

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$335,000	\$259,449.57	\$1,078,127.69	\$250,000	\$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 warmwater 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 2008, Bubbling Ponds SFH has reared and stocked 40,567 RASU.

FY09 Accomplishments: A total of 50,000 fry were received from Dexter NFH in April for rearing, and should reach target size in 2011 and 2012. During 2009 a total of 14,197 RASU were harvested, PIT/wire-tagged, and stocked: 2,592 were repatriated into Lake Mohave, 5,848 were stocked into Lake Havasu (Reach 3), and 5,757 were stocked at River Island State Park below Parker Dam (Reach 4).

During 2009 funds were expended for the following: salary and associated costs for fish rearing activities, coating raceways and holding tanks with epoxy, purchase of new pipe for the water supply to the hatchery, design of intensive culture plans for the hatchery, and nets and materials for live-trapping river otters.

FY10 Activities: Bubbling Ponds SFH began 2010 with approximately 76,000 RASU on station. Of this total, 1,200 stem from wild larvae captured in 2005 from Lake Mohave. These fish should reach target size during 2010 and will be repatriated back to Lake Mohave. The remaining fish on station are from Dexter NFH and are expected to reach target size in 2010 and 2011. An additional 50,000 larvae from Dexter NFH are scheduled to be delivered in spring 2010.

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 is scheduled to begin in 2010.

Additional funds made available in 2010 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 feed and a place for sterilizing nets and boots.

Proposed FY11 Activities: RASU larvae will be received from Dexter NFH; RASU from the 2008 and 2009 year classes will continue to be reared; 12,000 RASU (300 mm TL) will be sorted, tagged, and delivered to 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 dovetailed into the new systems.

Pertinent Reports: The *2005-2009 Fish Augmentation Summary* will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site. The scope of work is available upon request.