

Work Task B4: Dexter National Fish Hatchery

FY11 Estimate	FY11 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY11	FY12 Approved Estimate	FY13 Proposed Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate
\$180,000	\$150,310.56	\$966,984.84	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000

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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 Augmentation 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 broodstock, and annually provide RASU and BONY to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): This work is related to work tasks B2, B3, B5, and B10, as fish from Dexter NFH will be delivered to Willow Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Rearing Station, Bubbling Ponds State Fish Hatchery 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 broodstock for BONY in the world, and maintains a backup broodstock of RASU. Funds provided will be used to maintain extant broodstock, produce fingerling BONY annually for distribution to other hatcheries, rear RASU to 500 mm TL for repatriation to the LCR for broodstock 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 2010, a total of 2,724 RASU have been repatriated to Reach 2, a total of 794 RASU have been stocked into Reach 3, a total of 1,357 BONY have been stocked into Reach 2, and a total of 8,769 BONY have been stocked into Reach 3, and a total of 535 BONY have been stocked into Reach 4. In September 2010, largemouth bass virus (LMBV) was confirmed at Dexter NFH. LMBV was isolated in one lot of 2008 year class bonytail, and in the refuge population of Gila topminnow. Immediately following the confirmation of the virus, the two LMBV positive lots were euthanized and removed from the facility. The euthanized lot

of BONY was scheduled to be stocked into the lower Colorado River as part of the LCR MSCP augmentation program, thus impacting the number of deliverable fish for the program.

FY11 Accomplishments: In October 2011 the Fish Health Unit concluded Dexter's annual fish health inspection using enhanced testing protocols. No pathogens of concern were detected and the facilities disease classification was upgraded from LMBV positive to *suspect* LMBV. Prior to the annual inspection, fish lots had been tested in Nov 2010 and April 2011 and no pathogens of concern were detected at that time as well. Dexter is currently on track to regain its Class A (pathogen free) disease classification in October of 2012. Negotiations between state and federal agencies resulted in a onetime dispensation in 2011 that allowed the stocking of certain, specific lots of fish from Dexter NFH into the LCR.

BONY: Dexter NFH staff maintained 2,000 adult BONY broodstock. The stock comprises six year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. Approximately 49,000 BONY were maintained on station for future stocking into the lower Colorado River; 4,000 (07 year class), and 25,000 (09 year class) and 20,000 (11 year class). Staff from the USFWS hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs and sperm from 50 adult BONY, producing 538,334 eggs. No BONY were transferred to Willow Beach NFH, or Achii Hanyo Rearing Station, during 2011. USFWS staff harvested, PIT tagged, hauled, and stocked a total of 3,907 subadult BONY (300+ mm TL) into Lake Havasu (Reach 3).

RASU: Dexter staff maintained a refuge stock of 1,250 adult RASU. The broodstock comprises nine year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. USFWS staff hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs and sperm from 40 adult RASU, producing 385,667 eggs. No RASU were transferred to Bubbling Ponds SFH due to the facilities suspect LMBV disease classification. Approximately 25,000 RASU are currently on station 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 500 RASU from Dexter NFH were stocked into Lake Mohave (Reach 2) in 2011.

FY12 Activities: The BONY broodstock 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, and Bubbling Ponds SFH); 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. The hatchery is in the process of regaining pathogen free certification for delivery of fish to avoid contamination of LMBV-free areas. Fish on station are scheduled to be tested for the presence of LMBV. If all tests come back negative these fish could then be stocked into the LCR after October 2012.

Due to an invasion of exotic quagga mussels to the Colorado River, Dexter NFH may provide up to 50,000 RASU larvae to Bubbling Ponds SFH from hand-spawned broodstock held on station. Any RASU supplied by Dexter to other facilities will be contingent upon resolution of LMBV issue.

Proposed FY13 Activities: The BONY broodstock 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 scope of work and annual administrative reports are available upon request.