

Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY13 Estimate	FY13 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY13	FY14 Approved Estimate	FY15 Proposed Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate
\$300,000	\$308,173.52	\$2,179,069.30	\$300,000	\$960,000	\$450,000	\$440,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-term Goal: Fish augmentation

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 State Fish Hatchery (SFH) are related to B4; Bubbling Ponds SFH receives RASU from SNARRC. A portion of the fish-rearing and predator conditioning research activities outlined in C10 and C11 are also 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 2012, Bubbling Ponds SFH has reared and stocked 100,501 RASU.

FY13 Accomplishments: A total of 60,000 fry were received for rearing from SNARRC in April. This year a total of 12,167 RASU were harvested, PIT/wire-tagged, and stocked. A total of 6,590 were stocked into Lake Havasu (Reach 3), and 5,577 were stocked below Parker Dam (Reach 4). During 2013, funds were expended for salaries and associated

costs for fish-rearing activities. Funds were also used to purchase feed, chemicals, a pallet jack, and a gristmill to grind feed to smaller size.

FY14 Activities: Bubbling Ponds SFH began 2014 with approximately 17,000 RASU on station. This total includes 3,500 year class 2009 fish, 4,000 year class 2010 fish, 6,000 year class 2011 fish and 3,500 year class 2012 fish, all from SNARRC. They are expected to reach target size in 2014 and 2015. Plans are underway to replace existing deteriorated water supply pipes throughout the hatchery. New pipe previously purchased by USBR continues to be installed replacing deteriorated water supply pipes throughout the hatchery. Discussions with the hatchery regarding future production goal increases will occur during FY14. If facility expansion is required, scoping, cost estimation, and cost-benefit analysis will be conducted.

Proposed FY15 Activities: RASU larvae will continue to be received from SNARRC. RASU from the 2013 and 2014 year classes will continue to be reared. We expect that 12,000 RASU (300 mm TL) will be sorted, tagged, and delivered to the lower Colorado River for FY15. The hatchery will also provide annual administrative progress reports for FY15 activities and production numbers.

The existing agreement expires at the end of FY15. A new 5-year agreement will be developed to continue and potentially expand native fish production at this facility. This agreement may include funding for increased production goals. Bubbling Ponds SFH will require a substantial capital investment for infrastructure repair and improvements in order to secure current production goals at this facility. These repairs and improvements would also provide the ability for future expansion should out-year production goals require it. The first year of the agreement will be supported with funds obligated in FY15 in order to ensure seamless carryover of all year-class fish production on station. The FY15 estimate also includes a coarse estimate for facility improvements in the event that this action is deemed necessary. If large capital improvements are undertaken, a long-term agreement will be developed and executed to secure the space and water required to continue production at this facility for the life of the LCR MSCP.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.