

Work Task B4: Dexter National Fish Hatchery

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
\$110,000	\$127,628	\$249,628	\$125,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Maintain fish-rearing capability to provide RASU and BONY for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentaion Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, BONY3, and BONY4

Location: Off-river, Dexter, NM

Purpose: Operate and maintain fish rearing facility; annually contribute RASU and BONY to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentaion Program and maintain BONY broodstock through completion of the Fish Augmentation Program for this species.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work is related to work tasks B2, B3, and B10 as fish from Dexter NFH will be delivered to Willow Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility, and Uvalde NFH. In addition, fish-rearing research activities outlined in C10 and C11 may be conducted at Dexter NFH.

Project Description: Dexter NFH is managed and operated by the USFWS. The facility maintains the only broodstock for BONY in the world, and maintains a backup broodstock of RASU. Funds provided will be used to maintain extant broodstock, produce fingerling BONY annually for distribution to other hatcheries, rear RASU to 500 mm TL for repatriation to Lake Mohave for broodstock replacement, and annually rear BONY to 300 mm TL for distribution within Reach 3.

Previous Activities: Reclamation and the USFWS have past and ongoing interagency agreements to support rearing and research for RASU and BONY at Dexter NFH.

FY06 Accomplishments: Bonytail — USFWS staff hand-stripped eggs and sperm from adult BONY females and males, producing 80,000 fry that were stocked into rearing ponds. After these fish grew to fingerling size, some 20,230 were transferred to Willow Beach NFH, and 18,000 were transferred to Uvalde NFH. The remaining fingerlings were held for rearing. Reclamation and USFWS staff tagged 2,397 subadult BONY (300+ mm TL), which were stocked into Reach 3. A total of 556 juvenile BONY under the 300 mm TL target size were placed into a pond to study PIT-tag retention.

Razorback Sucker — During June 2006, 2,200 juvenile RASU were transferred to Dexter NFH from Willow Beach NFH; average size of these fish was 230 mm TL. No RASU were stocked into Reach 2 due to the increase in stocking size (500 mm TL), as determined by the NFWG in April 2006.

FY07 Activities: The BONY broodstock will be maintained, and hatcheries will produce between 100,000 to 300,000 fingerling BONY for distribution depending upon various agency requests (including Willow Beach NFH and Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility), 500 to 1,000 RASU will be reared to 500 mm TL for repatriation to Lake Mohave, and 4,000 BONY will be reared to 300 mm TL for distribution within Reach 3. Recapture of tagged fish will be analyzed and over-winter growth, survival, and PIT-tag retention will be evaluated.

Due to a recent invasion of exotic quagga mussels to lakes Mead and Mohave on the Colorado River, Dexter NFH will provide RASU larvae to Bubbling Ponds SFH from hand-spawned broodstock held on station. This is currently projected to be a one-time action. It is assumed that fish transportation protocols will be in place by FY08 so that wild RASU larvae from Lake Mohave will again be available from Willow Beach NFH.

Proposed FY08 Activities: The BONY broodstock will be maintained, up to 75,000 fingerling BONY will be produced for distribution to Willow Beach NFH and Achii Hanyo Fish Rearing Facility, 500 to 1,000 RASU will be reared to 500 mm TL for repatriation to Lake Mohave, and 4,000 BONY will be reared to 300 mm TL for distribution within reaches 3-5.

Pertinent Reports: The *2006 Fish Augmentation Summary* will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site. Scope of work is available upon request from the LCR MSCP.