

Work Task C45: Ecology and Habitat Use of Stocked RASU in Reach 3

FY09 Estimates	FY09 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY09	FY10 Approved Estimate	FY11 Proposed Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$170,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

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Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY15

Long-term Goal: To assess survival and habitat use of stocked RASU and determine the need for continued fish augmentations.

Conservation Measures: RASU6

Location: Reach 3 from Davis to Parker dams

Purpose: To assess ecology and distribution of habitats available to stocked RASU in Reach 3 to determine needs for continued stocking, and to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Work is related to C33, D8, and G3.

Project Description: There have been more than 28,000 RASU reared and released into Reach 3 through the Fish Augmentation Program and roughly 30,000 more RASU stocked prior to the LCR MSCP. These fish are surviving and are being contacted throughout the year. In winter and spring, fish are located at known spawning areas near Needles, California, and Laughlin, Nevada. During summer and fall, stocked fish are found throughout the main channels, and in numerous off-channel lakes and ponds within Topock Gorge. This five-year study will assess the availability of physical, chemical, and biological fish habitats within Reach 3 to help identify habitat limitations to survival and to allow assessment of possible habitat saturation.

Previous Activities: This effort will utilize the extant RASU distribution and stocking data accumulated over the first five years of the program.

FY09 Accomplishments: None; this is a new start FY11.

FY10 Activities: The study design for this new FY11 start will be developed under G3.

Proposed FY11 Activities: The first year of the study will focus on habitat mapping of Reach 3 and superimposing RASU monitoring data onto these maps. GIS expertise within Reclamation will be coordinated with extant GIS resources from the Lake Havasu office of BLM and from USFWS refuge offices. Field investigations will focus on gaps in geographic coverage of netting, shocking, and telemetry data. Findings will be used to focus study actions for FY12 and FY13.

Pertinent Reports: N/A