

Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY10 Estimates	FY10 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY10	FY11 Approved Estimate	FY12 Proposed Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate
\$50,000	\$53,930.37	\$296,963.88	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

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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.

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. This work is closely related to the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery (B6) and the Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Study (C13). Once developed, the rearing ponds may receive fish from Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery (B2).

Project Description: Overton Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in Clark County, Nevada, at the upper end of Lake Mead, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The wildlife area is managed by NDOW 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) for eventual repatriation to Lake Mead. Overton WMA may also provide opportunities to conduct species research under the LCR MSCP AMP.

Previous Activities: 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 to curtail

aquatic vegetation and maintain ponds with sufficient open water areas, a fourteen foot aluminum boat with chemical spray unit was purchased in 2008.

FY10 Accomplishments: A total of 1,350 juvenile RASU reared at Lake Mead SFH were delivered and stocked into Center pond during FY10. 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 to remove adult RASU from Center pond was completed and resulted in the capture of seventy-three RASU. These fish were transported to Mulberry pond at Floyd Lamb City Park to support future research efforts associated with the Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Study (C13). Infrastructure improvements for water delivery were completed, and a new boat ramp was installed to improve access to Center pond.

FY11 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 FY11, and pond stock may be transferred to additional grow-out sites and made available for research purposes. Site improvements will be made as needed.

Proposed FY12 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. An increase in funding is requested to begin evaluating additional on-site ponds that may provide opportunities to conduct species research. These ponds would also be available for rearing additional Lake Mead RASU.

Pertinent Reports: The scope of work for this agreement is available upon request.