

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

| FY05 Estimate | FY05 Actual | Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05 | FY06 Approved Estimate | FY07 Proposed Estimate | FY08 Proposed Estimate | FY09 Proposed Estimate |
|---------------|-------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$86,000 | \$38,000 | \$38,000 | \$140,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 | \$225,000 |

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

Long-Term Goal: Maintain fish rearing capability and provide razorback sucker for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3 and RASU4

Location: Off-River, Cornville, AZ

Purpose: Operate and maintain fish rearing facility and annually contribute RASU to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Activities at Bubbling Ponds SFH described herein are closely related to Work Tasks B2, as Bubbling Ponds SFH receives early life stages of RASU from Willow Beach NFH. In addition, some of the fish rearing research activities outlined in Work Tasks C10 will be conducted at Bubbling Ponds SFH. Funds (\$60,000) were reallocated to new Work Task B10 following approval from Steering Committee at the April 2006 meeting, and with concurrence of FWS.

Project Description: Bubbling Ponds SFH is managed and operated by AGFD. This is a warm-water rearing facility supplied by a continuous, year-round, 6 cubic feet per second spring flow of 68 degree Fahrenheit water. The facility has 10 acres of production ponds, a work shop, storage shed, a small laboratory, and sufficient fish distribution equipment to meet the delivery requirements for the LCR MSCP. Program funds will provide for salary, fish feed and supplies, facility operation and maintenance, and delivery of fish. Production goals are to annually produce 12,000 RASU of 300 mm length for release to Reaches 3-5 of the lower Colorado River.

Previous Activities: Reclamation and AGFD have cooperatively worked to upgrade and renovate this warm water fish rearing facility since 1998 and plan to continue these actions into the future.

FY05 Accomplishments: Received 20,000 RASU fingerlings from Willow Beach NFH; 4,814 RASU of 330-360 mm in length from previous production years were reared, tagged, and repatriated to the lower Colorado River (below Parker Dam); 4,177 razorback juveniles of 250-300 mm in length were on station for release into the lower Colorado River during spring 2006; and 18,800 RASU of 150-200 mm in length are on station being reared for release in 2006/2007. In addition to salary for this work, funds were expended to purchase feed, nets and materials for

live-trapping river otters, and for the contract for a professional trapper to assist with otter removal.

FY06 Activities: Operate and maintain facility; receive up to 25,000 fingerling RASU from Willow Beach NFH; rear 12,000 RASU for delivery to Reaches 3-5 of lower Colorado River; and initiate facility improvement projects needed for sustained production.

Proposed FY07 Activities: Operation and maintenance of facility; receive up to 25,000 fingerling RASU from Willow Beach NFH; rear 12,000 RASU for delivery to Reaches 3-5 of lower Colorado River; and initiate facility improvement projects needed for sustained production.

Pertinent Reports: Scope of work for facility improvement projects is being developed and will be available upon request.



Figure B5: Fish harvest at Bubbling Ponds State Fish Hatchery. Pond Harvest (top left); sorting (top right); Tagging (bottom left); and loading truck for stocking (bottom right).