

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

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$250,000	\$224,440.99	\$2,142,765.08	\$260,000	\$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: Dexter, New Mexico

Purpose: To support operation and maintenance at the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC), support maintenance of the bonytail broodstock, and annually provide razorback suckers and bonytail for 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 National Fish Hatchery (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 (closed), C11 (closed), 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The facility maintains the only broodstock for bonytail in the world and also retains a backup broodstock of razorback suckers. 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 millimeters (mm) total length (TL) for distribution within Reaches 2–5.

Previous Activities: The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have past and ongoing Interagency Agreements to support rearing and research for razorback suckers and bonytail at the SNARRC.

Beginning in FY14, the SNARRC was not required to provide subadult razorback suckers for stocking into the lower Colorado River (LCR). The space made available by this action is being devoted to increased production of bonytail for the LCR MSCP.

FY15 Accomplishments: 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. The four ponds that were constructed in FY14 have been tested and are now stocked with bonytail for grow-out to target size. The addition of these ponds is expected to bring the SNARRC to its annual production goal of 12,000–13,000 bonytail greater than 305 mm for the lower Colorado River.

Bonytail: The SNARRC maintained a 1,942 adult bonytail broodstock that comprised six year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. Approximately 38,000 bonytail were maintained on station for future stocking into the LCR. These included 8,000 bonytail of the 2012 year class, 10,000 of the 2013 year class, and 20,000 of the 2014 year class. The SNARRC hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs from 20 adult bonytail females, producing 328,610 eggs. Over 59,600 egg, larval, and juvenile bonytail were transferred to other stations for grow-out and research during FY15. The SNARRC harvested, passive integrated transponder tagged, hauled, and stocked a total of 2,551 subadult bonytail (300+ mm TL) into Reach 3 and 2,866 subadult bonytail (305+ mm TL) into Reach 4.

Razorback Suckers: The SNARRC maintained a broodstock of 1,090 adult razorback suckers that comprised nine year classes of Lake Mohave origin fish. The SNARRC hormonally induced and hand-stripped eggs from 16 adult razorback sucker females, producing 398,120 eggs. Approximately 65,000 razorback sucker larvae were transferred to the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery and the Aquatic Research and Conservation Center at Bubbling Ponds for grow-out and future stocking into the LCR.

FY16 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 12,000–13,000 bonytail to 305 mm TL in FY16 for distribution within the LCR.

Proposed FY17 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 the Bubbling Ponds Native Fish 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. Budget estimate increases in FY16 and subsequent years reflect the increase in bonytail production.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.