

## Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$45,000

**Contact:** Tom Burke, (702) 293-8711

**Start Date:** FY06 **Expected Duration:** FY16

**Long-Term Goal:** Develop and maintain off-site rearing capability to augment production at State and Federal hatcheries.

**Conservation Measures:** RASU3, RASU4, RASU6, RASU7 and RASU8

**Location:** Reach 1, Overton, NV

**Purpose:** Provide additional rearing capacity for RASU; complete RASU conservation measures identified in the 2001 BO.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** This Work Task was initiated in April 2006 following approval from Steering Committee and FWS. Funds were reallocated from Work Task B9. This work is closely related to Work Task B6 and C13. Once developed, the rearing ponds at the Overton WMA will receive juvenile RASU from Lake Mead SFH for grow out. Fish will then be released into Lake Mead to complete ISG/SIA conservation requirements. In future years, principally FY11- FY16, work at Overton WMA may include receiving and rearing fish from Willow Beach NFH (B2).

**Project Description:** Overton WMA is located in Clark County, Nevada at the upper end of Lake Mead at the confluence with the Moapa and Virgin Rivers, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The Overton WMA was established in 1953 under a joint agreement with Reclamation and National Park Service (NPS). The wildlife area is managed solely for fish and wildlife and their habitats and has limited public access. The Overton WMA covers over 17,000 acres, and includes three primary waterfowl management ponds, all of which are available for native fish culture.

The LCR MSCP project activities planned for this site are the rearing of RASU for repatriation to Lake Mead in order to complete the ISG/SIA BO requirements set out in 2001. Fish will be transferred to Overton WMA ponds from Lake Mead SFH, another Nevada Division of Wildlife facility.

After these ISG/SIA commitments are completed, LCR MSCP may utilize the grow-out ponds at Overton WMA to complete other LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program needs. These include but are not limited to rearing RASU received from Willow Beach NFH to 50 cm for repatriation to Lake Mohave in order to maintain the adult broodstock there; and rearing of RASU for

Reaches 3-5 of the lower Colorado River to affect accelerated stocking needs during program years FY11-FY16. Finally, Overton WMA may provide opportunities to conduct species research which may be required by LCR MSCP's adaptive management program.

**Previous Activities:** This is a redirection of funds originally planned for pond renovations at Boulder City Wetland Ponds. Concerns over West Nile Virus resulted in the Boulder City ponds no longer being available for native fish work. These funds are now being used to expedite a project planned for FY2007 in the Overton WMA located in Clark County, Nevada, at the upper end of Lake Mead.

**FY05 Accomplishments:** N/A

**FY06 Activities:** Planned activities for FY06 include the rehabilitation of the water supply system for Upper and Middle ponds. These ponds receive water from the Muddy River. During spring 2005, flooding of the Muddy River damaged the inflow works and water supply system to these ponds. Repair and replacement of canal flumes, valves and gates is required. Also planned for FY06 is the draining of Upper Pond in late summer following the waterfowl nesting season in order to repair lateral dikes and outlet structures. Upper Pond will be renovated during the drawdown to remove any non-native fishes in anticipation of receiving RASU from Lake Mead State Fish Hatchery in FY07.

**Proposed FY07 Activities:** The Overton WMA will receive RASU from Lake Mead (supplied from Lake Mead SFH) and begin grow-out activities in Upper Pond. Work will continue on the repair and maintenance of water supply canals to Middle Pond, and similar activities for the water supply to Lower Pond will be started. Middle Pond will be drained and renovated following the waterfowl nesting season and readied to receive RASU in FY08.

**Pertinent Reports:** Scope of Work will be available following award of an agreement.



**Figure B11a:** Upper Pond, Overton WMA (looking west)



**Figure 11b:** Middle Pond, Overton WMA (looking southwest).



**Figure B11c:** Lower Pond, Overton WMA (Looking north)



**Figure B11d:** Damaged water supply canal to Middle Pond.