

Work Task E36: Parker Dam Camp

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$20,000

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Start Date: FY17

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Habitat creation

Conservation Measures: VEFL1, WRBA2, WYBA3, ELOW1, and BEVI1

Location: Reach 4, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) withdrawn lands, River Miles 191–192, California

Purpose: To create and manage a mosaic of native land cover types for LCR MSCP covered species

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): This work task was identified and evaluated under Work Task E16.

Project Description: 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 site is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and 17 miles upstream of Parker, Arizona.

Originally developed as employee housing for dam workers, the 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. Unless the site will be managed under the

LCR MSCP as a conservation area, the property will be made available for development for recreational purposes similar to other lands within the Parker Strip. Honey mesquite 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.

Previous Activities: A geohydrologic assessment of the property was completed in 2012 along with the *30% Design Report – MSCP Parker Dam Camp Native Fish Ponds Project*, which provided details of construction of a potential isolated backwater in 2015 under Work Task E16. During investigations of the camp as a potential LCR MSCP conservation area, the focus was originally on the creation of isolated backwaters for native fishes. Due to a number of preliminary technical and cost-benefit assessments, the site is not recommended for construction of ponds at this time.

FY15 Accomplishments: New start in FY17.

FY16 Activities: New start in FY17.

Proposed FY17 Activities: An agreement between the LCR MSCP Office and the administrators of Parker Dam will be drafted and signed, outlining the responsibilities of each party. Remaining manmade structures will be removed from the site. Selective removal of non-native vegetation would be removed during general cleanup of the site.

A small stream, less than 0.5 cubic foot per second, exists on the southern portion of the property and is fed by seepage from reservoirs located upstream. A plan for exotic plant removal and replacement with native vegetation will be discussed and, if appropriate, implemented in following years.

The small stream affords an opportunity to demonstrate a cost-effective technology for screening water that may be applicable to the LCR MSCP at this or other conservation areas dedicated to native fishes. This location is ideal for field testing the performance and maintenance requirements of small-slot-size (0.01-millimeter) screening technology. Coanda screens are specifically designed for filtering surface water from a flowing water source. In FY17, a small-scale demonstration of this screening technology will be implemented. Operating and documenting the performance of the screens and their maintenance requirements would be beneficial on either this conservation area at a later date or on other conservation areas being developed as isolated backwaters.

Monitoring: No wildlife pre-development monitoring will be conducted in FY17.

Pertinent Reports: Two reports, *Parker Dam Camp Geohydrologic Assessment, April 2013*, and *30% Design Report – MSCP Parker Dam Camp Native Fish Ponds Project*, have been completed and will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site.