

Work Task B11: Overton Wildlife Management Area

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$50,000	\$50,000.00	\$400,290.37	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$20,000

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

Start Date: FY06

Expected Duration: FY18

Long-Term Goal: Develop and maintain offsite rearing capability to augment production at State and Federal hatcheries

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, RASU6, RASU7, and RASU8

Location: Reach 1, Overton, Nevada

Purpose: To provide additional rearing capacity for razorback sucker

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 task is closely related to the Work Tasks B6, C13, and D8. Ponds at the Overton WMA also receive fish from the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery (B2) for grow-out and future repatriation.

Project Description: The 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 razorback sucker for grow-out to target size (300+ mm) for future program needs. The Overton WMA may also provide opportunities to conduct species research under the LCR MSCP AMP. As the USFWS nears completion of the Razorback Sucker Recovery Plan for the LCR, in which the Lake Mead razorback sucker will likely be identified as a recovery population, it is prudent to maintain this site as a grow-out location for native fish.

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. Due to low native fish survival and invasion of non-native fish species, stockings in Honeybee Pond ceased in 2008. Plans to remove non-native fish species and investigate potential means of renovating Honeybee Pond were scheduled for future years. Between 2009 and 2011, a total of 4,615 razorback sucker were stocked into Center Pond. From this time through the present, stocked fish and pond water quality have been monitored on a biannual and monthly basis, respectively. Pond improvements, maintenance, and repairs have also been performed since 2008 and have included the purchase of a chemical spray unit to curtail aquatic vegetation and maintain sufficient open water areas, installation of a new boat ramp in the northeast corner of Center Pond, purchase of a new outlet structure and valves, and renovation of Honeybee Pond.

FY14 Accomplishments: A total of 250 adult, Lake Mead razorback sucker were stocked into Honeybee Pond during the spring of FY14. These fish are being reared in support of Lake Mead razorback sucker conservation efforts and will be harvested and repatriated in future years as needed. No razorback sucker were stocked into Center Pond during FY14 due to the estimated size of the current pond population; however, field work associated with Center Pond was conducted and included monthly monitoring of pond water quality as well as fall and winter sampling events to assess razorback sucker pond stock. Fall and winter sampling events yielded a total of 23 and 115 razorback sucker, respectively. Razorback sucker dominated the catch as expected, accounting for 61% of the total capture. All razorback sucker captured during the winter sampling event were removed from the pond for augmentation or research purposes. A total of 97 razorback sucker with an average TL of 500 mm (range 431–586 mm) were released into Lake Mohave. The remaining 18 razorback sucker from the winter sampling event were released into Lake Mead in support of ongoing research and monitoring efforts (C13 and D8). A portion of FY14 funding was also used to support associated activities at the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery.

FY15 Activities: Pond stocks at the Overton WMA will be augmented in FY15 with additional stockings of Lake Mead and Lake Mohave razorback sucker into Honeybee and Center Ponds, respectively. Razorback sucker in both ponds will be monitored as needed using standard methods such as hoop nets, trammel nets, remote PIT tag scanners, and/or electrofishing. Water quality information will be collected quarterly, as well as in association with all fish monitoring activities, using standardized methods consistent with water quality data collection from

previous project segments. Management of aquatic vegetation and routine maintenance on the existing water delivery infrastructure will be performed as necessary.

Proposed FY16 Activities: The NDOW will continue to manage the Overton WMA ponds in support of LCR MSCP needs. Fish populations and water quality will also continue to be monitored through routine sampling efforts. Site and infrastructure improvements will continue, as needed, in support of future conservation efforts.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.