

Work Task B3: Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$160,000	\$174,637.87	\$1,244,414.09	\$275,000	\$50,000	\$170,000	\$170,000

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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 Reservation, Parker, Arizona

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

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): This project is related to Work Tasks B2 and B4, as fish from both the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery (Willow Beach NFH) and the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC) may be transferred to the Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility. Additionally, fish research for razorback suckers 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 suckers 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 suckers 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 Colorado River Indian Tribe 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 winter. Fish are fed through spring and summer. In fall, the ponds are drained, and fish are harvested, tagged, and stocked. Fish under target size (less than 300 millimeters total length) 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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.

FY15 Accomplishments: At the start of the year, 15,000 bonytail of the 2014 year class, 3,270 razorback suckers of the 2012 year class, and 723 razorback suckers of the 2011 year class were on station. In December 2014, fish were harvested and tagged, 477 razorback suckers were stocked into Reach 2, 3,170 bonytail were stocked into Reach 3, and 1,998 bonytail were stocked into Reach 4. 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.

FY16 Activities: In December 2015, fish were harvested and tagged, 139 razorback suckers were stocked into Reach 3, and 2,372 razorback suckers were stocked into Reach 4 of the LCR. In addition, 825 bonytail were stocked into Reach 3. Following the harvest, at the start of the year, 1,205 bonytail of the 2012 year class, and 24,460 bonytail of the 2014 year class were on station for grow-out.

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. Three ponds will be dried, disked, and graded to aid harvest. Two ponds will be dried so the levee between them can be widened. All levee roads will be graded, and another layer of rock will be added.

The estimated FY16 budget incorporates costs associated with raising and stocking native fishes for FY16 and FY17. Obligating 2 years of funds reduces administrative costs and allows for flexibility at the facility. The FY17 estimated budget has been adjusted accordingly.

Proposed FY17 Activities: Bonytail left on station from FY16 will be reared to target size, and fingerling bonytail will be delivered from either the Willow Beach NFH or SNARRC.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.