



May 13, 2026

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY
Evaluation of Screwbean Mesquite Ecosystem
2021-ECOCULTURE-2070A

The work for the above referenced project has been completed. Below is a summary of project related information.

The purpose of the above referenced project was:

The Clark County Multiples Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and the associated Incidental Take Permit requires that the Clark County Desert Conservation Program (DCP) acquire, restore and manage riparian property along the Muddy and Virgin Rivers. Screwbean mesquite is an important tree species in desert riparian systems in the Southwest and found on DCP properties. Since approximately 2005, screwbean mesquite trees has been experiencing rapid die-offs. Recovery of threatened and endangered species relies upon improving riparian habitat, with the die-off threatening recovery efforts. Findings from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Nevada Division of Wildlife, show an association with branch canker, a fungal pathogen and the die-off. The County wishes to evaluate screwbean mesquite ecosystems to see the impacts of the die off.

The major accomplishments or findings of this project include:

Surveys were conducted in 2023 and 2025. The 2023 surveys include 14 DCP parcels and six regional sites, while the June 2025 surveys included 10 survey transects at 9 DCP parcels. Screwbean mesquite was present on 11 of 14 DCP parcels with large variation in tree density. Branch canker and dieback were found at several sites at low intensity. 2025 transect surveys revealed that disease was found on trees at 8 of 9 parcels with minimal dieback. Coppicing was a tested procedure that resulted in disease-free resprouting for most study plans and trees in burned areas has less dieback than unburned controls. Results suggest that screwbean mesquites are declining unevenly across the Southwest, with branch canker likely working in combination with other environmental and/or biotic causative mechanisms. Experimental treatments show promise and long-term monitoring of populations are needed.



For more information about this project and/or for other Project Reports or Symposium Reports, please visit our [website](#).

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Caryn Wright, at (702) 455-2972.