

Work Task B2: Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$170,000	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000

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Start Date: FY05 **Expected Duration:** FY55

Long-Term Goal: Maintain and operate hatchery as an integral part of the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, RASU5, RASU6, BONY3, and BONY4

Location: Reach 2, Willow Beach, AZ

Purpose: Annually contribute razorback sucker (RASU) and bonytail (BONY) to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Much of the activity at Willow Beach NFH is related to other Work Tasks in Section B, because most of the RASU and BONY being reared for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program spend some time at Willow Beach NFH. (For further information, please see the Fish Augmentation Plan, which provides an overview of the program and shows the inter-relationships between the various hatcheries). In addition, some of the fishery research actions described in Section C are ongoing at this facility, including Pen Rearing Tests (C9), Bonytail Rearing Studies (C11), and Humpback Chub Monitoring Program (C14).

Project Description: Willow Beach NFH is managed by the FWS. The hatchery receives funding from the LCR MSCP for rearing of RASU and BONY for the Fish Augmentation Program. There are three primary tasks to be accomplished at the hatchery:

1. Receive fish to be reared. Each year the facility is to receive wild RASU larvae collected from Lake Mohave by the NFWG. Also, the hatchery is to receive fingerling BONY (25-75 mm) from Dexter NFH.
2. Provide fish to other hatcheries. Each year Willow Beach NFH is to provide fingerling RASU to Bubbling Ponds SFH to be further reared and ultimately stocked into Reaches 3-5 of the lower Colorado River; provide fingerling RASU from wild-caught larvae to Dexter NFH for further rearing and eventual repatriation to Lake Mohave; and provide juvenile BONY to Achii Hanyo Rearing Facility for further rearing and ultimately for stocking into Reaches 3-5 of the lower Colorado River.

3. Rear up to 5,000 subadult RASU to 500 mm for repatriation to Lake Mohave. (These fish are being reared to accelerate brood stock development and provide test fish for C12.)

Previous Activities: This cold water trout hatchery began operation in 1962 to produce rainbow trout for recreational fishing. Between 1994 and 1997, FWS and Reclamation cooperatively added solar heating systems to the hatchery, converting 50 percent of its rearing capacity to warm-water fish production.

FY05 Accomplishments: Received 60,512 RASU larvae (B1) and reared to fingerling size. Twenty thousand (20,000) of these fingerlings were transferred to Bubbling Ponds SFH, and the remaining 38,000 placed in outside, solar-heated raceway loops (see Figure B2). During the year, 10,373 RASU from previous stocks (mostly from 2001 and 2002 year classes) were tagged and repatriated to Lake Mohave. Approximately 8,000 juvenile BONY were transferred to Achii Hanyo for rearing in open ponds. The majority of funds were for salary and consumable materials (fish feed, medicines, chemicals, etc.).



Figure B2: Solar heated raceway loop.

FY06 Activities: Received 63,975 RASU larvae from Lake Mohave; distributed fingerling RASU to Bubbling Ponds SFH and Dexter NFH for further rearing; rearing RASU juveniles for repatriation back to Lake Mohave and rearing fingerling BONY for future distribution to Achii Hanyo rearing facility.

Proposed FY07 Activities: Continue to rear RASU and BONY for LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.