

Lessons Learned: Minute 319 Implementation in the Colorado River Delta



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Overview

- Colorado River Delta
- Minute 319
- Restoration and Water in the Delta
- Key Lessons Learned
- Minute 323: 9 more years!

COLORADO RIVER BASIN



Historic Delta



Photo source: IBWC



Minute 319

- Landmark US-Mexico water agreement
- 2012-2017
- Water and restoration for the CO River Delta



319 Restoration and Water

Habitat Type	Restored	
	Ha	Acres
Open Water and Marsh	58	142
Cottonwood-Willow	204	504
Mesquite Bosque	162	402
Upland	22	54
TOTAL	446	1,102

319 Restoration and Water

Source	Water Delivered	
	Mm ³	Acre-feet
US-Mexico	130.0	105,000
NGOs	70.8	57,400
TOTAL	200.8	162,400

Lessons Learned

Minute 319



Minute 323

Lessons Learned

1) Water delivery tradeoffs

→ Pulse flow versus targeted deliveries to restoration sites



Lessons Learned

2) Active restoration vs. passive

→ Need mechanical
removal of veg cover
for native establishment



Lessons Learned

3) Social benefits?!

→ People matter

→ Support for future restoration



Lessons Learned

4) Data management plan is critical

→ Need dedicated funding
and personnel



Lessons Learned

5) Plan for long-term success!

→ Changing conditions

→ Maintenance and mgmt. costs



Summary

- 1) Restoration goals inform water delivery plans
- 2) Mechanical veg removal when flood isn't enough
- 3) Incorporate social benefits in restoration planning
- 4) Include data mgmt. from start
- 5) Long-term maintenance and mgmt. considerations

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