



WHITLOW RANCH DAM, AZ

Operations & Maintenance

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

Located 50 miles SE of Phoenix, AZ, in Pima County, AZ. Project elements being operated and maintained: Dam (earth-fill; 25-feet-high; 978-feet-long); Outlet Works (circular conduit); and Un-gated Service Roads Reservoir (35,593 acre-foot cap spillway crest - 1976). No Recreation Facilities.

AUTHORIZATION:

Flood Control Act of 1946.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2021:

Funds will be used for Operations and Maintenance project and program management, real estate land management, water control & quality management, environmental management & compliance, dam safety, dam maintenance, as well as asphalt paving of an access road that is frequently damaged during storm events.

FY 2022 Planned Accomplishments:

Optimal funding could be used for the following:

OPERATIONS – Legal or policy mandated minimum level operational activities; water control and management, including data analysis; inspection of land for hazardous materials; environmental stewardship activities and recreation management

MAINTENANCE – Legal or policy mandated maintenance activities; real estate right of way inspection; raising the crest of the saddle dike back to design elevation; dam safety oversight; and water instrumentation maintenance.



As of: 05 Feb 21

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

O&M

Estimated Federal Cost	\$817,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	0
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$817,000
Allocation thru FY20	\$546,747
Allocation for FY21	\$808,830
President's Budget for FY22	TBD
House Report for FY22	TBD
Senate Report for FY22	TBD
Balance to Complete After FY22	TBD

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION: The structure is un-gated and requires routine maintenance to manage the sediment and debris, which settles at the outlet works. Since the construction of the Dam in 1960, Phoenix and the surrounding area have experienced a major population increase, with development pushing further into the desert near the un-gated flood control structure. A Spillway Erodibility Study began in FY99, completed in early FY00, concluded that the entire spillway is generally erodible; however, the duration of the expected maximum flow event is so short that a sill breach probably would not occur. Local residents frequently use the Dam structure for target practice with large-bore weapons and rifles. Our Security Officer is working with the local Law Enforcement to curtail these activities. An operations management plan for the riparian eco-system must be completed due to the population of southwestern willow flycatcher found in the riparian areas adjacent to the dam structure. The plan would allow for continued operation and maintenance activities without the need for repeat consultations with the USFWS under the ESA. A large fire, which occurred in the basin during the summer of FY12, resulted in a large area of the basin being burned, leaving fallen debris and trees, which will need to be removed. If not removed, the fallen debris and trees will flow to the outlet works during significant rain events and impact project operations.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Congressman Paul Gosar AZ-4.