Fiscal Year 2017 Outreach Activities
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

**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

**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

**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

**Other Interested Parties Participant Group**

QuadState Local Governments Authority
Desert Wildlife Unlimited
Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program

Fiscal Year 2017 Outreach Activities

Prepared by:
Nathan Lenon, Program Management Group
Lenon, N. 2019. Fiscal Year 2017 Outreach Activities. Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program, Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City, Nevada.
# Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>AGFD</td>
<td>Arizona Game and Fish Department</td>
</tr>
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<td>CRAB</td>
<td>Colorado River Aquatic Biologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRTR</td>
<td>Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCR MSCP</td>
<td>Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclamation</td>
<td>Bureau of Reclamation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEF</td>
<td>Water Education Foundation</td>
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INTRODUCTION

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) is a multi-stakeholder, Federal and non-Federal partnership that seeks to balance the use of Colorado River water resources with the conservation of native species and their habitats in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. This comprehensive program impacts many different groups, including the partner agencies and organizations represented on the LCR MSCP Steering Committee, the scientific community, local communities, Native American Tribes, farmers, recreationists, and the general public. Public outreach efforts are carried out to communicate and inform audiences on LCR MSCP implementation. As part of these efforts, the LCR MSCP reports annual outreach accomplishments.

TOURS AND GROUP PRESENTATIONS

The LCR MSCP conducts research, monitoring, fish stocking, and habitat creation and management projects on over 400 miles of the lower Colorado River from Lake Mead to the U.S.-Mexico border. This requires the LCR MSCP to engage partners who are spread out geographically throughout Arizona, California, and Nevada. One of the most effective ways to create an understanding of the work taking place at LCR MSCP conservation areas, as well as the program area at large, is through occasional tours of the projects and the surrounding communities. These tours are typically organized for key stakeholder groups, such as the LCR MSCP Steering Committee, or other organizations involved in water policy and natural resource management issues. Tours and special group presentations provided during the year are discussed below.

Water Education Foundation Lower Colorado River Tour

Partner: Water Education Foundation, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge
Date: April 5, 2017
Location: Beal Lake Conservation Area

The mission of the Water Education Foundation (WEF), “an impartial, nonprofit organization, is to create a better understanding of water resources and foster public understanding and resolution of water resource issues through facilitation, education, and outreach.” Each year, WEF organizes a series of water tours to provide participants with an up-close perspective on a variety of topics related to water resource management, water quality, environmental restoration, and other related topics. The WEF lower Colorado River tour is a 3-day, 2-night tour,
which stops at numerous locations, such as Hoover Dam, agricultural irrigation districts, Native American Tribal lands, and habitat restoration sites. The LCR MSCP typically hosts one or two stops on this tour. The tour is open to the public, for a fee, through the WEF’s Web site (https://watereducation.org). In 2017, we provided a brief tour for 43 participants who were able to view Beal Lake and the adjacent restored Fremont cottonwood-Goodding’s willow (*Populus fremontii-Salix gooddingii*) as one of many stops on their tour.

**Project WET and Discover a Watershed Workshops**

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a non-profit organization that delivers continuing education courses to teachers, focusing on water resources and local water resource issues. In Clark County, Nevada, the Colorado River provides most of the urban and residential water use, so it is the major watershed to focus on. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provided an overview of the LCR MSCP at two workshops during the fiscal year, along with guest speakers from multiple agencies. Participants in the workshops receive credit through their school district’s professional development program, and in some cases, college credit is available.

**June 19–20, 2017: Project WET (Boulder Beach, Lake Mead)**
This 2-day workshop provided teachers with an overview of the water cycle and watershed, with a focus on the Las Vegas Valley and the Colorado River. Approximately 20 teachers from the Clark County School District attended.

**June 21, 2017: Discover a Watershed (Boulder Beach, Lake Mead)**
This 1-day workshop focused completely on the Colorado River watershed. Approximately 20 teachers from the Clark County School District attended.

**CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

Conferences and scientific meetings provide forums to discuss the technical details and issues related to conservation area development, fish and wildlife monitoring, fish augmentation, and species research with program partners, subject matter experts, and other interested parties. These gatherings allow resource managers and scientists to compare best practices and stay informed about important research findings and issues of regional importance. Conferences and meetings that involved substantial program involvement are discussed below.
Fiscal Year 2017 Outreach Activities

Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference

Date: December 14–16, 2016
Location: Laughlin, Nevada

The Colorado River Water Users Association “is a non-profit, non-partisan group, formed to study, formulate, and advise on ways to protect and safeguard the interests of all who use the Colorado River.” Their annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, draws hundreds of interested parties to discuss issues related to water accounting, ongoing and new issues in water law, municipal reuse and conservation programs, and many other issues related to water use along the Colorado River. The LCR MSCP hosts an exhibit booth at this conference. In 2016, Chris Harris, LCR MSCP Steering Committee Chairman, gave a presentation on the program at the conference titled, “Collaboration, Coordination, and Adaptation.”

Colorado River Aquatic Biologists Annual Meeting

Date: January 4–5, 2017
Location: Laughlin, Nevada

The Colorado River Aquatic Biologists (CRAB) is an informal group of mainly fisheries biologists representing Federal, State, Tribal, and private entities working in the Colorado River Basin. The group meets each January to share fisheries status updates, research findings, and to discuss topics of current importance pertaining to Colorado River fisheries. Presentations are generally focused on the Colorado River Basin from the Mexican border to Lake Powell.

CRAB meetings are the main local venue for information sharing between fisheries workers involved with both native and sport fishes. LCR MSCP projects are a major part of the native fish component of each annual CRAB meeting. In 2017, 33 presentations were given, and the total attendance was 70.

A Web page dedicated to CRAB is hosted within the LCR MSCP Web site. Presentations from 2011 to the present are posted, as well as details about upcoming meetings. The Web page can be found at:
http://www.lcrmscp.gov/crab/crab.html
Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian Annual Meeting

Date: January 25–27, 2017
Location: Laughlin, Nevada

The Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian (CRTR) Group helps facilitate communication and information sharing for individuals or groups working on terrestrial, riparian, and marsh habitat issues, including habitat restoration, natural resource monitoring, and research related to the lower Colorado River watershed. Organized by the LCR MSCP, an annual meeting is hosted for all groups working on Colorado River issues.

A Web page dedicated to CRTR meeting information is hosted within the LCR MSCP Web site. Presentations from 2007 to the present are posted, as well as details about upcoming meetings. The Web page can be found at: http://www.lcrmscp.gov/crtr/crtr.html. In 2017, 27 presentations were given, and the total attendance was 106.

Arizona Field Ornithologists Annual Meeting

Date: October 21–23, 2016
Location: Yuma, Arizona

LCR MSCP staff presented a summary of bird use at the program’s conservation areas: “A summary of Bird Monitoring of Restoration Sites on the Lower Colorado River.”

Great Basin Bird Observatory Annual Meeting

Date: May 17, 2017
Location: Reno, Nevada
Chris Dodge

LCR MSCP staff discussed how the statistical analysis, known as “occupancy modeling,” is used to characterize habitat use by marsh birds throughout the program area: “Occupancy Modeling of a Population of Yuma Ridgway’s Rail on the Lower Colorado River.” The audience consisted of approximately 100 people (figure 1).
International Visitor Leadership Program (Department of State)

Our Planet – Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

Date: September 11–29, 2017
Location: Las Vegas, Nevada

Carrie Ronning, Wildlife Group Manager, addressed a group of international environmental leaders from 12 countries, including Curacao, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, China, South Sudan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. This group was invited to the United States through the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. While in the United States, the group examined management of biological diversity, tourism, infrastructure and community planning for natural attractions, and collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders for management of natural resources.
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Educational outreach is an effective way to establish long-term support for program objectives. School groups often request guest speakers or field trips. We performed a wide variety of education outreach events, including classroom presentations, career day events, and hosting college student volunteers during several field surveys (see figures 2 and 3). Table 1 provides details on the educational outreach efforts during fiscal year 2017.

Table 1.—Summary of K–12 and university outreach efforts made during fiscal year 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Number of students contacted</th>
<th>Program type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Gibson Elementary School</td>
<td>3–5</td>
<td>October 13, 2016</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Classroom visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Henderson, Nevada)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elise Wolf Elementary School</td>
<td>K–2</td>
<td>January 20, 2017</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Career Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Henderson, Nevada)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha P. King Elementary School</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>March 29, 2017</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Career Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Boulder City, Nevada)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ferron Elementary School</td>
<td>3–5</td>
<td>April 7, 2017</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Career Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Las Vegas, Nevada)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyde Park Middle School</td>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>May 2, 2018</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>Science in the Schools presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Las Vegas, Nevada)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Preparatory Academy</td>
<td>K–12</td>
<td>May 18, 2017</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Tour of the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Blythe, California)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated total students contacted 939
Figure 2.—LCR MSCP staff hosted an educational field trip for students from the Desert Preparatory Academy (Blythe, California) at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve.
Figure 3.—LCR MSCP staff assist students with using spotting scopes to view birds during a "Careers on Wheels" event at Elise Wolf Elementary School (Henderson, Nevada).
FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Festivals and special events provide opportunities for the public to participate and learn about a variety of topics, including science and conservation. To be successful, these events often require the participation and support from large numbers of organizations, with one organization taking the lead to produce the event. By participating in large festivals and events, Reclamation can gain visibility for the LCR MSCP from many people without having to be the organizer. Some large events, such as the Las Vegas Science Expo, have attracted from several hundred to tens of thousands of attendees within a single day. During fiscal year 2017, the LCR MSCP participated in the festivals and special events listed below. Table 2 summarizes the attendance at these festivals and special events.

Table 2.—Festival and special event attendance, fiscal year 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event dates</th>
<th>Event name</th>
<th>Total attendance</th>
<th>Estimated youth attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1–2, 2017</td>
<td>World Wetlands Day</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18, 2017</td>
<td>International Migratory Bird Day (Clark County Wetlands Park, Las Vegas, Nevada)</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21, 2017</td>
<td>Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge, “Friends and Family Day”</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24 – 26, 2017</td>
<td>Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo</td>
<td>46,600</td>
<td>9,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2017</td>
<td>Las Vegas Science &amp; Technology Festival, “Giant Expo”</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>6,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2017</td>
<td>National Public Lands Day (Pyramid Canyon Day Use Area, Laughlin, Nevada)</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimated total attendance</td>
<td>56,321</td>
<td>16,674</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

World Wetlands Day

Partners: Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee  
Date: February 1–2, 2017  
Location: Clark County Wetlands Park, Las Vegas, Nevada

To recognize and celebrate World Wetlands Day, the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee hosted approximately 250 high school students from area high schools for a 2-day science symposium. Presentations were given by several science professionals, including Pat Mulroy of the Brookings Institution and John Swett of Reclamation. Students were also provided the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, including water quality monitoring, engineering, and bird monitoring.
International Migratory Bird Day

Partners: Clark County Wetlands Park  
Date: March 18, 2017  
Location: Clark County Wetlands Park, Las Vegas, Nevada

This annual event combines a mixture of outdoor bird walks, bird identification by sight and sound, bird-related crafts and games, agency educational exhibits, live raptor demonstrations, and more. The event is held at Clark County Wetlands Park (Las Vegas, Nevada) during spring break for the local schools. In 2017, the LCR MSCP participated by hosting a “bird identification by sound” activity station. The theme for the year was, “Spread your wings for bird conservation.”

Figure 4.—Martin Tyner of the Southwest Wildlife Foundation handles a captive prairie falcon at the 2017 International Migratory Bird Day event in Las Vegas.
Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge, “Friends and Family Day”

Partners: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the “Friends of Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge” (a volunteer service group)

Date: March 21, 2017
Location: Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge

Each spring, the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge hosts a day of fun, games, and learning activities to expose locals and visitors to the natural resources found at the refuge. Activities include native plant gardening, archery, wildlife identification, a nature scavenger hunt, and agency displays. Approximately 50 people attended the 2017 event, and we estimated that about 38 were children.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo

Partners: Arizona Game and Fish Department
Date: March 25–26, 2017
Location: Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Phoenix, Arizona

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) hosts their annual “outdoor expo” at the Ben Avery Shooting Complex, near Phoenix, Arizona. This huge event spans 3 days and attracted 48,400 people in 2017, including 1,800 during “youth day” on Friday afternoon of the event. This event does allow commercial exhibitors, as well as agency and non-profit exhibitors. The major focus of this event is hunting, fishing, shooting, off-road vehicles, and other outdoor activities. The entire event is run by the AGFD, with traffic and parking safety provided by the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Department. The event has an atmosphere, like a county fair, where vendors can interact with potential customers, and wildlife and conservation agencies can interact with the public to inform and educate.

We attended the outdoor expo for the first time in 2017 and partnered with the AGFD to host a live native fishes display at our booth (figures 5 and 6). Staff from the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery at Page Springs, Arizona, brought a variety of nearly 20 fishes native to Arizona waters (and the Colorado River). Visitors to our booth were very interested in learning about the fishes. We attended the Saturday and Sunday portions of the expo, where total attendance was approximately 46,600 people.
Figure 5.—Four species of Colorado River native "big river fishes" captivated attendees at the 2017 Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo, March 2017.

Figure 6.—LCR MSCP staff discuss native fish conservation with expo attendees.
Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival, “Giant Expo”

Partners: Las Vegas Science Festival and over 135 community partners  
Date: May 6, 2017  
Location: Cashman Expo Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

The “giant expo” is the final event of a week-long, community-wide, “Las Vegas Science & Technology Festival.” In 2017, the festival had over 35,000 participants in 9 days, spread over 152 different programs. The LCR MSCP has been a participant in the expo every year since it began.

In 2017, we participated in the festival by providing a guest speaker for “Science in the Schools Week,” at Hyde Park Middle School, which allowed us to contact 224 seventh and eighth grade students (reported in table 1), and by hosting an exhibit space at the expo, which was attended by 9,000 people (see table 2; figure 7).

Figure 7.—LCR MSCP staff talk about native fish monitoring aboard a boat, inside the expo center.
Fiscal Year 2017 Outreach Activities

National Public Lands Day

Partners: Laughlin Township and community partners
Date: September 30, 2017
Location: Pyramid Canyon Day Use Area

We participated in one of the many “National Public Lands Day” events (figure 8) that take place around the country in fall, in Laughlin, Nevada. This event occurs along the Colorado River Greenway Park and Trail, on the Nevada side of the Colorado River, just below Davis Dam. Approximately 105 people attended the event, which provided guided hikes, nature-themed learning games, and agency displays on a variety of topics.

Figure 8.—2017 National Public Lands Day flier.
Fiscal Year 2017 Outreach Activities

**YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS AND VOLUNTEER PROJECTS**

We did not complete any youth conservation corps projects during fiscal year 2017. Volunteers contributed approximately 94 hours of labor during fiscal year 2017, which included wildlife monitoring (bats and small mammals) and fisheries monitoring.

**Educational Items**

We created an educational bookmark that discusses the Colorado River Cotton rat (*Sigmodon arizonae plenus*) (figure 9). This bookmark expands on a series of LCR MSCP covered species bookmarks (figure 10) that have been created to hand out at outreach events. The bookmarks feature an original illustration (by Christina Robinson Swett, Reclamation Illustrator) of the featured species on the front and a brief text description about the species, including a link to the program’s Web site, on the back. In addition to the new bookmark, we reprinted the previously illustrated bookmarks and provided them at most of the events reported on in this document.

![Colorado River Cotton Rat](image)

*Figure 9.—Colorado River cotton rat illustrated bookmark.*
Figure 10.—Humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) poster (front only).
**SPECIES MODELS**

We worked with Brian Wignall, a local artist (http://www.biodynamicsinc.net/index.html), to create a set of three-dimensional models of several LCR MSCP covered species: razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis* [also known as Yuma Ridgway’s rail = *R. obsoletus yumanensis*]), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), and western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*). We are using these models at different festivals and special events to provide a “hands-on” look at what some of the species the LCR MSCP works with (figure 11).

![Figure 11.—Photographs of the species models that were commissioned in fiscal year 2017.](image)