

Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY07 Estimates	FY07 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY07	FY08 Approved Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate
\$75,000	\$67,010	\$106,714	\$75,000	\$175,000	\$75,000	\$50,000

Contact: Jim Stolberg, (702) 293-8206, jstolberg@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 brood stock, and rearing of RASU for reaches 3-5 of the LCR 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 AMP.

Previous Activities: Originally planned as a 2007 start, this project was initiated in 2006 when funds became available from closure of another project (B9). Designs for site modifications, including repair and improvement to water delivery infrastructure to facilitate managing Honeybee and Center ponds for native fish culture, were completed in 2006. The majority of materials necessary to complete site improvements were procured and stored at Overton WMA for installation in FY07.

FY07 Accomplishments: Improvements to the water delivery infrastructure for Honeybee and Center ponds were completed. Prior to stocking native fishes, Reclamation assisted with sampling these ponds to determine species composition. Sampling was completed using trammel nets, hoop nets, and electrofishing. A total of 1,781 juvenile RASU (2005 and 2006 year-classes) reared at Lake Mead SFH were delivered and stocked into Center Pond in April. Willow Beach NFH also supplied 6,950 juvenile RASU of both year classes for stocking in Honeybee Pond. Recurrent monitoring of ponds and fish was carried out through the end of FY07.

FY08 Activities: RASU reared at Lake Mead SFH will be transferred to Overton WMA ponds for further rearing. Sampling and monitoring of ponds and fish will be conducted periodically throughout FY08. Equipment to curtail aquatic vegetation, including a single 14-foot aluminum boat and chemical spray unit, is to be purchased to aid in pond management.

Assessment of rearing and carrying capacity of the ponds will be carried out, along with evaluations of possible improvements such as deepening the ponds, developing boat ramps, and installing water quality and quantity measuring equipment. Depending on determined pond rearing capacities, additional RASU from Willow Beach NFH may be transferred to Overton WMA ponds for rearing.

Proposed FY09 Activities: Repairs to water delivery systems and outlet works will be continue as needed, along with installation of monitoring equipment. Razorback sucker from Lake Mead SFH or Willow Beach NFH may be stocked for grow-out and repatriation to Lake Mead. Monitoring of RASU in Honeybee and Center ponds will continue. Funding increase will provide for pond deepening at Center and Wilson Ponds.

Pertinent Reports: The scope of work and cooperative agreement between Reclamation and NDOW are available upon request from the LCR MSCP.