

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY08 Estimates	FY08 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY08	FY09 Approved Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate
\$235,000	\$303,301.12	\$818,678.12	\$335,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

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

Conservation Measures: RASU3 and RASU4

Location: Off-river, Cornville, Arizona

Purpose: Operate and maintain the fish rearing facility and annually contribute RASU to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Activities at Bubbling Ponds SFH are related to B2 and B4, as Bubbling Ponds SFH receives RASU from Willow Beach NFH and Dexter NFH. Some of the fish-rearing research activities outlined in C10 are conducted at Bubbling Ponds SFH.

Project Description: Bubbling Ponds SFH is managed and operated by AGFD. This is a warm-water rearing facility supplied by a continuous, year-round, 10 cfs spring flow of 68°F water. The facility has 10 acres of production ponds, a work shop, a storage shed, a small laboratory, and sufficient fish distribution equipment to meet the delivery requirements for the LCR MSCP. Program funds provide for salary, fish feed and supplies, facility operation and maintenance, and delivery of fish. Production goals are 12,000 RASU of 300 mm TL for release to reaches 3-5 of the lower Colorado River.

Previous Activities: Reclamation and AGFD have cooperatively worked to upgrade and renovate this facility since 1998. Prior to the LCR MSCP, 70,000 RASU were successfully reared at this facility and delivered to the lower Colorado River as required by two biological opinions (1997 and 2001). Both commitments have now been met. Between the start of the LCR MSCP and the end of 2007, Bubbling Ponds SFH has reared and stocked 24,348 RASU.

FY08 Accomplishments: A total of 50,000 fry were received from Dexter NFH in April for rearing, and should reach target size in 2010 and 2011. During 2008 a total of 12,125 RASU were harvested, wire-tagged, and stocked: 88 were repatriated into Lake Mohave, 2,970 were

stocked into Beal Lake, and 9,067 were stocked into four separate locations between Parker Dam and Cibola National Wildlife Refuge.

During 2008 funds were expended for the following: salary and associated costs for fish rearing activities, fencing off of the spring source to the hatchery improved bio-security, staff residence security, a shade structure for tagging, design of intensive culture plans for the hatchery, and nets and materials for live-trapping river otters.

FY09 Activities: Bubbling Ponds SFH began 2009 with approximately 60,000 RASU on station. Of this total, 6,000 stem from wild larvae captured in 2005 from Lake Mohave. These fish should reach target size during 2009 and will be repatriated back to Lake Mohave. The remaining fish on station are from Dexter NFH and are expected to go out in 2009 and 2010. An additional 50,000 larvae from Dexter NFH are scheduled to be delivered in spring 2009.

New production features are being designed that consolidate fish culture into a single-pass, serial-use system to improve bio-security (escapement and invasion) and predator avoidance/control, reduce pathogenic agents, and facilitate harvest. Construction of these new features will begin in 2009.

Additional funds made available in 2009 will be used for the purchase and installation of new perimeter fence to restrict otter access, replacement of old water lines, evaluation of engineering options for developing a new artesian well on site, and construction of a new storage facility for sterilizing nets and boots.

Proposed FY10 Activities: RASU larvae will be received from either Dexter NFH or Willow Beach NFH, RASU from the 2007 and 2008 year classes will continue to be reared, 12,000 RASU (300 mm TL) will be sorted, tagged, and delivered the lower Colorado River, and annual progress reports will be produced. Construction of production design features will continue. As features are completed, normal fish culture activities will be dove-tailed into the new systems.

Pertinent Reports: The *2008 Fish Augmentation Summary* will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site. The scope of work is available upon request.