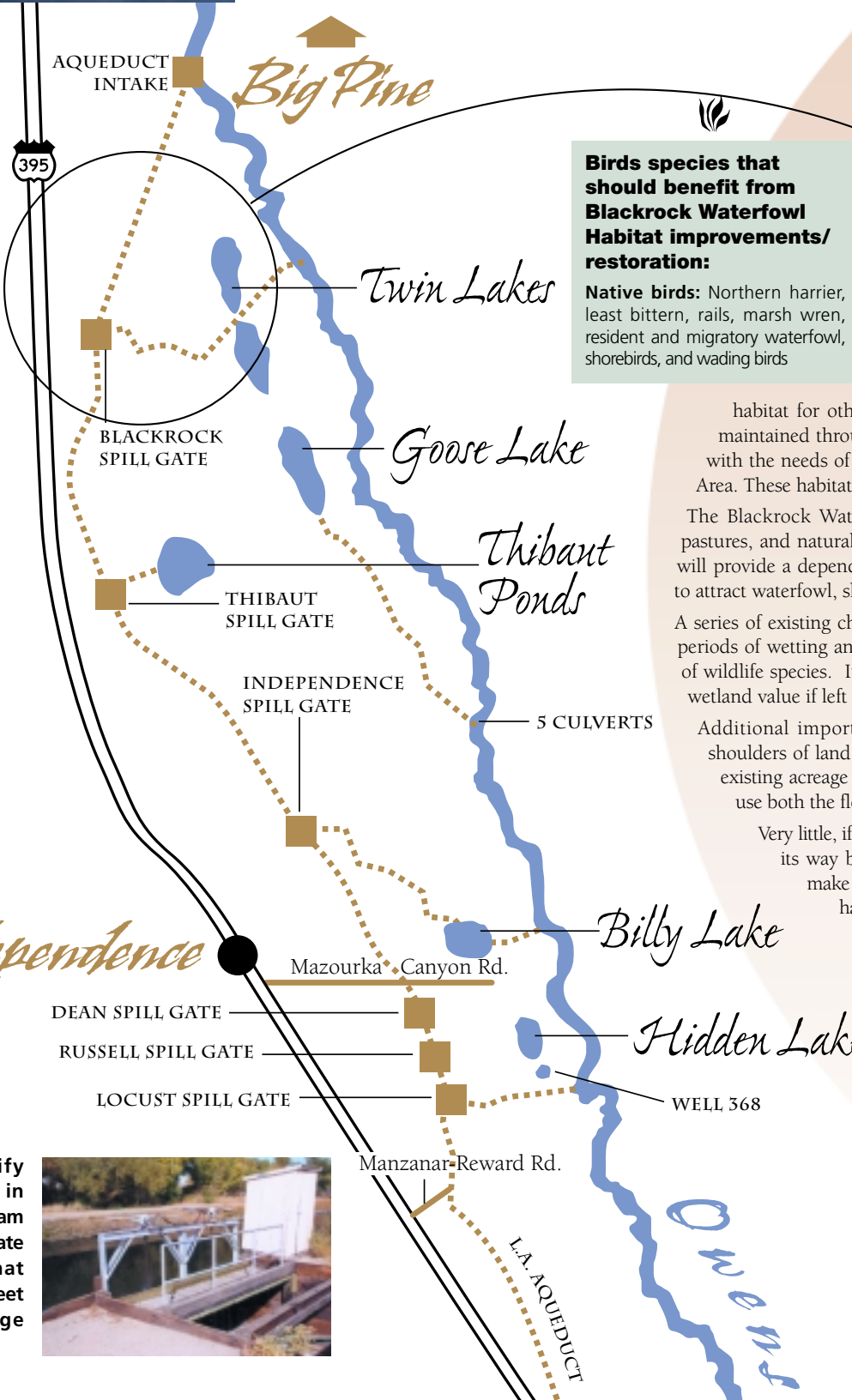




The LADWP will modify the Los Angeles Aqueduct structure and replace the existing radial gate with a new, automated gate that allows reliable control of river water from the aqueduct to the Lower Owens Riverbed.



Birds species that should benefit from Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat improvements/restoration:
Native birds: Northern harrier, least bittern, rails, marsh wren, resident and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds

Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area

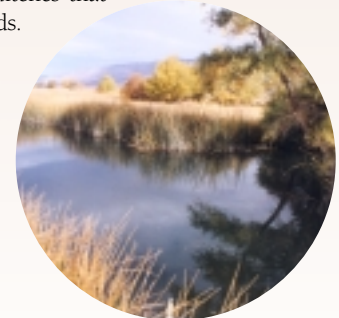
Goal: Enhance the existing habitat in order to provide opportunities for the establishment of resident and migratory waterfowl populations, and to provide habitat for other native species. Diverse natural habitats will be created and maintained through flow and land management, to the extent feasible, consistent with the needs of the 'habitat indicator species' for the Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area. These habitats will be as self-sustaining as possible.

The Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area has man-made lakes and seasonally flooded pastures, and natural wetlands that have developed around seeps and springs. The LORP will provide a dependable source of water to allow wetlands, both natural and man-made, to attract waterfowl, shorebirds and other species.

A series of existing channels will flood 500 acres of Blackrock. The area will cycle through periods of wetting and drying to provide for diverse plant communities attracting an array of wildlife species. It will also aid in controlling cattails and tules; vegetation that reduces wetland value if left unchecked.

Additional important waterfowl habitat is expected to develop gradually on the shoulders of land along the flooded zones — significantly enhancing the amount of existing acreage that water birds enjoy in Blackrock. Birds and other wildlife will use both the flooded ponds and edge areas for nesting, resting and feeding.

Very little, if any, water from the Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area will find its way back to the Lower Owens River system. The LADWP will make a series of improvements to help move water through the habitat area. These include replacing or repairing small spillgates and reshaping old ditches that feed water to the wetlands.



Independence

The LADWP will modify spillgates and culverts in the Aqueduct downstream of this structure to facilitate flow management that maintains the 40 cubic feet per second average baseflow.



The LADWP will install water quality and water measuring stations along the river channel to track conditions during the initial rewatering.

