

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$351,957.84	\$1,430,085.53	\$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: 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 2009, Bubbling Ponds SFH has reared and stocked 54,764 RASU.

FY10 Accomplishments: A total of 30,000 fry were received from Dexter NFH in April for rearing, and should reach target size in 2011 and 2012. During 2010 a total of 14,950 RASU were harvested, PIT/wire-tagged, and stocked: 2,077 were repatriated into Lake

Mohave, 6,780 were stocked into Lake Havasu (Reach 3), and 6,093 were stocked at River Island State Park below Parker Dam (Reach 4).

During 2010 funds were expended for salaries and associated costs for fish rearing activities. Additional funds made available in 2010 were used to fund planned work, which included the purchase of the following: tractor/backhoe, new pipe for water distribution throughout hatchery, perimeter fence to restrict otter access, materials for construction of a new feed storage facility and bunk house. The tractor was used to install some of the new pipes around the facility. Fencing has been installed to restrict otter access, and the new feed storage and bunk house have been constructed.

FY11 Activities: Bubbling Ponds SFH began 2011 with approximately 91,000 RASU on station. These fish are from Dexter NFH and are expected to reach target size in 2011 and 2012. Plans are underway to replace existing deteriorated water supply pipes throughout the hatchery. This will require diversion of the incoming water supply. Delivery of RASU larvae from Dexter NFH in 2011 is contingent upon Dexter's RASU being certified free of largemouth bass virus (see B4).

The state of Arizona is evaluating redesigning the entire facility at Bubbling Ponds SFH. Future plans could include smaller ponds, buildings for water treatment, propagation, rearing, quarantine, and a wetland for outflow water treatment. Development of a new artesian well is also being considered. Construction of these new features is contingent upon funding.

Proposed FY12 Activities: RASU larvae will be received from Dexter NFH; RASU from the 2010 and 2011 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* is in preparation and will be posted to the LCR MSCP website. The scope of work is available upon request.