

Restoration of the Rio Salado and Tres Rios Restoration

City of Phoenix, Arizona

The City of Phoenix is restoring over 20 miles of the Rio Salado and parts of the Agua Fria and Gila Rivers. The estimated project cost is approximately \$500 million. The original Rio Salado design was a single-stage channel with soil cement banks. Robert Prager and Munsell McPhillips' accepted recommendations added a low-flow channel, biostabilized natural river banks, and alignment based more nearly on geomorphic principles. Their alterations to the Tres Rios restoration include location of open water and marsh areas according to thalweg probability analysis, selective placement of cottonwood/willow/mesquite complex to eliminate pipe irrigation systems and a redesigned channel excavation and levee plan. The projects were completed September 1988 and May 2000.

