

Work Task B4: Dexter National Fish Hatchery

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$180,000	\$269,833.73	\$1,007,044.80	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$220,000	\$220,000

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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 Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, BONY3, BONY4, and HUCH1.

Location: Off-river, Dexter, New Mexico.

Purpose: Support operation and maintenance at the facility, support maintenance of BONY broodstock, and annually provide RASU and BONY to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

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 Rearing Station, and Uvalde NFH. In addition, fish-rearing research activities outlined in C10, C11, C14, and C30 may be conducted at Dexter NFH.

Project Description: Dexter NFH is managed and operated by the USFWS. The facility maintains the only broodstock for BONY in the world, and maintains a backup broodstock of RASU. Funds provided will be used to maintain extant broodstock, produce fingerling BONY annually for distribution to other hatcheries, rear RASU to 500 mm TL for repatriation to the LCR for broodstock replacement, and annually rear BONY to 300 mm TL for distribution within reaches 3 and 4.

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 2009, a total of 2,724 RASU have been repatriated to Reach 2, a total of 794 RASU have been stocked into Reach 3, a total of 6,869 BONY have been stocked into Reach 3, and a total of 535 BONY have been stocked into Reach 4.

FY10 Accomplishments: In September 2010, largemouth bass virus (LMBV) was confirmed at Dexter NFH. LMBV was isolated in one lot of 2008 year class bonytail, and in the refuge population of Gila topminnow. Immediately following the confirmation of the virus, the two LMBV positive lots were euthanized and removed from the facility. The euthanized lot of BONY was scheduled to be stocked into the lower Colorado River as part of the MSCP augmentation program, thus impacting the number of deliverable fish for the program. Additional funds made available in 2010 were used to purchase the following: PVC pipe and fittings, photovoltaic panels and hardware, fiberglass tanks, bird netting, metal shelving system, gooseneck trailer, metal I-beams, electrical hoist, trolleys, wire, cable, and a tissue homogenizer.

BONY: Dexter NFH staff maintained 2,000 adult BONY broodstock. The stock comprises six year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. A total of 31,000 BONY were maintained on station for future stocking into the lower Colorado River; 3,000 (07 year class), and 28,000 (09 year class). Staff from the USFWS hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs and sperm from 44 adult BONY, producing 250,000 eggs. A total of 4,500 BONY were transferred to Achii Hanyo Rearing Station; 2,500 (09 year class produced at Dexter) and 2,000 (08 year class produced at Uvalde). No larvae were transferred to Willow Beach NFH or Uvalde NFH during 2010. USFWS staff wire-tagged, hauled, and stocked a total of 1,900 subadult BONY (300+ mm TL) into Lake Havasu proper at Bill Williams NWR (Reach 3).

RASU: Dexter staff maintained a refuge stock of 1,250 adult RASU. The broodstock comprises nine year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. USFWS staff hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs and sperm from 20 adult RASU, producing 300,000 eggs. Of these, 30,000 larvae were transferred to Bubbling Ponds SFH for rearing. Approximately 25,000 RASU are currently on station at Dexter for grow out. No RASU were transferred to Dexter NFH from Willow Beach NFH due to ongoing quagga mussel issues. No RASU from Dexter NFH were stocked into the lower Colorado River in 2010.

FY11 Activities: The BONY broodstock will be maintained, and the hatchery will produce between 150,000 and 300,000 fingerling BONY for distribution depending upon various agency requests (including Willow Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Rearing Station, and Bubbling Ponds SFH); up to 1,000 RASU will be reared to 500 mm TL for stocking into the LCR. A total of 4,000 BONY will be reared to 300 mm TL for distribution within Reach 3. The hatchery is in the process of regaining certification for delivery of fish to avoid contamination of LMBV-free areas. Fish on station are scheduled to be tested twice over a six months period for the presence of LMBV. If both tests come back negative these fish could then be stocked into the LCR.

Due to an invasion of exotic quagga mussels to the Colorado River, Dexter NFH may provide up to 50,000 RASU larvae to Bubbling Ponds SFH from hand-spawned broodstock held on station. Any RASU supplied by Dexter to other facilities will be contingent upon resolution of LMBV issue.

Proposed FY12 Activities: The BONY broodstock will be maintained. Up to 75,000 fingerling BONY will be produced for distribution to Willow Beach NFH and Achii

Hanyo Rearing Station, and 4,000 BONY will be reared to 300 mm TL for distribution within reaches 3-5.

Pertinent Reports: The *2005-2009 Fish Augmentation Summary* is in preparation and will be posted to the LCR MSCP website.