

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY07 Estimates	FY07 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY07	FY08 Approved Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate
\$225,000	\$301,360	\$515,377	\$235,000	\$335,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

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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, AZ.

Purpose: Operate and maintain 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 warm-water 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 LCR.

Previous Activities: Reclamation and AGFD have cooperatively worked to upgrade and renovate this facility since 1998. Prior to the LCR MSCP, more than 50,000 RASU were successfully reared at this facility and delivered to the LCR as requirements of the 1997 BO. A subsequent BO issued for the SIA in 2001 required the rearing and stocking of another 20,000 RASU into the LCR. The two above requirements have now been met.

For the LCR MSCP Augmentation Program, Bubbling Ponds SFH reared and stocked 4,814 RASU in 2005 and 11,455 RASU in 2006. All fish exceeded 300 mm TL and were stocked into reaches 4-5.

FY07 Accomplishments: A total of 50,000 fry were received from Dexter NFH in April for rearing, and should reach target size in 2009 and 2010. During 2007, a total of 12,174 RASU were harvested, wire-tagged, and stocked into reaches 4 and 5.

In addition to salary and associated costs for fish rearing activities, funds were expended for the following: 1) to design and construct a flume to measure water flows delivered to the hatchery, 2) to add electrical power to outside raceways, 3) to design and install oxygen lines to raceways, 4) to design a settling basin and intensive culture plans for the hatchery, and 5) to cover costs for nets and materials for live-trapping river otters.

FY08 Activities: Bubbling Ponds SFH began 2008 with approximately 74,000 RASU on station. Of this total, 30,000 stem from wild larvae captured in 2005 and 2006 from Lake Mohave. These fish should reach target size and be stocked out in 2008 and 2009. The remaining fish on station are from Dexter NFH and are expected to go out in 2009 and 2010. An additional 50,000 larvae from Dexter NFH are scheduled to be spawned and shipped to Bubbling Ponds SFH in spring 2008.

Designs are underway for new production features that consolidate fish culture into a single-pass, serial-use system to improve bio-security (escapement and invasion) and predator avoidance/control, reduce pathogenic agents, and facilitate harvest. Construction of these new features will begin in 2008.

Proposed FY09 Activities: RASU larvae will be received from either Dexter NFH or Willow Beach NFH, RASU from the 2007 and 2008 year classes will continue to be reared, 12,000 RASU (300 mm TL) will be sorted, tagged, and delivered to reaches 3, 4, and 5 of 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.

Funding increases for FY09 and FY10 will accelerate and expand facility capability so to provide additional fish for research during FY11-FY16 as required by the HCP. FY09 funding increases will be split between increased production of RASU and repair/replacement of waterlines and holding troughs at the hatch house.

Pertinent Reports: The *2007 Activity Report* is in preparation and will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site.