

Work Task B7: Lake Side Rearing Ponds

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
\$200,000	\$205,641	\$435,641	\$150,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY16 decision point

Long-term Goal: Maintain fish-rearing capability, provide RASU and BONY for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program, and accomplish species research.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, RASU5, RASU6, BONY3, BONY4, and BONY5

Location: Reach 2, Lake Mohave, AZ/NV

Purpose: Operate and maintain fish grow-out areas along the Lake Mohave shoreline to contribute to RASU broodstock development.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Activities are related to B2 and B4, as fish for grow-out ponds will come from Willow Beach NFH and Dexter NFH. In addition, some of the fish-rearing research activities outlined in C10 and C11 may be conducted at these ponds.

Project Description: Lake Mohave is operated by Reclamation as a re-regulation reservoir. It operates annually within a 15-foot vertical elevation range, filling to an elevation of 645.5 feet msl by mid-May and lowering to an elevation of 630.5 feet msl in October. Desert washes, which flow into the reservoir, deposit sediment and create wash fans. Wave actions have redistributed and shaped these sediment deposits into sandbars and in some areas these sandbars isolate the lower portions of the washes from the lake proper. There are at least 10 such sandbars that have ponds behind them when the lake is full. Reclamation and its partners in the Lake Mohave NFWG have been using these lakeside ponds since 1993 as rearing and grow-out areas for RASU and BONY. The ponds are stocked with juvenile fish as the reservoir fills in the spring (typically stocked in March). Reclamation staff monitor the fish throughout the growing season. This includes periodic fertilization with alfalfa pellets and ammonium nitrates to sustain algae blooms and plankton production, removal of weeds and debris, installing and maintaining floating windmills or solar well pumps to mix the water and provide sufficient oxygen levels, and routine monitoring of physical, chemical, and biological parameters. The ponds are normally harvested in the fall as the lake elevation declines. The fish from these ponds are then released into Lake Mohave.

Previous Activities: These ponds have been in use since 1993 and more than 26,000 RASU have been reared and repatriated to Lake Mohave. The ponds have also been used to grow out BONY.

FY06 Accomplishments: There were 1,810 juvenile RASU stocked into eight ponds in March and 1,151 RASU were harvested and returned to Lake Mohave by the end of October. These fish were stocked at an average of 250 mm TL and were repatriated at an average of 389 mm TL.

FY07 Activities: In an effort to expedite development of RASU brood stock, the Lake Mohave NFWG has requested that the target size for repatriation be increased to 500 mm TL (approximately 20 inches). In response to this request, lakeside ponds will be receiving a total of 1,300 large RASU (375-425 mm TL) from Willow Beach NFH in February and March 2007. Fish harvest will be conducted in late May and again in October.

Proposed FY08 Activities: Lakeside ponds will continue to be used for rearing native fish in support of the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program. The priority will be to utilize the ponds to accomplish RASU broodstock development. Should this no longer be necessary by 2008, the ponds will be used for rearing BONY or RASU (or both) to support fish augmentation and species research activities.

Pertinent Reports: The *2006 Fish Augmentation Summary* will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site.