

Work Task B6: Lake Mead Fish Hatchery

FY12 Estimate	FY12 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY12	FY13 Approved Estimate	FY14 Proposed Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate
\$50,000	\$66,798.28	\$313,750.42	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY16

Long-term Goal: Operate and maintain the fish-rearing facility to provide RASU for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, RASU7, and RASU8.

Location: Reach 1, Lake Mead, Boulder City, Nevada.

Purpose: Support Lake Mead RASU studies and contribute RASU to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program.

Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future): Activities at Lake Mead SFH contribute to other LCR MSCP work tasks, including B11 and C13.

Project Description: Lake Mead SFH is managed and operated by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Renovation of Lake Mead SFH allowed for the development and inclusion of dedicated facilities for rearing RASU and other native fish. Reclamation and NDOW are cooperatively rearing RASU captured from Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for future needs. Funds from this work task provide for the staff, equipment, feed, and chemicals necessary to rear these fish. Additional hatchery rearing space was made available in FY12 in continued support of the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program. This additional rearing capacity is being developed for future years when the number of RASU annually stocked into reaches 3-5 is expected to increase. This additional space is also currently supporting FLSU rearing for research projects occurring in reach 3.

Previous Activities: In 2005, Reclamation assisted with the installation of a single 500-gallon fiberglass tank for the purpose of rearing RASU collected from Lake Mead. Installation took place in the new native fish room and included plumbing for air and water delivery lines, standpipe and standpipe screen construction, and placement of a central drain line. The native fish room was completed in 2006 with the addition of twenty-five 10-gallon aquaria, four 240-gallon fiberglass troughs, and six 700-gallon fiberglass tanks. Since 2007, larval RASU have been brought into the facility and reared in these tanks.

FY12 Accomplishments: Fewer RASU larvae were collected from Lake Mead in FY12 in response to the increased survival of previous RASU year classes and the planned renovation of the Overton WMA grow-out ponds. During the course of the FY12 spawning season, approximately 400 larval RASU were collected from Lake Mead and taken to Lake Mead SFH for grow-out. To make room for these incoming larvae, Reclamation transported 379 Lake Mohave RASU to Davis Cove backwater for additional grow-out, and NDOW transported and stocked 600 juvenile Lake Mead RASU into Center Pond at the Overton WMA. An additional 2,500 subadult Lake Mohave RASU were also brought on station in early FY12 to begin development of the additional rearing capacity that the LCR MSCP will need by 2018. These fish are currently being reared at lower densities with the goal of producing up to 500 RASU with a minimum total length of 500 mm, and up to 2,000 RASU with a minimum total length of 300 mm. These fish will be stocked into Lake Mohave as they reach target sizes, and additional fish brought to the hatchery in subsequent years are anticipated to be used for Reach 3-5 stockings. Currently, over 4,500 RASU from multiple year classes remain on station. These fish will be stocked or made available for research purposes as needs are identified.

FY13 Activities: NDOW will continue to operate Lake Mead SFH for RASU and FLSU production. Operations will include capture and rearing of wild-caught RASU larvae from Lake Mead, capture and rearing of juvenile FLSU from Lake Mead and Reach 3, and grow-out of subadult native fish from the 2009-2012 year classes. It is anticipated that NDOW will continue their evaluation of constructing ponds that may be used as future rearing sites through their Safe Harbor Agreement Program.

Proposed FY14 Activities: Continued rearing of Lake Mead RASU captured during previous years will occur and hatchery stock will be augmented with 2014 year-class RASU larvae. Adult and subadult Lake Mead RASU will be delivered to the Overton WMA and to additional off-channel grow-out sites as necessary. Rearing of Lake Mohave RASU and FLSU from Lake Mead and below Davis Dam that are already on station will also continue. It is anticipated that the Lake Mead SFH will contribute up to 2,000 Lake Mohave RASU and 2,000 BONY towards annual fish augmentation goals beginning in FY17. The additional funding requested in FY14 will support rearing this increased number of native fish for future augmentation needs.

Pertinent Reports: The *2010 Nevada Department of Wildlife Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Augmentation Project Activities Report* will be posted to the LCR MSCP website. The 2011 Activities Report is in review and will be posted to the website upon completion. The 2012 *Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Augmentation, Lake Mead Fish Hatchery* report has been received and will be posted to the website upon completion of review.