

Work Task C45: Ecology and Habitat Use of Stocked RASU in Reach 3

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$170,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

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Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY15

Long-term Goal: To assess survival and habitat use of stocked RASU.

Conservation Measures: RASU6.

Location: Reach 3 from Davis to Parker dams.

Purpose: To assess ecology and distribution of habitats available to stocked RASU in Reach 3, and to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Work is related to C33, D8, and G3.

Project Description: There have been more than 28,000 RASU reared and released into Reach 3 through the Fish Augmentation Program and roughly 30,000 more RASU stocked prior to the LCR MSCP. We regularly contact several hundred of these fish each year through annual surveys and associated work task. The contacted fish appear to be in excellent health with little to no signs of parasites or disease, and they demonstrate growth rates comparable to other populations of repatriated RASU. In winter and spring, fish are located at known spawning areas near Needles, California, and Laughlin, Nevada. During summer and fall, stocked fish are found throughout the main channels, and in numerous off-channel lakes and ponds within Topock Gorge. This five-year study will assess the availability of physical, chemical, and biological fish habitats within Reach 3 to help identify habitat limitations to survival and to allow assessment of possible habitat saturation.

Previous Activities: This effort will utilize the extant RASU distribution and stocking data accumulated over the first five years of the program.

FY10 Accomplishments: The study design for this new FY11 start was developed under G3.

FY11 Activities: The first year of the study will focus on habitat mapping of Reach 3 and superimposing RASU monitoring data onto these maps. Field investigations will focus on gaps in geographic coverage of netting, shocking, and telemetry data. Findings will be used to focus study actions for FY12 and FY13.

Proposed FY12 Activities: Habitat mapping of Reach 3 will continue as needed and field investigations will target specific RASU habitats which are being used to varying degrees. Physical, chemical, and biological parameters will be recorded for all habitats to help identify habitat limitations to survival, and to allow assessment of possible habitat saturation.

Pertinent Reports: The study design is available upon request and annual reports will be posted to the LCR MSCP website upon completion.