RECONNECT THE COLORADO

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT July 2018

AT A GLANCE

Minute 319 Accomplishments, through year-end 2017:

- Over 1,000 Acres Restored
- > 245,000 Trees Planted
- 57,362 acre-feet of Water Delivered
- Wildlife populations expanding in restored sites
- > 100 Local Jobs Created

> 3,000 participants per-year average in educational programs (since 2015 initiation)

Coalition Profile

- Established 2012
- Coalition of 6 NGOs working together
- Over \$10 million raised for conservation
- Ongoing Scientific Monitoring, Management, and Reporting



Raise the River is a unique coalition of U.S. and Mexican non-governmental organizations committed to reviving the Colorado River Delta, together with the renewal of community relationships and engagement that promote long-term stewardship of the river.

e focus on the activities necessary to support environmental restoration for the benefit of the people and wildlife of the Delta.

With the generous support of our donors, this coalition was initiated in 2012 after the historic agreement Minute 319 was signed between the United States and Mexico, to help NGOs deliver on commitments in the bi-national agreement to acquire water and begin to restore the Delta at a significant scale.

These efforts helped set the stage for the successful negotiation of a more comprehensive long-term agreement between both countries, Minute 323. This historic agreement, signed in 2017, promotes a more secure water future for communities in both countries and scales up ongoing environmental restoration projects in the Delta.

With the adoption of Minute 323, Raise the River is working to expand and solidify bi-national cooperation for the continued restoration of the Delta.

Raise the River Coalition partners include Sonoran Institute, Pronatura Noroeste, A.C., The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, The Redford Center, and Restauremos el Colorado, A.C.

RaiseTheRiver.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FUNDRAISING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FUNDS RAISED

REACHING OUR INITIAL GOAL

Through the very generous support from corporate and philanthropic organizations in the U.S. and Mexico, as well as individual contributions, we met our initial 5-year, \$10 million fundraising goal in December 2015, two years ahead of schedule. These funds have supported the on-the-ground habitat establishment, water acquisition and delivery, operations, community involvement and education, and advocacy necessary to accomplish restoration.

ONGOING NEEDS

Going forward, we will be establishing a new funding goal to enable the continuation of our work in the Colorado River Delta and ensure the sustainability of previously restored sites. Our new goal will reflect the increasing scale of our work to create a network of restoration sites within the Colorado River's main corridor, as well as its tributaries, estuary, and other Delta wetlands.

We invite you to join us as a donor, to ensure the continued progress of our restoration work.

**Donations may be tax-deductible in either the U.S. or Mexico, via our corresponding non-profit status. Please ask us for details.



Between 2013 and December 2015, **over \$10 million** was raised to benefit the restoration of the **Colorado River Delta**



WATER RETURNS

Raise the River delivered ongoing water via base flows.



TREES PLANTED Cottonwoods and willow trees define a healthy habitat.



SCIENTIFIC STUDIES Bringing scientific rigor to the work of restoration.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: **Restoration**

Meeting our commitments under the 2012-2017 bi-national Colorado River agreement, *Minute 319*, produced results and proved what is possible when a small amount of water is committed to conservation efforts.

Donor funding, together with cash and in-kind contributions from both governments, allowed us to prepare restoration sites for a significant delivery of water—dubbed the "*pulse flow*".

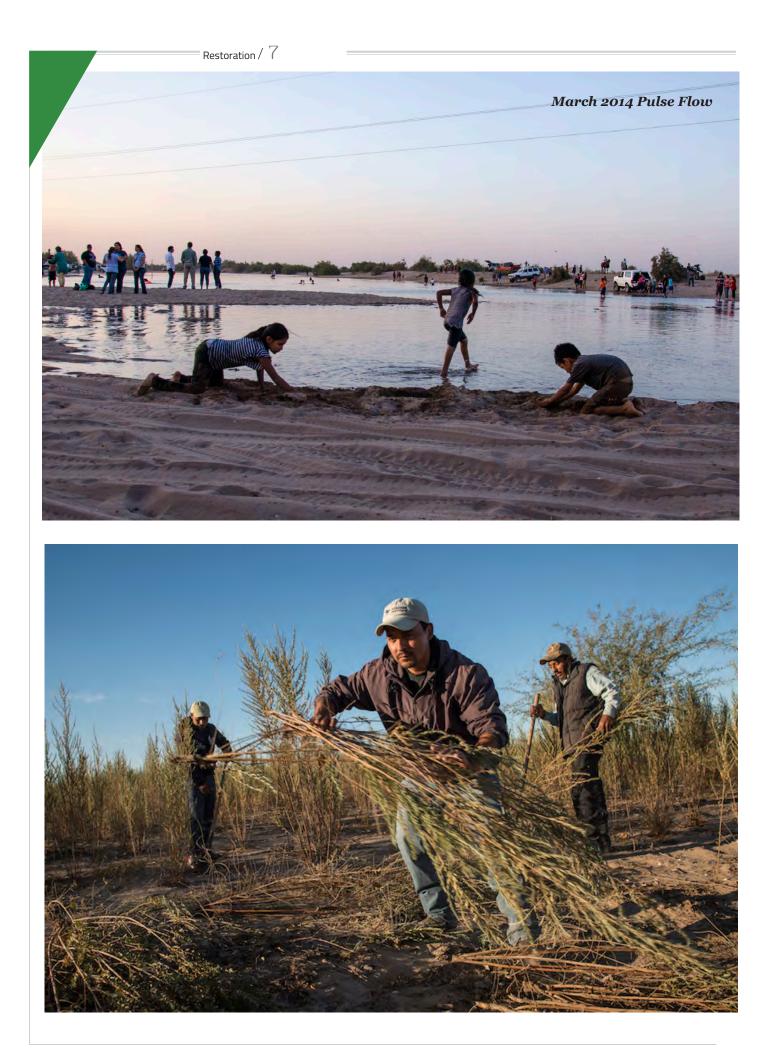
The pulse flow injected more than 100,000 acre-feet of water into the Delta, an amount not seen in this part of the Colorado River since 2001.

The pulse flow occurred in the spring of 2014, just over 15 months after the bi-national agreement had been signed. Within that short time period, Raise the River coalition partners Sonoran Institute and Pronatura Noroeste removed invasive plant species, dug ditches, and planted hundreds of saplings in anticipation of the pulse flow.









ACRES RESTORED TREES PLANTED

We continue to prepare and restore other sites along the river. At the end of 2017, we restored more than 1,000 acres of riparian and wetland habitat and met our restoration goal under Minute 319 of 1,200 acres by June 2018.



Cottonwood, willow, mesquite, and other native trees are the defining feature of healthy habitat along the river. Sonoran Institute and Pronatura Noroeste maintain native tree nurseries that provide saplings used for planting. By year-end 2017, with our donors' generous support, we planted more than 245,000 trees, exceeding our restoration goal by more than 22%, with survival rates of greater than 90% in our key restoration sites.

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
26,564	+59,177	+24,176	+124,483	+11,100
	Total of 85,741	Total of 109,917	Total of 234,400	Total of 245,500





NATIVE BIRDLIFE

River flows and diverse habitat bring birds back to the river, whether they stay over the winter, migrate along the Pacific Flyway, or breed during the spring season. Raise the River partners monitor bird populations year-round, and our scientific reporting concludes that bird numbers in our restored sites are on the rise!

Within months of planting trees, restoration sites serve as an important stopover for warblers and other migrating songbirds. Our monitoring shows that the restored sites are experiencing a greater diversity and abundance of birds relative to other areas along the river. For example, bird diversity is 30% higher and the abundance of riparian birds is twice as high in Miguel Aleman than in the non-restored adjacent floodplain. Among 19 bird species monitored for conservation interest, an increase of 49% was recorded from 2013 to 2017.

Today, our Laguna Grande restoration site has the greatest abundance and diversity of conservation priority bird species in the entire Colorado River corridor in Mexico, including the Hooded Oriole, Yellow-breasted Chat, and the threatened Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

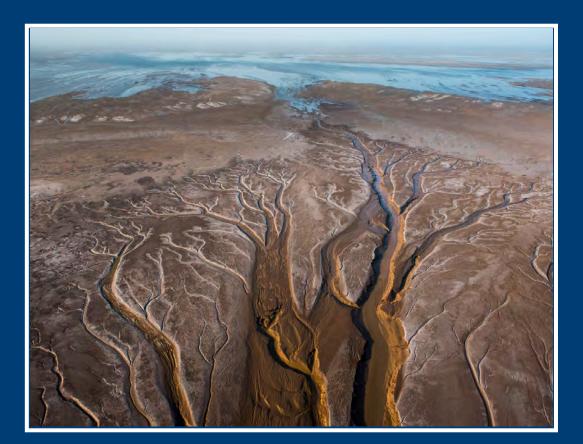
RETURN OF WILDLIFE

Birds are not the only wildlife drawn to the restoration sites. Families of bobcats, and coyotes have made their home among the cottonwoods and willows, as well as gophers and ground squirrels while beavers have returned to the river banks. We have documented a continued expansion of these species, as well as reptiles and amphibians, in the newly restored areas.



WATER

Water is critical to restoration, which is why both bi-national agreements have included explicit water delivery obligations.



ore than 100,000 acre-feet from the United States and Mexico were required for the pulse flow, supplemented by another 50,000 acre-feet that Raise the River pledged to provide over the five-year period of the Minute 319 agreement.

To meet our obligations, Raise the River worked with the Restauremos el Colorado water trust—the first in Mexico to permanently acquire or temporarily lease water for restoration. Water acquired can be used on an annual basis, while leased water is used only once.

Our combined donor funding allowed us to acquire and deliver 57,362 acre-feet of water by year-end 2017, exceeding our obligation under the Minute 319 bi-national agreement.