

Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$75,000	\$36,397.60	\$314,245.05	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Contact: Jim Stolberg, (702) 293-8206, jstolberg@usbr.gov

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) and the Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Study (C13). Ponds at the Overton Wildlife Management Area (WMA) also receive additional fish from Willow Beach NFH (B2) for grow-out and future repatriation.

Project Description: Overton WMA is located in Clark County, Nevada, at the upper end of Lake Mead at the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin rivers, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. 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 Lake Mead and Lake Mohave RASU for grow-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: 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 completed in 2007 and followed with stockings of native fish in both ponds. 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. Due to low native fish survival and invasion of nonnative fish species, stockings in Honeybee Pond ceased in 2008. Plans to remove nonnative fish species and investigate potential means of renovating Honeybee Pond were scheduled for future years. Between 2009 and 2010, a total of 3,535 RASU were stocked into Center Pond. During this time stocked fish and pond water quality were monitored periodically. Pond improvements also continued in 2010 with the addition of a new boat ramp in the northeast corner of Center Pond. An additional 1,080 RASU were stocked into Center Pond during 2011.

FY12 Accomplishments: A total of 600 juvenile RASU reared at Lake Mead SFH were stocked into Center Pond during December 2012. Associated field work was performed and included periodic monitoring of pond water quality as well as two sampling events to assess RASU pond stock. The November sampling event yielded 110 RASU averaging 476 mm (266-575 mm) in total length (TL). The sampling event conducted in April had similar success with the capture of 161 RASU averaging 391 mm TL (230-589 mm). The lower average TL observed during the second sampling event was likely due to the younger year class stocked in December. The pond's water delivery infrastructure was also inspected and minor repairs were completed as necessary. Repair and improvement to the boat launch at Center Pond and a single treatment to curtail shoreline aquatic vegetation were completed early in the year. NDOW also held internal meetings to evaluate additional onsite ponds for RASU rearing and grow-out. No new rearing ponds were identified, but the state did develop a renovation plan for Honeybee Pond, which had previously been used for RASU grow-out. The plan includes draining the pond, deepening silted-in areas, removing dense shoreline vegetation, and replacing the current outlet structure. The new outlet structure and valves were purchased in FY12; however, renovation was delayed until FY13, which resulted in reduced expenditures in FY12.

FY13 Activities: No stockings of Overton WMA ponds are scheduled for FY13. Any RASU being moved off station from the Lake Mead Hatchery will be transferred to Mulberry Pond at Floyd Lamb City Park. RASU currently held in Center Pond will be monitored at least twice during the year, and water quality information will be collected quarterly using standardized methods consistent with water quality data collection from previous project segments. Routine maintenance will be performed as necessary on the existing water delivery infrastructure. Renovation of Honeybee Pond will follow the closure of the fall/winter waterfowl season and is scheduled for March 2013.

Proposed FY14 Activities: Following the renovation of Honeybee Pond, RASU from Lake Mead Hatchery will be stocked for grow-out and future program needs. Fish populations and water quality of Overton WMA ponds will continue to be monitored through sampling efforts.

Pertinent Reports: The final draft of the 2012 *Razorback Sucker Augmentation, Overton Wildlife Management Area* report is complete. It will be posted to the LCR MSCP website following editorial review.