

Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$50,000	\$25,979.31	\$322,905.57	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

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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, 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. This work is closely related to the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery (B6), the Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Study (C13), and Lake Mead System Monitoring (D8). Once developed, ponds at the Overton WMA may receive additional fish from Willow Beach NFH (B2) for grow-out.

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) for future program needs. 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 began in 2007, and prior to stocking native fishes, LCR MSCP fisheries staff assisted with sampling these ponds to determine species composition. To curtail aquatic vegetation and maintain ponds with sufficient open water areas, a 14-foot aluminum boat with chemical spray unit was purchased in 2008. Pond improvements continued in 2010 with the addition of a new boat ramp in the northeast corner of Center Pond.

FY11 Accomplishments: A total of 600 juvenile RASU reared at Lake Mead SFH were delivered and stocked into Center pond during FY11. Associated field work was performed and included periodic monitoring of pond water quality as well as two sampling events to assess RASU pond stock. Pond infrastructure was routinely inspected and minor repairs were completed as necessary.

FY12 Activities: RASU reared at Lake Mead SFH will be transferred to Overton WMA ponds for further rearing. RASU currently held in Overton WMA ponds will be monitored at least twice annually using standard methods including hoop and trammel nets and/or electrofishing. Water quality parameters in Center Pond, and other Overton WMA ponds as necessary, will be collected quarterly in association with fish monitoring activities using standardized methods consistent with water quality data collection in previous project segments. Existing water delivery infrastructure to Center and Wilson ponds will be evaluated and repair/replacement of control valves and other infrastructure may be performed as necessary.

Proposed FY13 Activities: Razorback sucker from Lake Mead SFH will be stocked for grow-out and future program needs. Overton WMA ponds, principally Center Pond, will continue to be monitored through sampling efforts. Improvements to existing ponds and infrastructure will occur as needed.

Pertinent Reports: The scope of work for this agreement is available upon request from the LCR MSCP.