

# Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



*Balancing Resource Use and Conservation*

Parker Dam Camp

2018 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**

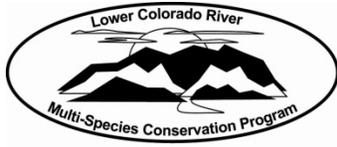
Colorado River Commission of Nevada  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Colorado River Commission Power Users  
Basic Water Company

## **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



# Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

## Parker Dam Camp

## 2018 Annual Report

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Multi-Species Conservation Program  
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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, 2017, through September 30, 2018, which is Federal fiscal year (FY) 2018, and projected activities for FY19. Water usage is presented for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2018, consistent with the Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Arizona, California, and Nevada, Calendar Year 2018 (Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation] 2019).

## 1.1 Background

Originally, Parker Dam Camp was developed as employee housing for the workers constructing Parker Dam. Beginning in 1934, the Parker Dam Government Camp was 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 removing 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. The property is approximately 204 acres in size, and honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) has become established on the property and 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).

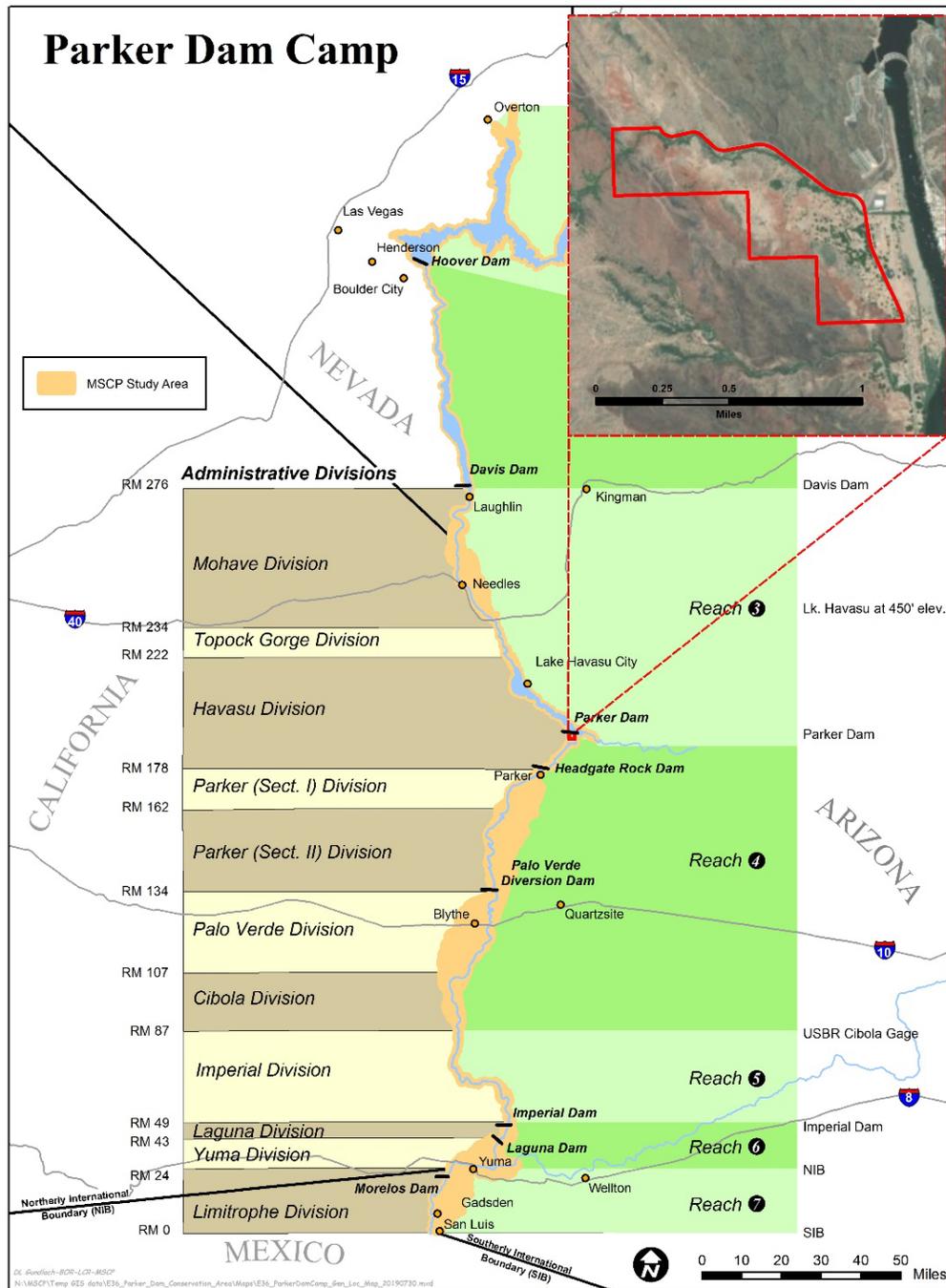


Figure 1.—LCR MSCP Parker Dam Camp.

## **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 Security boundary 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 Parker Dam Camp 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).

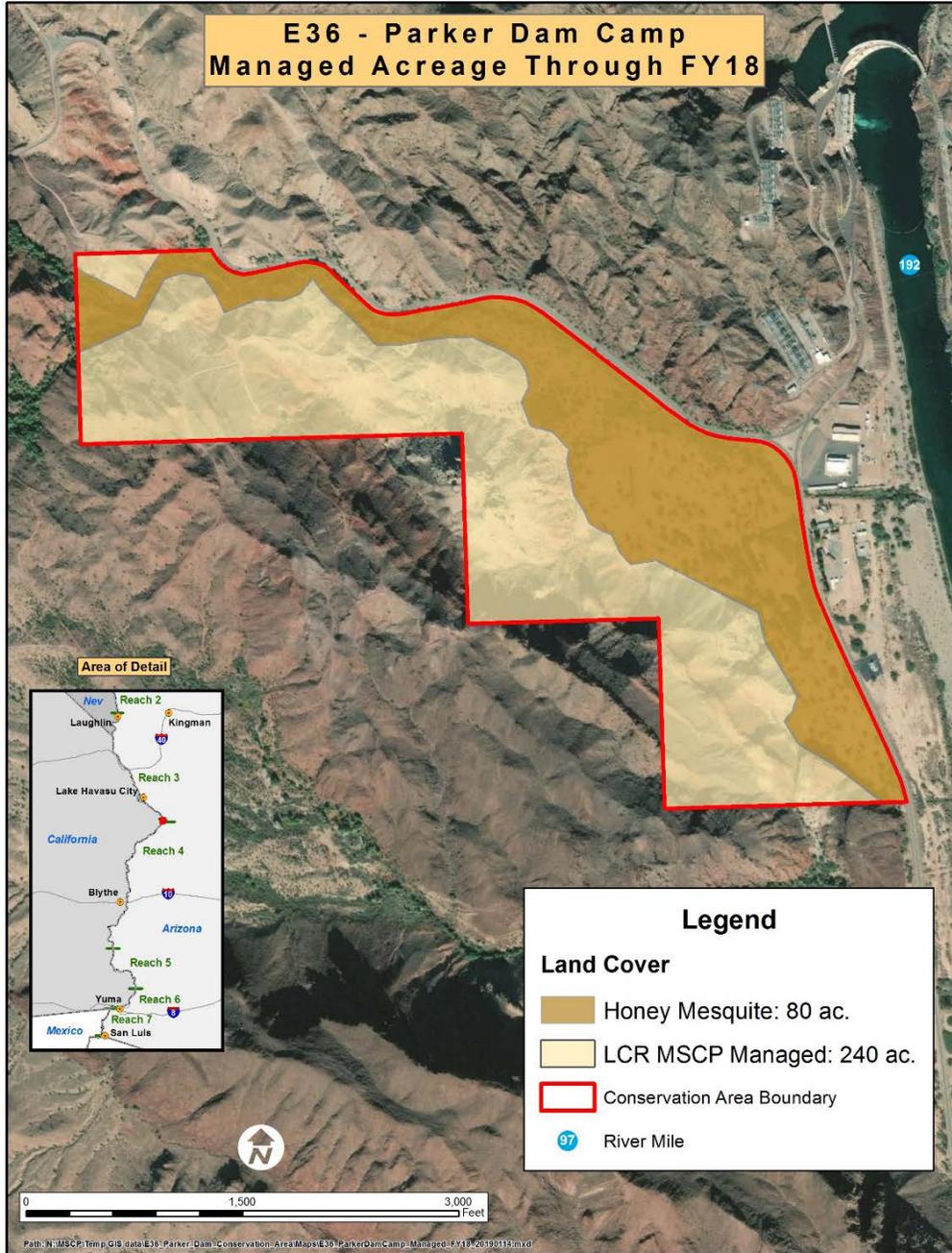


Figure 2.—Managed acreage at Parker Dam Camp.

### 3.1 Planting

No planting occurred in 2018.

### 3.2 Irrigation

No irrigation was performed in 2018.

### 3.3 Site Maintenance

Minimal maintenance was performed on the conservation area in FY18.

## 4.0 MONITORING

### 4.1 Avian Monitoring

Avian monitoring in FY18 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 13 species (51 territories) of birds breeding within the surveyed plots. Gila woodpeckers (*Melanerpes uropygialis*) were confirmed breeding (SWCA Environmental Consultants 2019).

Table 1 shows the number of breeding territories of LCR MSCP covered species at Parker Dam Camp in FY18 (SWCA Environmental Consultants 2019).

Table 1.—Number of breeding territories per LCR MSCP covered species<sup>1</sup> at Parker Dam Camp, FY18

LCR MSCP covered species	Number of confirmed breeding pairs
Gila woodpecker	1.25

<sup>1</sup> 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 FY18 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 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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