

Work Task C25: Imperial Ponds Native Fish Research

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000

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Start Date: FY08

Expected Duration: FY11

Long-term Goal: Species research, backwater restoration

Conservation Measures: RASU2, BONY2

Location: Reach 5, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, AZ

Purpose: Monitor six ponds created as native fish refugia on Imperial NWR to ascertain the overall success of each pond in producing viable populations of native fish, and evaluate the role and contribution of various structures and features developed within the ponds in attaining this success.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): The RASU and BONY to be stocked into the ponds are provided through B1, B2, B3, B4, and B5. Ponds were developed under E14, and additional monitoring support will be provided through F5.

Project Description: This activity will monitor and evaluate the development of native fish refugia in six newly constructed ponds on Imperial NWR. Pond construction incorporated design features such as riprap, spawning gravels, hummocks, and increased depth, all thought to provide suitable habitat for life cycle completion by BONY and RASU. The experimental design of this research program will evaluate the role and importance of each of these features toward accomplishing successful communities of native fishes. The design includes an initial fish stocking strategy for the ponds, and a monitoring program for selected features of the habitat and fish. The work will be directed by native fish experts who will interpret all field data and make recommendations as appropriate to guide the overall operation and future management of the ponds for native fish refugia.

Previous Activities: This is a new start for FY08.

FY06 Accomplishments: N/A

FY07 Activities: N/A

Proposed FY08 Activities: The initial year of the study will include monitoring the physical and chemical environment of the ponds, monitoring and documenting establishment of vegetation (fringe, emergent and submergent), and monitoring and documenting initial aquatic biology (plankton community, fish introductions and invasions) and other ecological factors that may impact the success of the ponds (piscivorous birds and mammals).

Pertinent Reports: A progress report will be developed annually and will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site. The study plan is available upon request.