

Work Task B12: Maintenance of Alternate Bonytail Broodstock

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000

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Start Date: FY16

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Fish augmentation

Conservation Measures: BONY3 and BONY4

Location: Mora National Fish Hatchery (Mora NFH), Mora, New Mexico

Purpose: To support maintenance of the alternate bonytail broodstock and potentially provide bonytail for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): N/A

Project Description: Bonytail are federally listed as “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act and are often referred to as critically endangered; they are considered functionally extirpated from their historical range, and their persistence in the Colorado River basin now relies entirely on stocking. The Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC) maintains the only bonytail broodstock in the world and has developed a second broodstock. To guard against a catastrophic event, the second broodstock will be moved to another facility to secure the species’ genetics. Having redundancy to safeguard this species is not only critical for its conservation, but it has benefits for the LCR MSCP. The maintenance of the current broodstock has provided the source of all the bonytail for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program. The LCR MSCP will again benefit greatly by having a redundant location to safeguard this species against future events that may limit the ability to meet program augmentation goals.

This work task will partially support the relocation and maintenance of the second bonytail broodstock developed by the SNARRC. Depending on the selected location, its capacity, and degree of development, this new broodstock may also produce bonytail for the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program. Budget

estimates will reflect the LCR MSCP cost share in the relocation and maintenance of the new broodstock as well as the amount of fish received for repatriation into the lower Colorado River as part of the augmentation program.

A review team was formed in FY15 to select the location of the alternate broodstock based on criteria developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)/SNARRC. A recommendation was made in FY15 to relocate the alternate bonytail broodstock to another USFWS facility. The USFWS has indicated that this new broodstock is not intended to provide additional production fish to any conservation/recovery programs in the near future and would function as a “refuge population” to provide redundancy for securing and conserving the genetics of this species.

Previous Activities: This is a new start in FY16.

FY15 Accomplishments: This is a new start in FY16.

FY16 Activities: The alternate bonytail broodstock is expected to be relocated to Mora NFH, Mora, New Mexico, in FY16. Funds will be supplied to the hatchery to help cover the costs of relocating and maintaining this alternate broodstock. Costs in FY16 are expected to be greater than the approved budget based on the USFWS’s updated proposed costs for these efforts.

Proposed FY17 Activities: Funding will be provided to help support the maintenance of the alternate bonytail broodstock at Mora NFH. The increase in the proposed budget for FY17 is more representative of the true cost of this broodstock maintenance. This cost may vary depending on contributions made through other recovery and conservation programs.

Pertinent Reports: N/A