

## Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$175,000	\$119,439.72	\$243,033.51	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

**Contact:** Jim Stolberg, (702) 293-8206, [jstolberg@usbr.gov](mailto:jstolberg@usbr.gov)

**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, Nevada

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

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** This work task was initiated in April 2006 following approval from the Steering Committee and concurrence by the USFWS. Funds were reallocated from B9. This work is closely related to B6 and C13. Once developed, the rearing ponds may receive 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 of the Moapa and Virgin rivers, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The Overton WMA was established in 1953 under a joint agreement with Reclamation and the NPS. The wildlife area is managed solely for fish and wildlife and their habitats and has limited public access. The Overton WMA covers more than 17,000 acres, and includes three primary waterfowl management ponds, all of which are available for native fish culture.

The LCR MSCP activities for this site include receiving RASU originally captured from Lake Mead and initially reared at Lake Mead SFH, and growing them out to target size (300+ mm TL) for eventual repatriation to Lake Mead. Overton WMA may also provide opportunities to conduct species research under the LCR MSCP AMP.

**Previous Activities:** Originally planned as a 2007 start, this project was initiated in 2006 when funds became available from closure of another project (B9). Designs for site modifications, including repair and improvement to water delivery infrastructure to

facilitate managing Honeybee and Center ponds for native fish culture, were completed in 2006. Improvements to the water delivery infrastructure for Honeybee and Center ponds were carried out in 2007, and prior to stocking native fishes, Reclamation assisted with sampling these ponds to determine species composition. To curtail aquatic vegetation and maintain ponds with sufficient open water areas, a 14-ft aluminum boat with a chemical spray unit was purchased in 2008.

**FY09 Accomplishments:** A total of 2,182 juvenile RASU (2007 and 2008 year classes) reared at Lake Mead SFH were delivered and stocked into Center Pond during FY09. Associated field work was performed and included periodic monitoring of pond water quality as well as multiple sampling events to assess RASU pond stock. A single sampling event was completed to remove adult RASU from Center Pond and transfer them to Mulberry Pond at Floyd Lamb State Park. RASU removed from Center Pond will support future research efforts associated with the Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Study (C13).

**FY10 Activities:** RASU reared at Lake Mead SFH will be transferred to Overton WMA ponds for further rearing. Sampling and monitoring of fish and ponds will be conducted periodically throughout FY10 and pond stock may be repatriated to Lake Mead or made available for research purposes. Further improvements to the water delivery system for Center Pond will be made, and a boat ramp will be installed to improve both RASU sampling efforts and management of pond vegetation.

**Proposed FY11 Activities:** Razorback sucker from Lake Mead SFH will be stocked for grow out and future repatriation to Lake Mead. Overton WMA ponds, principally Center Pond, will continue to be monitored through sampling efforts. Improvements to existing ponds and infrastructure will continue as needed.

**Pertinent Reports:** The scope of work for this agreement is available upon request from the LCR MSCP. Annual reports covering 2005-2009 will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site.