

Work Task B4: Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center at Dexter

FY14 Estimate	FY14 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY14	FY15 Approved Estimate	FY16 Proposed Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$606,288.45	\$1,989,502.32	\$250,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$260,000

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Fish augmentation

Conservation Measures: RASU3, RASU4, BONY3, BONY4, and HUCH1

Location: Off-river, Dexter, New Mexico

Purpose: To support operation and maintenance at the SNARRC, support maintenance of the bonytail broodstock, and annually provide razorback sucker and bonytail to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): This work task is related to Work Tasks B2, B3, and B5, as fish from the SNARRC will be delivered to the Willow Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility, and Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery. In addition, fish rearing research activities outlined in Work Tasks C10, C11, C14, and C30 (closed) may be conducted at the SNARRC. A humpback refugium has been established at the SNARRC as a safeguard in case of catastrophic events in the wild (C14).

Project Description: The SNARRC is managed and operated by the USFWS. The facility maintains the only broodstock for bonytail in the world and also retains a backup broodstock of razorback sucker. Funds provided will be used to maintain extant broodstock, annually produce fingerling bonytail for distribution to other hatcheries, and to annually rear bonytail to 300 mm TL for distribution within Reaches 2–5.

Previous Activities: Reclamation and the USFWS have past and ongoing interagency agreements to support rearing and research for razorback sucker and bonytail at the SNARRC.

FY14 Accomplishments: The SNARRC maintained its Class A (pathogen-free) disease classification. In FY14, as part of clarification to help meet the

CESA requirements, any fish to be stocked in Reaches 4 or 5 had to be reared to 305 mm TL. The SNARRC plans to target a 305-mm TL for all bonytail stocked in FY15–18; however, fish with TLs of 300 mm or larger may be stocked in Reach 3, while fish stocked in Reaches 4 and 5 will be 305 mm TL or larger.

Expenditures exceeding the FY14 budget estimate were a result of major capital improvements made at the SNARRC to expand rearing capabilities. The cost estimate for this work was approximately \$400,000 and was not accounted for under the original, approved estimate for FY14. These improvements were necessary in order to meet out-year production goals for bonytail in FY15–18 and were anticipated and detailed in the last year's work plan "FY14 Activities" write-up. Four new approximately 0.25-acre ponds were constructed at the facility. The USFWS performed the initial excavation, grading, and contouring work, and LCR MSCP staff lined the ponds and installed four concrete catch basins. Construction began in March 2014 and was completed by July 2014. The ponds will be tested and operational by the spring of 2015.

Bonytail: The SNARRC maintained a 1,952 adult bonytail broodstock that comprised six year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. Approximately 53,000 bonytail were maintained on station for future stocking into the LCR. These included 9,000 bonytail of the 2009 year class, 14,000 of the 2011 year class, 10,000 of the 2012 year class, and 20,000 of the 2014 year class. The SNARRC hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs from 22 adult bonytail females, producing 364,782 eggs. Over 77,500 egg, larval, and juvenile bonytail were transferred to other stations for grow-out and research during FY14. The SNARRC harvested, PIT tagged, hauled, and stocked a total of 6,332 subadult bonytail (300+ mm TL) into Lake Havasu (Reach 3).

Razorback Sucker: The SNARRC maintained a broodstock stock of 1,122 adult razorback sucker that comprised nine year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. SNARRC hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs from 24 adult razorback sucker females, producing 643,680 eggs. Approximately 75,000 razorback sucker larvae were transferred to the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery and the Bubbling Ponds Native Fish Conservation Facility for grow-out and future stocking into the LCR.

No razorback sucker were transferred to the SNARRC from the Willow Beach NFH. Beginning in FY14, the SNARRC was not required to provide subadult razorback sucker for stocking into the LCR. The space made available by this action is being devoted to the increase in production of bonytail for the LCR MSCP.

FY15 Activities: The bonytail broodstock will be maintained, and the hatchery will produce approximately 100,000 larvae or fingerling bonytail for distribution depending upon various agency requests (including the Willow

Beach NFH, Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility, Lake Mead Fish Hatchery, and Bubbling Ponds Native Fish Conservation Facility). The SNARRC will rear 8,000–10,000 bonytail to 305 mm TL in FY15 for distribution within the LCR.

Proposed FY16 Activities: The bonytail broodstock will be maintained. Up to 100,000 larvae or fingerling bonytail will be produced for distribution to various rearing/research facilities depending upon requests (including Bubbling Ponds Research Facility, Lake Mead Fish Hatchery, Willow Beach NFH, and Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility). Approximately 12,000–13,000 bonytail will be reared to 305 mm TL for distribution within Reaches 2–5.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.