

Work Task B6: Lake Mead Fish Hatchery

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$50,000	\$41,521.10	\$275,848.45	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY16

Long-term Goal: Operate and maintain fish-rearing facility to provide RASU for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, RASU7, and RASU8.

Location: Reach 1, Lake Mead, Boulder City, Nevada.

Purpose: Support Lake Mead RASU studies and contribute RASU to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Activities at Lake Mead SFH are related to the Overton Wildlife Management Area (B11), the Lake Mead Razorback Study (C13), and the Evaluation of Raceway Rearing of Razorback Sucker at Lake Mead Fish Hatchery (C26). Razorback sucker larvae are captured from Lake Mead as part of the Lake Mead Razorback Study (C13) and reared at Lake Mead SFH. Once fish reach subadult size, they are transferred to grow-out ponds at Overton Wildlife Management Area (B11) to complete the rearing process. Portions of the subadult fish are also utilized for Evaluation of Raceway Rearing of Razorback Sucker at Lake Mead Fish Hatchery (C26).

Project Description: Lake Mead SFH is managed and operated by NDOW. Renovation of Lake Mead SFH allowed development and inclusion of dedicated facilities for rearing RASU and other natives. Reclamation, SNWA, and NDOW are cooperatively rearing RASU larvae captured from Lake Mead for future repatriation back to the lake. Funds from this work task provide staff, equipment, feed, and chemicals to rear these fish and to complete SIA BO requirements.

In addition, space may be available as a contingency to rear RASU for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program. This additional rearing capacity is needed in 2016, when the number of RASU needed annually for stocking into reaches 3-5 is expected to increase.

Previous Activities: Reclamation, SNWA, and NDOW have cooperatively been rearing RASU from Lake Mead in temporary outside tanks at the hatchery. In 2005, Reclamation assisted with the installation of a single 500-gallon fiberglass tank for the purpose of rearing RASU collected from Lake Mead. Installation took place in the new native fish room and included plumbing for air and water delivery lines, standpipe and standpipe screen construction, and placement of a central drain line. The native fish room was completed in 2006 with the addition of twenty-five 10-gallon aquaria, four 240-gallon fiberglass troughs, and six 700-gallon fiberglass tanks. Since 2007 larval RASU have been brought into the facility and reared in these tanks.

FY10 Accomplishments: Eight hundred and forty-five larval RASU (194 from Las Vegas Bay, 635 from Echo Bay, and 16 from the Overton Arm) were collected from Lake Mead during the course of the spawning season and taken to Lake Mead SFH for grow-out. In addition to these wild-caught Lake Mead larvae, 6,739 larval RASU from Lake Mohave Razorback Sucker Larvae Collections (B1) were also taken to the hatchery for grow-out. To make room for incoming larvae NDOW delivered and stocked 1,350 juvenile RASU into Center Pond at the Overton Wildlife Management Area (B11). An additional 936 subadult RASU were also moved out of the native fish room to provide space for incoming larvae. These subadult fish will remain on station for of Raceway Rearing of Razorback Sucker at Lake Mead Fish Hatchery (C26).

FY11 Activities: The NDOW will continue to operate Lake Mead SFH for RASU production. Operations will include capture and rearing of wild-caught larvae from Lake Mead and grow-out of subadult fish from the 2009 and 2010 year classes. If needed, supplemental larvae will be captured from Lake Mohave to ensure adequate hatchery stock. The 2009 RASU remaining on station and a portion of the 2010 year class will be stocked at the Overton Wildlife Management Area. The NDOW is also evaluating additional ponds that may be used as future rearing sites.

Proposed FY12 Activities: Continued rearing of RASU captured during previous years will occur, and hatchery stock will be augmented with 2012 year-class RASU larvae. Adult and subadult RASU from the 2010 year class will be delivered to the Overton Wildlife Management Area and potentially to additional grow-out sites. The possibility of developing additional rearing capacity for native fish at Lake Mead SFH will be discussed.

Pertinent Reports: The *2009 Nevada Department of Wildlife Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Augmentation Project Activities Report* will be posted to the LCR MSCP website. The 2010 Activities Report is in development and will be posted to the website upon completion.