

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$306,855.83	\$1,960,624.83	\$300,000	\$315,000	\$320,000	\$320,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Maintain fish-rearing capability and provide RASU for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3 and RASU4.

Location: Off-river, Cornville, Arizona.

Purpose: Operate and maintain the fish-rearing facility and annually contribute RASU to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Activities at Bubbling Ponds SFH are related to B4, as Bubbling Ponds SFH receives RASU from SNARRC. Some of the fish-rearing research activities outlined in C10 are conducted at Bubbling Ponds SFH.

Project Description: Bubbling Ponds SFH is managed and operated by AGFD. This is a warm water rearing facility supplied by a continuous, year-round, 10 cfs spring flow of 68°F water. The facility has 10 acres of production ponds, a work shop, a storage shed, a small laboratory, and sufficient fish distribution equipment to meet the delivery requirements for the LCR MSCP. Program funds provide for salary, fish feed and supplies, facility operation and maintenance, and delivery of fish. Production goals are 12,000 RASU of 300 mm minimum TL for release to reaches 3-5 of the Lower Colorado River.

Previous Activities: Prior to the LCR MSCP, 70,000 RASU were successfully reared at this facility and delivered to the Lower Colorado River as required by two biological opinions (1997 and 2001). Both commitments have now been met. Between the start of the LCR MSCP and the end of 2011, Bubbling Ponds SFH has reared and stocked 86,791 RASU.

FY12 Accomplishments: A total of 50,000 fry were received for rearing from SNARRC in April. This year a total of 13,710 RASU were harvested, PIT/wire-tagged, and stocked: 7,683 were stocked into Lake Havasu (Reach 3), and 6,027 were stocked below Parker Dam (Reach 4). During 2012 funds were expended for salaries and associated costs for

fish-rearing activities. Funds were also used to purchase feed, chemicals, and gravel to resurface all hatchery roads. A portion of the pipeline was replaced that conveys spring water from the spring to the hatchery. Several trees encroaching on a water supply ditch were removed. A new 12-inch corrugated polyethylene pipe was brought to the lower ponds supplying fresh water for fish reared there. An electrical supply line was buried, thereby removing a hazardous situation. These improvements accounted for the \$50,000 increase in FY12.

FY13 Activities: Bubbling Ponds SFH began 2013 with approximately 56,000 RASU on station. This total includes 16,000 year class 2009 fish, 10,000 year class 2010 fish, and 30,000 year class 2012 fish. These fish are from SNARRC and were delivered either prior to the outbreak of LMBV at SNARRC or after SNARRC received a LMBV-free rating. They are expected to reach target size in 2013 and 2014. Plans are underway to replace existing deteriorated water supply pipes throughout the hatchery. This will require diversion of the incoming water supply.

Proposed FY14 Activities: RASU larvae will be received from SNARRC, RASU from the 2013 and 2014 year classes will continue to be reared, 12,000 RASU (300 mm TL) will be sorted, tagged, and delivered to the lower Colorado River, and annual progress reports will be produced. Construction of production design features will continue. As features are completed, normal fish culture activities will be dovetailed into the new systems. Budget increases in FY14 are due to anticipated cost increases associated with raising fish to target size.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.