

Work Task E36: Parker Dam Camp

FY16 Estimate	FY16 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY16	FY17 Approved Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate	FY20 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$20,000

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Start Date: FY17

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Habitat creation

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

Location: Reach 4, Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands, River Miles 191–192, California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

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.

FY16 Accomplishments: This is a new start in FY17.

FY17 Activities: An agreement was signed by the LCR MSCP and Lower Colorado Dams Office that outlined the responsibilities of each party and identified Parker Dam Camp as a LCR MSCP conservation area.

A youth crew was brought in to clean up the site and remove non-native plants. Youth crews enable the LCR MSCP to leverage funds with non-program funding and also allow for an educational opportunity for youth.

It is anticipated that FY17 obligations will be less than approved because construction and operation of a coanda screen has been put on hold.

Monitoring: General bird surveys will be conducted from May to early August. The conservation area will be surveyed for presence of quailbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*) to determine if potential habitat is present for MacNeill's sootywing skippers (*Pholisora graciellae* = *Hesperopsis graciellae* [MacNeill]). If suitable habitat is present, surveys will be conducted.

Proposed FY18 Activities: The small stream, located on the northern portion of the property has several exotic non-native plant species within the corridor. A plan for exotic plant removal and replacement with native vegetation will be developed. Small-scale site cleanup will occur sometime during FY18.

Monitoring: General bird surveys will be conducted from May to early August. The conservation area will be surveyed for presence of quailbush to determine if potential habitat is present for MacNeill's sootywing skippers. If suitable habitat is present, surveys will be conducted.

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