

Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

| FY06 Estimates | FY06 Actual | Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06 | FY07 Approved Estimate | FY08 Proposed Estimate | FY09 Proposed Estimate | FY10 Proposed Estimate |
|----------------|-------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$35,000 | \$39,704 | \$39,704 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 |

Contact: Ty Wolters, (702) 293-8463, twolters@lc.usbr.gov

Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY16

Long-term Goal: Develop and maintain off-site rearing capability to augment production at state and Federal hatcheries.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, RASU6, RASU7, and RASU8

Location: Reach 1, Overton, NV

Purpose: Provide additional rearing capacity for RASU, and complete RASU conservation measures identified in the 2001 BO.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work task was initiated in April 2006 following approval from the Steering Committee and concurrence by the USFWS. Funds were reallocated from B9. This work is closely related to B6 and C13. Once developed, the rearing ponds at the Overton WMA will receive juvenile RASU from Lake Mead SFH for grow out. Fish will then be released into Lake Mead to complete SIA BO conservation requirements. In future years, principally FY11-FY16, work at Overton WMA may include receiving and rearing fish from Willow Beach NFH (B2).

Project Description: Overton WMA is located in Clark County, Nevada, at the upper end of Lake Mead at the confluence with the Moapa and Virgin Rivers, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The Overton WMA was established in 1953 under a joint agreement with Reclamation and the NPS. The wildlife area is managed solely for fish and wildlife and their habitats and has limited public access. The Overton WMA covers more than 17,000 acres, and includes three primary waterfowl management ponds, all of which are available for native fish culture.

The LCR MSCP activities for this site include rearing of RASU for repatriation to Lake Mead to complete the SIA BO requirements set out in 2001. Fish will be transferred to Overton WMA ponds from Lake Mead SFH.

After the SIA BO commitments are completed, LCR MSCP may utilize the grow-out ponds at Overton WMA to complete other LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program needs. These include, but are not limited to, rearing RASU received from Willow Beach NFH to 500 mm TL for

repatriation to Lake Mohave to maintain the adult broodstock, and rearing of RASU for reaches 3-5 of the lower Colorado River to affect accelerated stocking needs during program years FY11-FY16. Finally, Overton WMA may provide opportunities to conduct species research that may be required under the LCR MSCP adaptive management program.

Previous Activities: Originally planned as a 2007 start, this project was initiated in 2006 when funds became available from closure of another project (B9).

FY06 Accomplishments: Project accomplishments in FY06 included completion of the design for site improvements, including repair and improvement to water delivery infrastructure to facilitate managing Honeybee and Center ponds for native fish culture. The majority of materials necessary to complete site improvements were procured and stored at Overton WMA for installation in FY07.

FY07 Activities: Improvement to water delivery infrastructure for Honeybee and Center ponds will be completed in February 2007, following the end of waterfowl season, using materials acquired in FY06. Pond renovation, including removal of nonnative fishes, will be conducted prior to native fish stocking as needed. The RASU reared at Lake Mead SFH will be transferred to Overton WMA ponds prior to May 1, 2007, for further rearing, and periodic monitoring of ponds and fish will be conducted through the end of FY07. Depending on determined pond rearing capacities, additional RASU from Willow Beach NFH may be transferred to Overton WMA ponds for rearing.

Proposed FY08 Activities: Repairs to water delivery systems and outlet works of South Pond will be completed, and RASU from Lake Mead SFH or Willow Beach NFH will be stocked for rearing and repatriation to Lake Mead.

Pertinent Reports: The scope of work is available upon request from the LCR MSCP.