

Work Task B4: Dexter National Fish Hatchery

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$229,364.46	\$737,211.07	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$220,000

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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, BONY4, and HUCH1

Location: Off-river, Dexter, New Mexico

Purpose: Support operation and maintenance at the facility, support maintenance of BONY brood stock, and annually provide RASU and BONY to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentaion Program.

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 Rearing Station, and Uvalde NFH. In addition, fish-rearing research activities outlined in C10, C11, C14, and C30 may be conducted at Dexter NFH.

Project Description: Dexter NFH is managed and operated by the USFWS. The facility maintains the only brood stock for BONY in the world, and maintains a backup brood stock of RASU. Funds provided will be used to maintain extant brood stock, produce fingerling BONY annually for distribution to other hatcheries, rear RASU to 500 mm TL for repatriation to the LCR for brood stock replacement, and annually rear BONY to 300 mm TL for distribution within reaches 3 and 4.

Previous Activities: Reclamation and the USFWS have past and ongoing interagency agreements to support rearing and research for RASU and BONY at Dexter NFH. Since the inception of the LCR MSCP through 2008, a total of 136 RASU have been repatriated to Reach 2, a total of 794 RASU have been stocked into Reach 3, a total of 9,911 BONY have been stocked into Reach 3, and a total of 535 BONY have been stocked into Reach 4.

FY09 Accomplishments:

BONY. Dexter NFH staff maintained 3,000 adult BONY brood stock. The stock comprises six year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. Staff from the USFWS hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs and sperm from 64 adult BONY, producing 170,000 larvae. In April of 2009, 10,000 eggs were provided to the Bozeman FTC for research under C11. Approximately 50,000 swim-up larvae were stocked in one 0.35-acre pond at Dexter for grow out and eventual distribution to Reach 3 of the Lower Colorado River and to Willow Beach NFH and Achii Hanyo Rearing Station for rearing. A total of 3,903 fingerling BONY were transferred to Willow Beach NFH for grow out. No larvae were transferred to Willow Beach NFH or Uvalde NFH during 2009. USFWS staff wire-tagged, hauled, and stocked a total of 2,637 subadult BONY (300+ mm TL): 2,102 into Lake Havasu proper at Bill Williams NWR, and 535 into High Levee Pond at Cibola NWR (Reach 3). A new road grader was purchased to develop and maintain ponds and roadways on site. This grader will allow construction of three new ponds for production of BONY for future research.

RASU. Dexter staff maintained a refuge stock of 1,300 adult RASU. The brood stock comprises nine year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. USFWS staff hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs and sperm from 40 adult RASU, producing 160,000 larvae. Of these, 50,000 larvae were transferred to Bubbling Ponds SFH, and 92,000 were transferred to Uvalde NFH for rearing. Approximately 18,000 were kept at Dexter for grow out. No RASU were transferred to Dexter NFH from Willow Beach NFH due to ongoing quagga mussel issues. A total of 2,588 RASU (400+ mm TL) were repatriated to Lake Mohave (Reach 2). No RASU were stocked into Reach 3.

FY10 Activities: The BONY brood stock will be maintained, and the hatchery will produce between 150,000 and 300,000 fingerling BONY for distribution depending upon various agency requests (including Willow Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Rearing Station, Bubbling Ponds SFH, and Uvalde NFH); up to 1,000 RASU will be reared to 500 mm TL for stocking into the LCR. A total of 4,000 BONY will be reared to 300 mm TL for distribution within Reach 3.

Due to an invasion of exotic quagga mussels to the Colorado River, Dexter NFH will provide 50,000 RASU larvae to Bubbling Ponds SFH from hand-spawned brood stock held on station.

Proposed FY11 Activities: The BONY brood stock will be maintained. Up to 75,000 fingerling BONY will be produced for distribution to Willow Beach NFH and Achii Hanyo Rearing Station, and 4,000 BONY will be reared to 300 mm TL for distribution within reaches 3-5.

Pertinent Reports: The report, *2005-2009 Fish Augmentation Summary*, is in preparation and will be posted to the LCR MSCP Web site.