

Work Task B4: Dexter National Fish Hatchery

FY07 Estimates	FY07 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY07	FY08 Approved Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate
\$125,000	\$117,699	\$367,327	\$130,000	\$250,000	\$180,000	\$180,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Maintain fish-rearing capability to provide RASU and BONY for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentaion Program.

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

Location: Off-river, Dexter, NM.

Purpose: Operate and maintain fish rearing facility, annually contribute RASU and BONY to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentaion Program, and maintain BONY brood stock through completion of the Fish Augmentation Program for this species.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work is related to work tasks B2, B3, and B10 as fish from Dexter NFH will be delivered to Willow Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility, and Uvalde NFH. In addition, fish-rearing research activities outlined in C10 and C11 may be conducted at Dexter NFH.

Project Description: Dexter NFH is managed and operated by the USFWS. The facility maintains the only brood stock for BONY in the world, and maintains a backup brood stock of RASU. Funds provided will be used to maintain extant brood stock, produce fingerling BONY annually for distribution to other hatcheries, rear RASU to 500 mm TL for repatriation to Lake Mohave for brood stock replacement, and annually rear BONY to 300 mm TL for distribution within Reach 3.

Previous Activities: Reclamation and the USFWS have past and ongoing interagency agreements to support rearing and research for RASU and BONY at Dexter NFH. Since the inception of the LCR MSCP, through 2006 a total of 136 RASU have been repatriated to Reach 2, and a total of 2,397 BONY have been stocked into Reach 3 from Dexter NFH into the LCR.

FY07 Accomplishments: Bonytail — USFWS staff hand-stripped eggs and sperm from adult BONY females and males, producing 150,000 fry. A total of 50,000 fry were transferred to Willow Beach NFH, 50,000 were transferred to Uvalde NFH, and the remaining fry were held on station for rearing. The USFWS staff tagged 5,080 BONY (300+ mm TL), which were stocked

into two backwaters along a 40-mile stretch of river below Davis Dam and Lake Havasu proper (Reach 3). The 556 juvenile BONY that were placed into a pond to study PIT-tag retention reached target size and were stocked into the LCR as part of the 2007 stockings.

Razorback Sucker — USFWS staff hand-stripped eggs and sperm from adult RASU females and males, producing 115,000 fry. A total of 50,000 fry were transferred to Bubbling Ponds SFH for rearing. No RASU were transferred to Dexter NFH from Willow Beach NFH due to ongoing quagga mussel issues. A total of 794 RASU (average 425 mm TL) were stocked into Reach 3.

FY08 Activities: The BONY brood stock will be maintained, and the hatchery will produce between 150,000 to 300,000 fingerling BONY for distribution depending upon various agency requests (including Willow Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility, and Uvalde NFH). A total of 500 to 1,000 RASU will be reared to 500 mm TL for repatriation to Lake Mohave, and 4,000 BONY will be reared to 300 mm TL for distribution within Reach 3. The report on PIT-tag retention in BONY is forthcoming.

Due to a recent invasion of exotic quagga mussels to the Colorado River, Dexter NFH will provide 50,000 RASU larvae to Bubbling Ponds SFH from hand-spawned brood stock held on station.

Proposed FY09 Activities: The BONY brood stock will be maintained, up to 75,000 fingerling BONY will be produced for distribution to Willow Beach NFH and Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility, 500 to 1,000 RASU will be reared to 500 mm TL for repatriation to Lake Mohave. Funding increase is requested to begin production increase for BONY from 4,000 to 6000 for expanded research. These fish will be needed for release in FY10 to effect research in FY11. Funding will go toward purchase of a new road grader to help develop three new ponds for BONY production and maintain pond banks and roadways on the property.

Pertinent Reports: The *2007 Fish Augmentation Summary* will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site. The scope of work is available upon request from the LCR MSCP.