

Work Task B3: Achii Hanyo Rearing Station

	FY07 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY07	FY08 Approved Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate
	\$50,000	\$41,589	\$154,779	\$50,000	\$170,000	\$100,000

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Start Date: FY04

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Maintain and operate fish rearing facility as an integral part of the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, BONY3, and BONY4.

Location: Reach 4, Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, Parker, AZ.

Purpose: Support operation and maintenance fish rearing facilities to annually contribute BONY to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program for stocking into reaches 3-5 of the LCR.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work task was previously included in the FY04 work task as Achii Hanyo National Fish Hatchery (A1). This work is related to B2 and B4, as fish from both Willow Beach NFH and Dexter NFH may be transferred to Achii Hanyo Rearing Facility. Additionally, fish research for RASU and BONY may be accomplished at this facility.

Project Description: This project has two specific actions. First, the development and maintenance of Achii Hanyo Rearing Facility as a grow-out site for BONY. Second, the rearing of BONY for release into reaches 3-5 of the LCR. Funds allocated to this work will be used for staff salary, facility operation and maintenance, fish feed and chemicals, and fish distribution.

This facility is located on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation (CRIT), and was formerly a privately owned hatchery, annually producing channel catfish and largemouth bass for sale to local growers and recreational fishing sites. The facility had been abandoned and unused for more than 5 years prior to being leased by the USFWS. Six earthen ponds are used for fish culture and receive Colorado River water from an irrigation canal. There are two house trailers and a storage shed on site, and drinking water is supplied by a shallow well.

The Achii Hanyo Rearing Facility will be used by the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program for rearing BONY. The fish rearing operation is seasonal, producing one crop per year. Bonytail are brought in from Willow Beach NFH or Dexter NFH in the winter and stocked into the ponds. Ponds are monitored and fish are fed through the spring and summer. In the fall, the ponds are

drained, and the fish are harvested, tagged, and released. Fish under target size (less than 300 mm TL) are returned to a pond for continued rearing. New fish are then brought onto station from Willow Beach NFH or Dexter NFH and the process is repeated. The annual Fish Augmentation Program production goal (from this facility) is 4,000 BONY subadults of 300 mm TL for stocking into the LCR.

Previous Activities: The USFWS and Reclamation have cooperatively worked to upgrade this facility through an interagency agreement since FY04, which annually provided \$50,000 for facility improvements. The agreement ended in FY07 and completed a commitment made under the SIA. Work completed included the purchase and assembly of a new metal building (tank house) and new fiberglass fish tanks. A concrete slab was poured for a new office, feed storage room, and restrooms. Since the inception of the LCR MSCP, through 2006 a total of 7,982 BONY have been stocked into Reach 3, and a total of 4,007 BONY have been stocked into Reaches 4-5, bringing the cumulative total to 11,989 BONY stocked from Achii Hanyo rearing station into the LCR.

FY07 Accomplishments: During 2007, a backup generator was connected, electrical upgrades were completed, and a restroom and office were finished. At the start of 2007, 10,000 BONY were already on station and 16,000 BONY and 10,000 RASU were brought in from Willow Beach NFH. A total of 4,057 BONY were harvested and tagged during 2007. These fish were distributed as follows: 38 BONY that were subjects of research being conducted under Bonetail Rearing Studies (C11) were stocked into Reach 3, 2,418 BONY were stocked at A7 backwater and River Island State Park (Reach 4), and 1,601 BONY were stocked into Imperial Wildlife Refuge Ponds (Reach 5). All of the 4,057 BONY released in 2007 were wire tagged. A subset of 1,789 BONY were also PIT tagged for various research studies on growth, survival, and distribution. Fish research is being conducted at Achii Hanyo to assess RASU growth to 500 mm and polyculture of RASU and BONY under C10. This research is expected to continue for 3 years.

FY08 Activities: The BONY on station for 2008 include 4,500 fish greater than 250 mm, 4,000 fish at 190 mm TL, and 5,000 young of the year fish. Willow Beach NFH will transport 6,000 BONY (average 200 mm TL) to Achii Hanyo in spring 2008. The majority of the 10,000 RASU that were brought on station in FY07 are still growing to target size. The production target for 2008 is a harvest of 4,000 BONY at greater than 300 mm TL. A 3-year agreement was initiated in October 2007 (FY08) to provide an additional \$25,000 annually for utilities and maintenance.

Proposed FY09 Activities: Funding levels are being increased for FY09 and FY10. The goal is to ramp up fish production to reach a production level of 12,000 BONY annually for years FY11-FY15. These fish are required for species research as described in the HCP (see conservation measures BONY 3.3 and Bony 5). FY09 and FY10 production goals will increase to 6,000 and 8,000 BONY, respectively. During FY09, two new ponds will be developed and an additional backup generator will be purchased and installed on site.

Pertinent Reports: An annual progress report will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site. Fish production data are being incorporated into the annual *2007 Fish Augmentation Summary Report*.