

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Parker Dam Camp

2017 Annual Report



Work conducted under LCR MSCP
Work Task E36



July 2019

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Steering Committee Members

Federal Participant Group

Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Area Power Administration

Arizona Participant Group

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Power Authority
Central Arizona Water Conservation District
Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District
City of Bullhead City
City of Lake Havasu City
City of Mesa
City of Somerton
City of Yuma
Electrical District No. 3, Pinal County, Arizona
Golden Shores Water Conservation District
Mohave County Water Authority
Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District
Mohave Water Conservation District
North Gila Valley Irrigation and Drainage District
Town of Fredonia
Town of Thatcher
Town of Wickenburg
Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District
Unit "B" Irrigation and Drainage District
Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District
Yuma County Water Users' Association
Yuma Irrigation District
Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District

Other Interested Parties Participant Group

QuadState Local Governments Authority
Desert Wildlife Unlimited

California Participant Group

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
City of Needles
Coachella Valley Water District
Colorado River Board of California
Bard Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Palo Verde Irrigation District
San Diego County Water Authority
Southern California Edison Company
Southern California Public Power Authority
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Nevada Participant Group

Colorado River Commission of Nevada
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Southern Nevada Water Authority
Colorado River Commission Power Users
Basic Water Company

Native American Participant Group

Hualapai Tribe
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Conservation Participant Group

Ducks Unlimited
Lower Colorado River RC&D Area, Inc.
The Nature Conservancy



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

FY	fiscal year
LCR MSCP	Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
lidar	light detection and ranging
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this annual report is to summarize all activities that have occurred at Parker Dam Camp from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017, which is Federal fiscal year (FY) 2017, and projected activities for FY18. Water usage is presented for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2017, consistent with the Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Arizona, California, and Nevada, Calendar Year 2017 (Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation] 2018).

1.1 Background

Originally, Parker Damp Camp was developed as employee housing for dam workers. Construction of the Parker Dam Government Camp began in 1934 to facilitate construction of Parker Dam. Once established, the property consisted of numerous residences and other buildings. Many decades after completion of the dam, in the 1990s, Reclamation determined that the facility was no longer required for project activities and began the process of disposing of the houses and other buildings offsite. Asphalt roads, concrete sidewalks, and sparse landscaping are all that remain of the Government town. The property is fenced off to public access on the north and east sides and is bordered by the Whipple Mountains to the south and west. The site is owned and managed by Reclamation.

Parker Dam Camp has been identified as excess property since it is no longer required for river or dam operations. The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) has assumed management responsibility of the property and is managing it for species covered under the program. Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) is becoming established on the property and has matured to be classified as a land cover type under the LCR MSCP. No additional honey mesquite planting is planned at this time. Additional land cover types may be added at a later date if necessary.

2.0 CONSERVATION AREA INFORMATION

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of Parker Dam Camp is to manage the honey mesquite land cover type for species covered under the LCR MSCP. The intent is to manage honey mesquite type III for vermilion flycatchers (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) and other species covered under the LCR MSCP Habitat Conservation Plan. The creation of habitat includes both the establishment of native plants and the management of the vegetation and its structural type to meet performance standards.

2.2 Location

The Parker Dam Camp property resides just south of Parker Dam on the California side of the Colorado River between River Miles 191 and 192. The conservation area encompasses nearly 200 acres of the Colorado River historic floodplain. The site is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and 17 miles upstream of Parker, Arizona (figure 1).

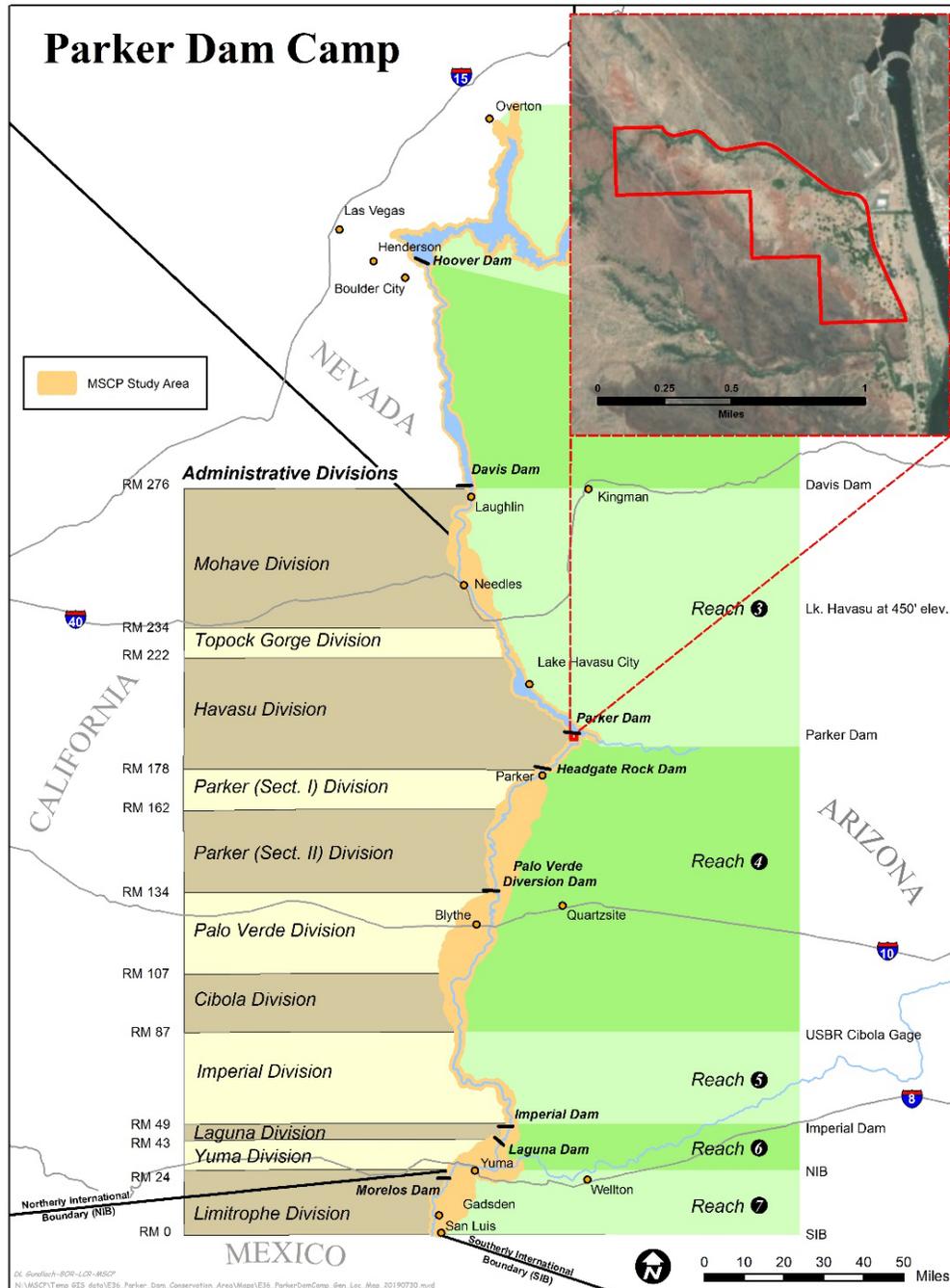


Figure 1.—LCR MSCP Parker Dam Camp.

2.3 Landownership

Parker Dam Camp is located within the Parker Dam security zone in California, which is owned by the Lower Colorado River Dams Office, Bureau of Reclamation, under the U.S. Department of the Interior.

2.4 Water

A small stream of less than 1 cubic foot per second of water is located at the northern portion of the property and maintains a riparian community.

2.5 Agreements

The Memorandum of Understanding between the LCR MSCP and Parker Dam provides the terms of use for the property within the Parker Dam Camp security zone and granted the LCR MSCP the authority to develop and manage the site within the designated project area.

2.6 Public Use

No public access is allowed. The site is within the Parker Dam security zone and is off limits to the general public.

2.7 Law Enforcement

Parker Dam Camp is patrolled and monitored by the Parker Dam Security Office.

2.8 Wildfire Management

Federal, State, and local fire agencies, either by existing management agreements or mutual aid agreements, provide wildland fire suppression, incident dispatch, fire investigation, fuels reduction, and potential fire restrictions. The full range of suppression strategies is available to managers provided that selected options do not compromise firefighter or public safety, are cost effective, consider the benefits of suppression and the values to be protected, and are consistent with resource objectives (LCR MSCP 2010).

3.0 HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The honey mesquite land cover type has established naturally along the northern and eastern edges of the conservation area (figure 2).

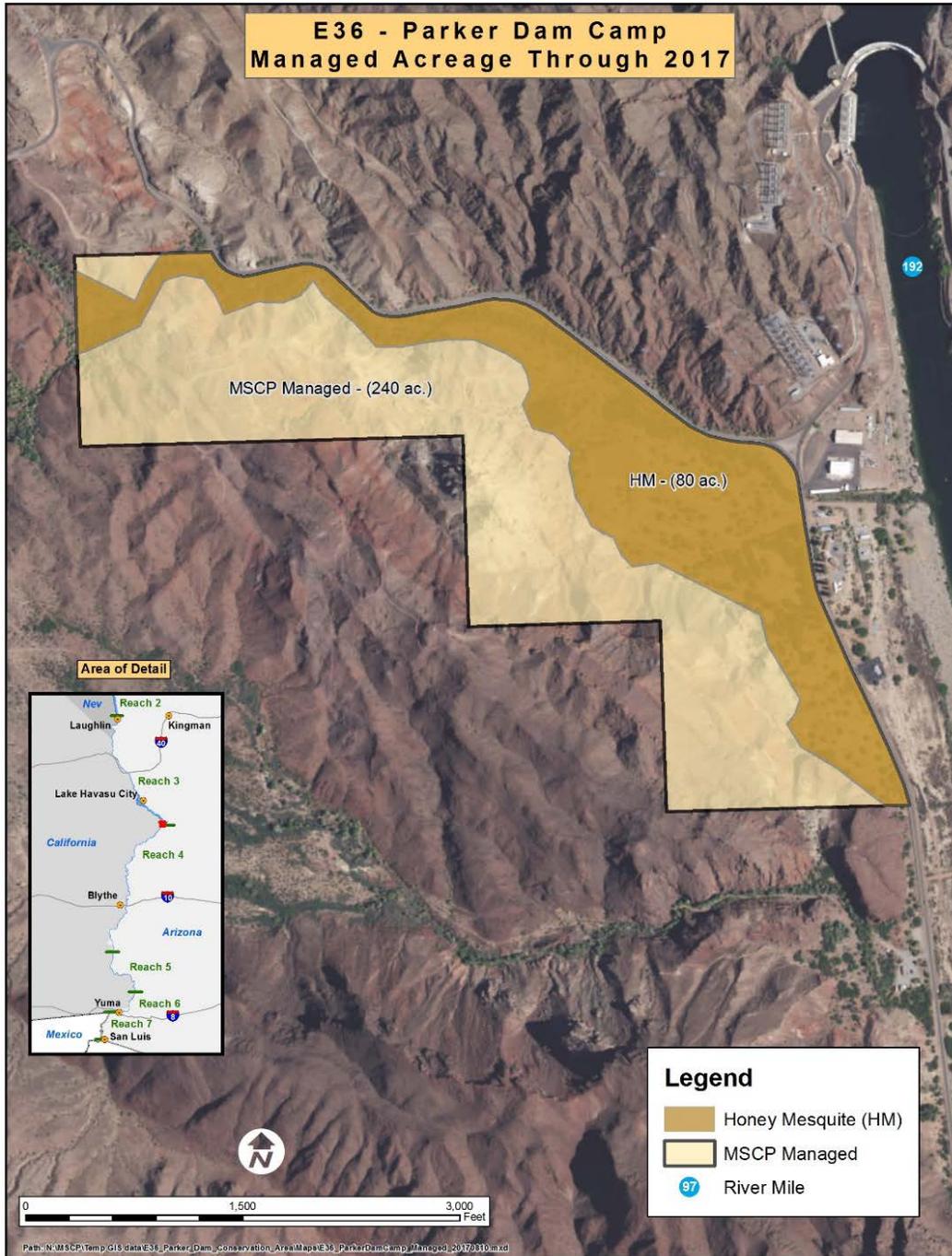


Figure 2.—Managed acreage at Parker Dam Camp.

3.1 Planting

No planting occurred in 2017.

3.2 Irrigation

No irrigation was performed in 2017.

3.3 Site Maintenance

Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) and mulberry (*Morus* spp.) ornamental plants were removed from the site. Debris left over from demolition of a school was removed by the Yuma Area Office. Additional site cleanup will be ongoing.

4.0 MONITORING

4.1 Avian Monitoring

Avian monitoring in FY17 included surveys for riparian breeding birds.

4.1.1 General Avian Surveys

Bird surveys were conducted to detect breeding LCR MSCP riparian bird species and other territorial riparian bird species. Surveys were conducted within areas of the cottonwood-willow and mesquite land cover types that were of adequate growth to support breeding birds. General bird surveys resulted in the detection of 15 species (44 territories) of birds breeding within the surveyed plots. Gila woodpeckers (*Melanerpes uropygialis*) were confirmed breeding (SWCA Environmental Consultants 2018).

Table 1 shows the number of breeding territories of LCR MSCP covered species at Parker Dam Camp in FY17 (SWCA Environmental Consultants, 2018).

Table 1.—Number of breeding territories per LCR MSCP covered species¹ at Parker Dam Camp, FY17

LCR MSCP covered species	Number of confirmed breeding pairs
Gila woodpecker	2.0

¹ Number of breeding territories refers to the number of territories that are within the sampled area for pairs that were confirmed breeding. Partial territories are possible, as the amount of each territory within the sampled area was estimated to be 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, or 1.0.

5.0 HABITAT CREATION CONSERVATION MEASURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

5.1 Vegetation Monitoring

Vegetation data were collected in FY17 using light detection and ranging (lidar). Lidar measures the vegetation structure throughout the canopy and provides the ability to identify structural diversity and successional growth stages. Conservation area vegetation will be evaluated on a periodic basis using lidar to ensure the habitat is meeting species' requirements. A procedure to analyze and provide vegetation structure metrics will be developed, and the results will be presented in future reports.

5.2 Evaluation of the Conservation Area

The Final Habitat Creation Conservation Measure Accomplishment Tracking Process was finalized in October 2011 (LCR MSCP 2011). All areas within Parker Dam Camp were designed to benefit covered species at the landscape level.

To meet species habitat creation requirements, the Habitat Conservation Plan provides goals for habitat creation based on land cover types. These land cover types are described using the Anderson and Ohmart vegetation classification system (Anderson and Ohmart 1976, 1984a, 1984b).

6.0 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Adaptive management relies on the initial receipt of new information, the analysis of that information, and the incorporation of the new information into the design and/or direction of future project work (LCR MSCP 2007). The Adaptive Management Program's role is to ensure habitat creation sites are biologically effective and fulfill the conservation measures outlined in the Habitat Conservation Plan for 27 covered species and to determine if they potentially benefit 5 evaluation species. Post-development monitoring and species research results will be used to adaptively manage habitat creation sites after initial implementation. Once monitoring data are collected over a few years, and then analyzed for Parker Dam Camp, recommendations may be made through the adaptive management process for site improvements in the future.

There are no adaptive management recommendations for Parker Dam Camp at this time.

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