

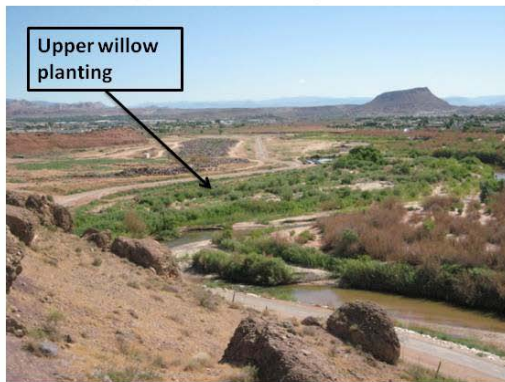


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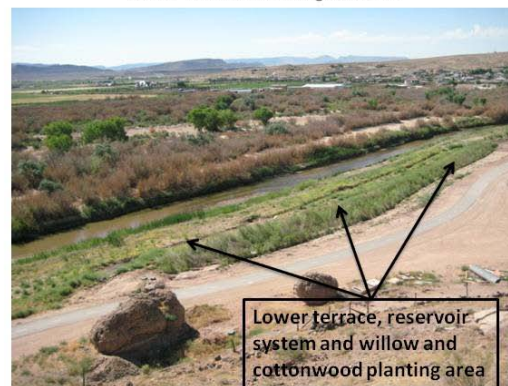
"A Lesson in Desert Hydrology"

In June of 2010, the Color Country RC&D Council signed a Southwestern willow flycatcher safe harbor agreement with J & S Farms in St. George. This document capped several years of efforts from several partners, including J & S Farms, The Virgin River Project, Washington County Water Conservancy District, Utah Division of Wildlife, Farm Bureau Federation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the RC&D Council. The riparian restoration project included shaping of stream terraces, installation of an irrigation system, mechanical removal of invasive saltcedar and planting thousands of Coyote willow and cottonwood poles. The upper photos show the results as of this summer. At Christmastime, 2010, the Virgin River drainage was subject to a 100-year flood event.

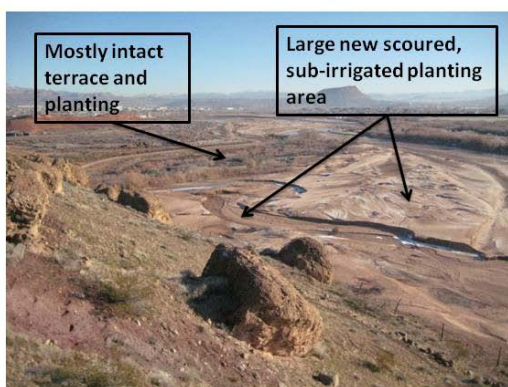
Upper Willow Planting 6/28/10



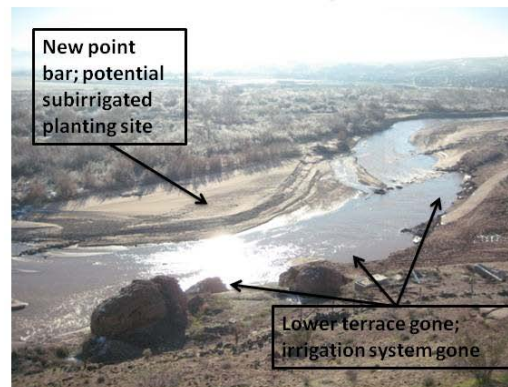
Lower Willow Planting 6/28/10



Upper Willow Planting 1/6/11



Lower Willow Planting 1/6/11



The lower willow planting site (photos on right) was lost completely, and J&S Farms lost their irrigation system. The upper planting survived and a large new planting area was created by the floods. Due to a strong working partnership, the various partners are already working to acquire funds to repair the irrigation system and plan new willow plantings in the newly scoured bottoms. This event is an example where, with a strong working partnership, setbacks can yield new opportunities, stability, and security in resource management.