



**Title of Project:** Mormon Mesa Restoration Services Phase II

**Project Manager:** Caryn Wright **email:** Caryn.Wright@clarkcountynv.gov

**Project Location:** Mormon Mesa Reserve Unit, Virgin River, Clark County, NV

**Dates:** January 20th - 27th, February 3rd - February 10th, February 17th - 24th, March 31st - April 7th, 2021



## Summary Report:

Summary: American Conservation Corp crews worked along the Virgin River restoring riparian habitat on property (Mormon Mesa) along the Virgin River, owned by the Clark County Desert Conservation Program. The dominant species on the parcel was a decadent stand of tamarisk creating a monoculture. Tamarisk is an invasive species (State of Nevada listed noxious weed) that outcompetes native vegetation species resulting in a loss in biodiversity among flora and in turn fauna. It also contributes to wildfire and flooding severity and provides poor habitat, replacing nutrient-rich native species.

In October 2020, the remaining acres of tamarisk in the project area were masticated, 40 acres in total. The crew's efforts aimed to create breeding/flyover habitat for native birds, especially the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The parcel consists of land cleared of standing plant vegetation surrounded by a dense natural barrier. The crews focus was prepping the planting areas and planting graminoid, shrub, and tree species propagated at NPS Song Dog nursery as well as cuttings collected locally.

Work Conducted: Riparian restoration including noxious/invasive species removal, fencing, and native species planting.

Date work was performed: 01/20/2021 – 04/07/2021

Start and end times: 7:00 am to 5:00 pm daily

Number of staff: field crews of 8 members each

Type and quantity of herbicide: No chemical herbicide applied. Plantskydd was applied to plant species using 172 oz. concentrate to prevent herbivory.

Quantity of plantings: Approximately 3,173 from containers/plugs and 1,096 from pole cuttings.

01/20/2021 - /1/27/2021

The crew began identifying and clearing out tamarisk slash and debris from the channels of surface water throughout the site to provide a planting area and allow water to flow. Throughout the week the crew cleared channels and planted container native species.

02/03/2021 – 02/10/2021

The crew planted container native species and planted harvested cutting.

02/17/2021 – 02/21/2021

The crew began by fortifying the perimeter of the restoration site by closing off any access points that were identified.

03/31/2021 - 04/07/2021

ACE sent out a crew to work on projects intended to protect the parcel from herbivory. The crew built a gate and an exclusion fence, sprayed Plantskydd to deter herbivores from entering through vulnerable areas in the natural barrier, and vertically mulched a portion of a trail leading to the site to deter travel by off-road vehicles.

The following container species were planted:

459 Spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.)  
390 Cooper Rush (*Juncus cooperi*)  
336 Yerba Mansa (*Anemopsis californica*)  
517 Sticky Seepwillow (*Baccharis salicifolia*)  
358 Coyote Willow (*Salix exigua*)  
487 Gooddings Willow (*Salix gooddingii*)  
600 Cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*)  
26 Velvet Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*)

The following cuttings were planted:

859 Coyote Willow (*Salix Exigua*)  
237 Gooddings Willow (*Salix gooddingii*)

In total, the crews planted 3173 container plants provided by the NPS Song Dog Nursery and 1096 cuttings.