

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$270,542.88	\$1,673,211.86	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000

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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 2010, Bubbling Ponds SFH has reared and stocked 69,714 RASU.

FY11 Accomplishments: No fry were received for rearing from Dexter NFH in April due to largemouth bass virus concerns. This year a total of 17,077 RASU were harvested, PIT/wire-tagged, and stocked: 10,224 were stocked into Lake Havasu (Reach 3), and 6,853 were stocked below Parker Dam (Reach 4).

During 2011 funds were expended for salaries and associated costs for fish rearing activities. Funds were also used to purchase feed, chemicals, waders, wader lockers, seine nets, one small boat, tools and gravel. All overflow and inflow piping on upper nine ponds was replaced with corrugated polyethylene pipe. A new six inch PVC pipe was brought to the holding tank supplying fish held overnight with enough fresh water to alleviate dissolved oxygen problems. The same holding tanks were coated and new valves were installed to cut down water loss and calm fish while being held. Three large brass gate valves were replaced that supply water to outside raceways.

FY12 Activities: Bubbling Ponds SFH began 2012 with approximately 42,000 RASU on station. These fish are from Dexter NFH and were delivered prior to the outbreak of LMBV at Dexter NFH. They are expected to reach target size in 2012 and 2013. 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 2012 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 FY13 Activities: RASU larvae will be received from Dexter NFH; RASU from the 2012 and 2013 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 scope of work and annual administrative reports are available upon request.