Collaboration, Coordination, and Adaptation

in the

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Lower Colorado River
Multi-Species Conservation Program

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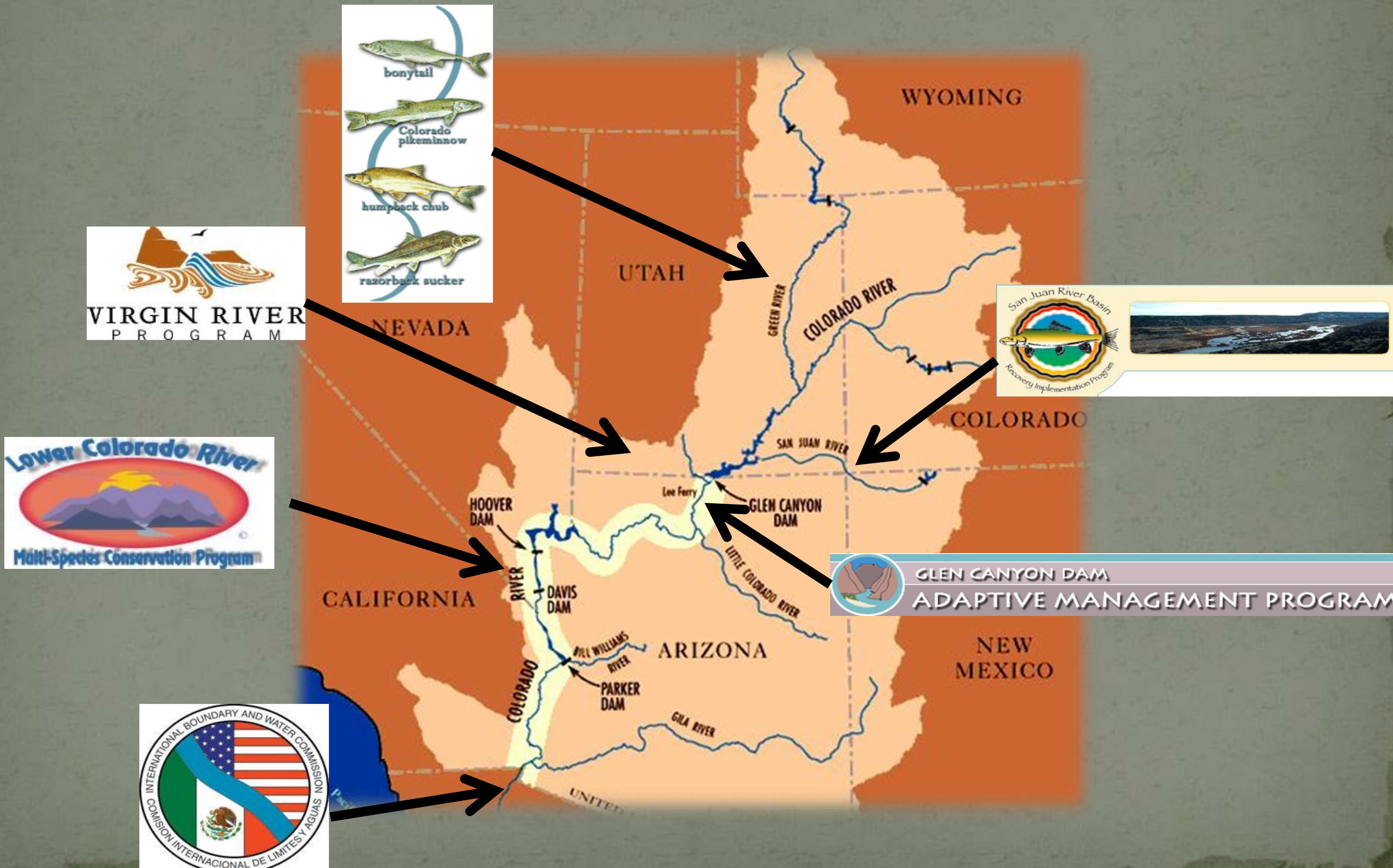
Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

- 50-year program with goal of 8,132 acres of habitat creation
- 26 covered species, 5 evaluation species
- Collaborative effort by over 57 entities, including federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, water and power users, and other interested parties
- Provides coverage for routine LCR maintenance and operations, diversions and returns, non-flow activities within planning area, changes in point of diversion, and generation of hydropower

Status of the LCR MSCP

- 10-year anniversary of program implementation in 2015
- 4,769 acres of habitat created through FY-15
- 266,705 razorback sucker stocked
- 72,927 bonytail stocked
- FY17 budget of approx. $30 million for program implementation

Basinwide Environmental Programs



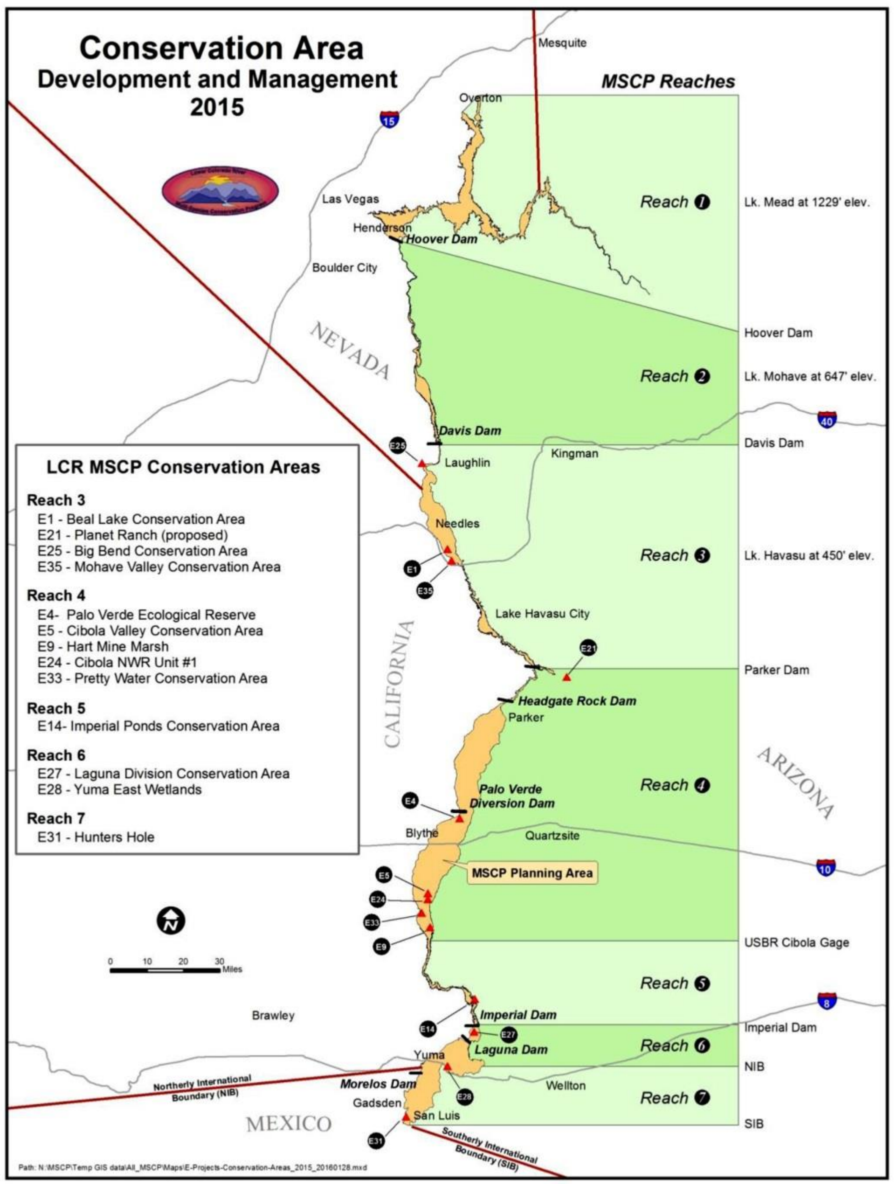
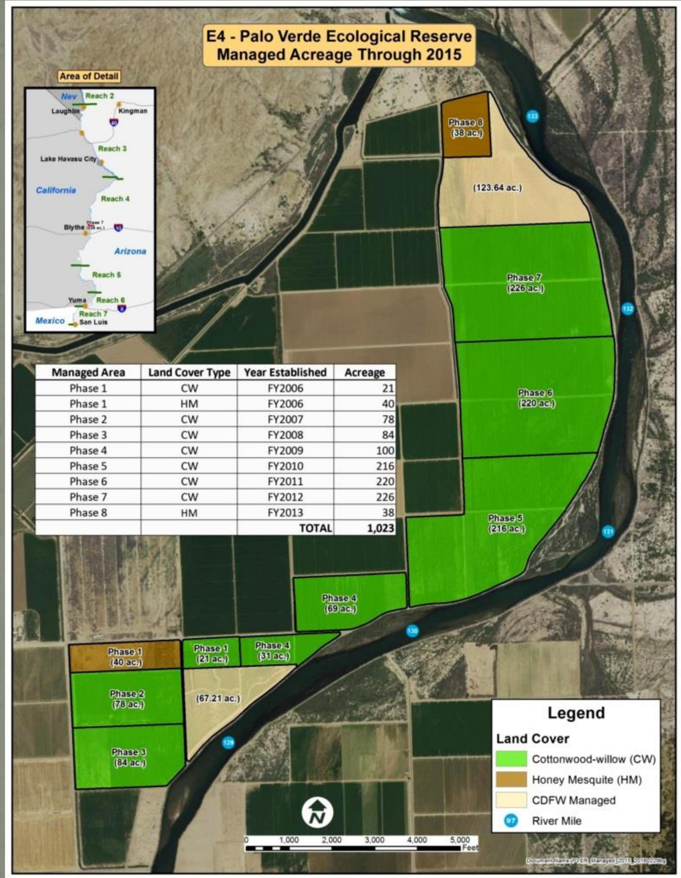


Figure 1-1.—Conservation area development and management, 2015.



Managed Area	Land Cover Type	Year Established	Acreage
Phase 1	CW	FY2006	21
Phase 1	HM	FY2006	40
Phase 2	CW	FY2007	78
Phase 3	CW	FY2008	84
Phase 4	CW	FY2009	100
Phase 5	CW	FY2010	216
Phase 6	CW	FY2011	220
Phase 7	CW	FY2012	226
Phase 8	HM	FY2013	38
		TOTAL	1,023

Figure 1-3.—E4 – Palo Verde Ecological Reserve managed acreage through 2015.

Sharing Research & Methods

- Annual Colorado River Aquatic Biologists (CRAB) and Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian (CRTR) meetings
- LCR MSCP Biologists attend research meetings for Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Implementation Programs
- Fish PIT tag data shared through Native Fish Database
- LCR MSCP habitat restoration and monitoring methods applied to habitat restoration efforts in the Mexican Colorado River Delta
- Conceptual Ecological Models in Bay-Delta planning process adapted and utilized by LCR MSCP

Working Together

- LiDAR data from successful southwestern willow flycatcher habitat at SRP's Rockhouse Riparian Demonstration Project near Roosevelt Lake, AZ were used to evaluate habitat quality at PVER
- LCR MSCP habitat used for the NAU Cottonwood Ecology Group's genetics project, providing data for both programs
- LCR MSCP staff consulted on Minute 319 implementation and continue in the development of Minute 32x

Working Together

- Interagency efforts to research and manage non-native species, including saltcedar control, saltcedar beetle monitoring, and quagga mussel
- Regional wildfire management strategy in place, including federal, tribal, state, and county agencies
- Binational collaboration in the Limitrophe with Hunter's Hole and Miguel Aleman sites

Contributing to Common Resources

- Providing $500,000 over the course of the program to the USFWS for use in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program for humpback chub conservation measures
- Over course of program, more than 110,000 razorback sucker have been stocked in Lake Mohave to preserve genetic diversity of species
- LCR MSCP funds support maintenance of broodstock and secondary broodstock of bonytail chub and razorback sucker
- Together with USBR-UC, carried out a 5-year study of razorback sucker use of Lake Mead and Lower Grand Canyon

Contributing to Common Resources

- Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) sites on LCR MSCP habitat since program inception
- LCR MSCP, Upper Colorado River Basin recovery programs, and Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program are developing a cooperative adaptive management initiative to compile information on the status and potential future viability of razorback suckers
- Participation in Western Bat Working Group

Maximizing Benefits

- Opportunities for sportsmen and recreationalists are provided at conservation areas when possible, through coordination and collaboration with AGFD, CDFW, NDOW
- Habitats such as Yuma East Wetlands result in community and tribal partnerships
- New Laguna Division Conservation Area water management is integrated into river operations
- Public outreach, including presentations, tours, and volunteer opportunities, increase public awareness and interest in habitats & species

Adapting With the Times

- Developing methods to improve fish survival and aquatic habitat suitability
- Improving data management and access
- Developing and implementing improved methods for habitat restoration and maintenance
- Working together to address new issues, such as adding species to the program

Challenges Moving Forward

- Address and adapt to ongoing issues such as drought, climate change, and native/non-native interactions
- Maintain high-quality and functioning habitat over the life of program
- Preserve genetic diversity of Lake Mohave razorback population, and maintaining rearing capacity for native fish over life of the Program
- Maintain role of LCR MSCP as a strong partner in basinwide collaboration, coordination, and communication for the management of species and habitat

Questions?

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