

Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$75,000	\$16,879.79	\$123,593.79	\$175,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

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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, Nevada.

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 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 ISC BO requirements set out in 2001. Fish will be transferred to Overton WMA ponds from Lake Mead SFH.

After the ISC 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. Improvements to the water delivery infrastructure for Honeybee and Center ponds were completed in 2007, and prior to stocking native fishes, Reclamation assisted with sampling these ponds to determine species composition.

FY08 Accomplishments: A total of 2,872 juvenile RASU (2006 and 2007 year classes) reared at Lake Mead SFH were delivered and stocked into Center Pond during FY08. Recurrent monitoring of ponds and fish was carried out through the end of FY08. Equipment to curtail aquatic vegetation, including a 14-foot aluminum boat and chemical spray unit, was purchased to aid in pond management.

FY09 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 FY09 and pond stock may be repatriated to Lake Mead. Repairs to water delivery systems and outlet works will continue as needed, and improvements to existing ponds including deepening and boat ramp installation will occur. Funds will be used to initiate an overall RASU management plan to define role of Overton WMA ponds for RASU conservation within Reach 1. Specifically, the relationship between this work task and others associated with Lake Mead RASU (B6, C10, C13, and C26) will be evaluated.

Proposed FY10 Activities: Razorback sucker in Overton WMA ponds will continue to be monitored through sampling efforts. RASU from Lake Mead SFH will be stocked for grow-out and repatriation to Lake Mead. Improvements to existing ponds and infrastructure will continue.

Pertinent Reports: The scope of work and cooperative agreement are available upon request.