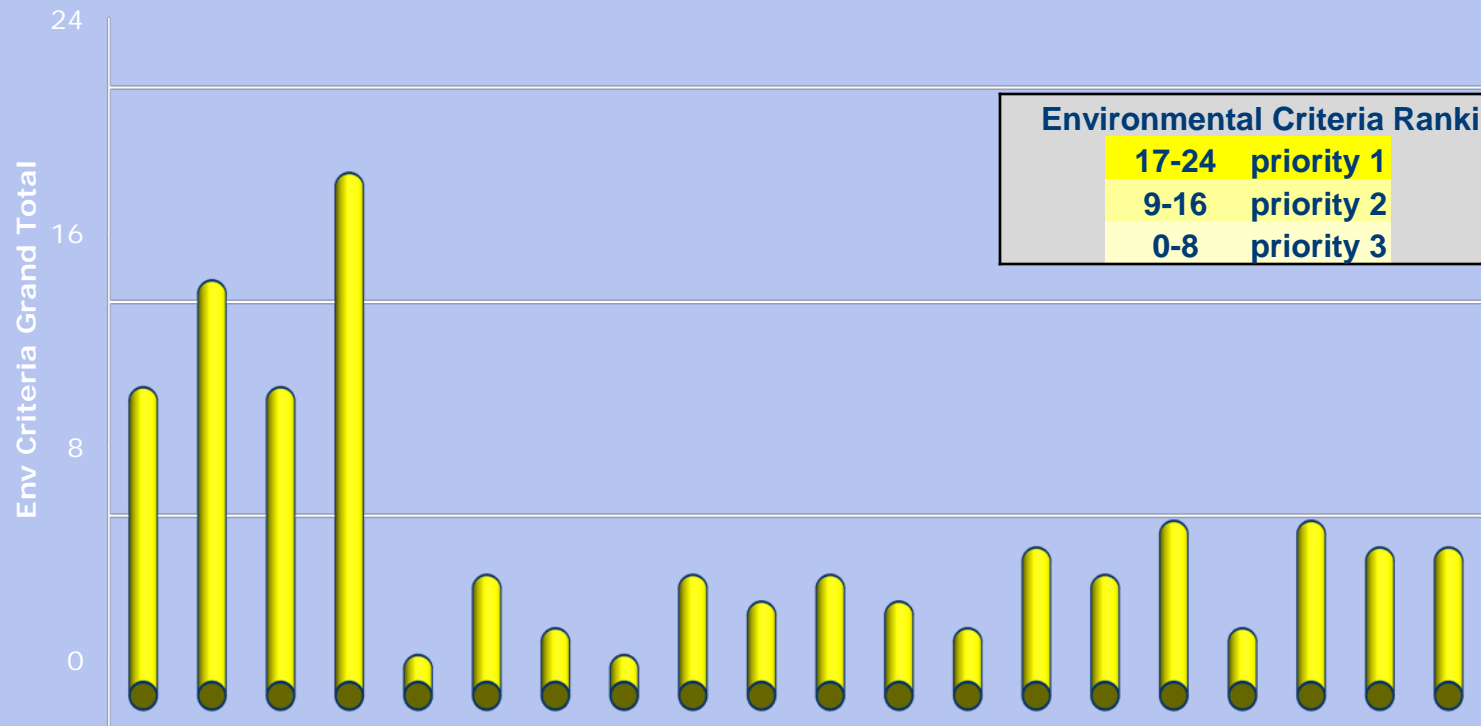
# Riparian Priority Ranking Criteria

- Environmental
  - Species evaluation
  - Proximity to sensitive lands
  - Restoration potential
  - Level of disturbance
- Administrative
  - Ease of management
  - Complexity of land acquisition process
  - Potential for degradation of habitat if not purchased



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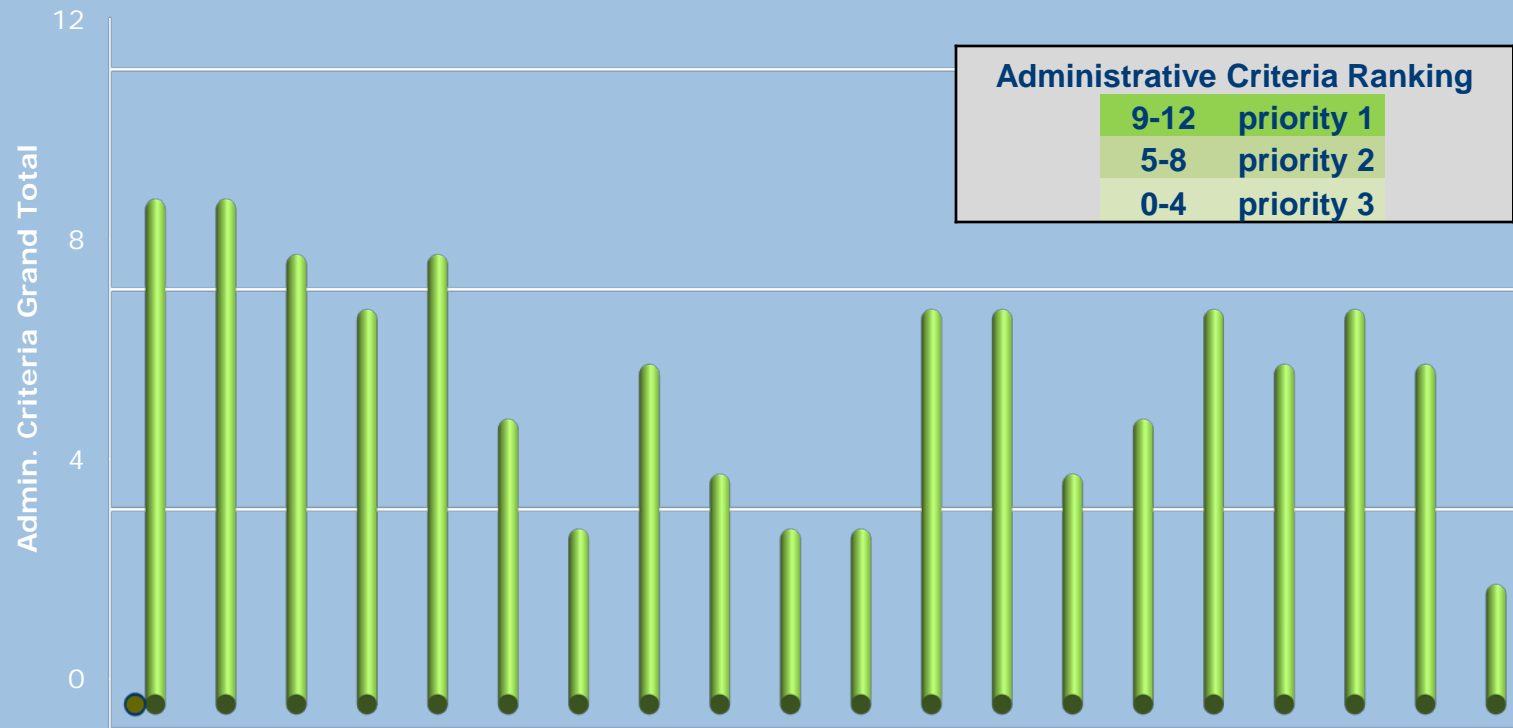
## Environmental Criteria Summary Results





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## Administrative Criteria Summary Results





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# Next Steps

- Administrative challenges
  - Water availability
  - Resolve any survey issues
    - Access rights, legal descriptions
- Initiate BCC authorization for land acquisition
  - Property appraisal
    - Fair market value





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## Future Steps - Riparian Reserves

- Update reserve management plans
  - Science Advisor
- Riparian restoration (Muddy)
- Bank Study (Muddy)
- Virgin River SWFL restoration project
  - Great Basin Institute
  - Site specific scour study in Mormon Mesa