

Work Task B3: Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$150,000	\$183,710.01	\$1,035,574.15	\$160,000	\$275,000	\$50,000	\$160,000

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Start Date: FY04

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Fish augmentation

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, BONY3, and BONY4

Location: Reach 4, Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) Reservation, Parker, Arizona

Purpose: To support operation and maintenance of fish rearing facilities in order to annually contribute razorback sucker and bonytail to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program for stocking into Reaches 2–5 of the LCR

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): This project was previously included as Work Task A1 in FY04, and it is related to Work Tasks B2 and B4, as fish from both the Willow Beach NFH and the SNARRC may be transferred to the Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility. Additionally, fish research for razorback sucker and bonytail may be accomplished at this station.

Project Description: This project supports both the development and maintenance of the Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility as a grow-out site for razorback sucker and bonytail and the rearing of bonytail for release into Reaches 3–5 of the LCR. The station is primarily used as a grow-out facility for bonytail from the SNARRC, although razorback sucker are occasionally brought on station in response to stocking needs and space limitations at other facilities. Funds are used for staff salaries, facility operation and maintenance, fish feed and chemicals, and fish distribution.

This facility is located on the CRIT Reservation, near Parker, Arizona. There are nine earthen ponds that receive Colorado River water from an irrigation canal. A

metal building was constructed to house 4 flow-through raceways and 3 circular tanks; in addition, 12 circular tanks are housed under an outside canopy, and there is 1 large, outside research tank.

Fish rearing operations are seasonal, producing one crop per year. Bonytail are brought in from the Willow Beach NFH and/or SNARRC in the winter. Fish are fed through the spring and summer. In the fall, the ponds are drained, and fish are harvested, tagged, and stocked. Fish under target size (less than 300 mm TL) are returned to a pond for continued rearing. New fish are then brought on station, and the process is repeated. The annual production goal is 4,000 bonytail for stocking into the LCR.

Previous Activities: In cooperation with the USFWS, upgrades to this facility have occurred since FY04. The work completed includes: (1) the purchase and assembly of a metal building (tank house) and fiberglass fish tanks, (2) an office, (3) a feed storage room, (4) restrooms, (5) electrical upgrades, (6) a backup generator, and (7) upgraded aeration systems for fish tanks in the tank house.

FY14 Accomplishments: At the start of the year, 12,038 bonytail of the 2012 year class and 9,000 bonytail of the 2014 year class were on station. In addition, 713 razorback sucker of the 2012 year class were also on station. In December 2013, fish were harvested and tagged, and 415 razorback sucker were stocked into Reach 2, and 513 bonytail were transferred to Lake Mead Fish Hatchery for 1 month and eventually stocked into Topock Gorge (Reach 3). Approximately 5,850 bonytail of the 2012 year class and 9,000 bonytail of the 2014 year class were held on the Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility for additional grow-out.

Obligations in FY14 were greater than the estimated budget. Administrative costs associated with the development and award of new 5-year agreements for both the Achii Hanyo Rearing Station (B3) and Willow Beach NFH (B2), who use the station as a satellite rearing facility, were expended under Work Task B3.

FY15 Activities: In December 2014, fish were harvested and tagged, and 477 razorback sucker were stocked into Reach 2 of the LCR. In addition, 3,170 bonytail were stocked into Reach 3, and 1,998 bonytail were stocked into Reach 4.

Bonytail will be brought on station from the SNARRC to meet production goals. Delivery of approximately 10,000 bonytail from the SNARRC is expected in late winter. Six ponds will be dried, disked, and graded to aid harvest. Levee work will be performed on one pond to repair a leak.

Proposed FY16 Activities: Bonytail left on station from FY15 will be reared to target size, and fingerling bonytail will be delivered from either the Willow Beach NFH or the SNARRC. The estimated FY16 budget incorporates costs associated with raising and stocking native fish for FY16 and FY17. Obligating 2 years of funds reduces administrative costs and allows for flexibility at the hatchery. The FY17 estimated budget has been adjusted accordingly.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.