

## Work Task B5: Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery

FY15 Estimate	FY15 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15	FY16 Approved Estimate	FY17 Proposed Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate
\$960,000	\$686,937.96	\$2,739,536.89	\$315,000	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$330,000

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**Start Date:** FY05

**Expected Duration:** FY55

**Long-Term Goal:** Fish augmentation

**Conservation Measures:** RASU3 and RASU4

**Location:** Cornville, Arizona

**Purpose:** To operate and maintain the fish rearing facility and annually contribute razorback suckers to the LCR MSCP Fish Augmentation Program

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future):** Activities at the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery are related to Work Task B4; the hatchery receives razorback suckers from the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC). A portion of the fish rearing and predator- conditioning research activities outlined in Work Tasks C10 (closed) and C11 (closed) are also conducted at the research center associated with this hatchery.

**Project Description:** The Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery is managed and operated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This is a warm-water rearing facility that is supplied by a continuous, year-round, 10-cubic-foot-per-second spring flow of 68-degree Fahrenheit water. The facility has 10 acres of production ponds, a workshop, a storage shed, a small laboratory, and sufficient fish distribution equipment to meet the delivery requirements of the LCR MSCP. Program funds provide for salaries, fish feed and supplies, facility operation and maintenance, and delivery of fish. Production goals are 12,000 razorback suckers of 305 millimeters minimum total length for release into Reaches 3–5.

**Previous Activities:** Prior to the LCR MSCP, 70,000 razorback suckers were successfully reared at the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery and delivered to the LCR as required by two Biological Opinions (1997 and 2001).

**FY15 Accomplishments:** A total of 60,000 fry were received for rearing from the SNARRC in April. During FY15, a total of 9,613 razorback suckers were harvested, passive integrated transponder/wire tagged, and stocked. A total of 4,322 razorback suckers were stocked into Lake Havasu (Reach 3), and 5,291 were stocked below Parker Dam (Reach 4).

A new 5-year agreement was completed, which will continue razorback sucker production through September 2020. In order to ensure funding was available to maintain year classes of fish on station, the first year of this new agreement was pre-obligated using FY15 funds. The target for the new agreement is to produce 12,000 razorback suckers for the LCR MSCP. The new agreement represents an increase in budget expenditures necessary to cover the costs of rearing supplies, salaries, and maintenance activities at the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery.

Funds were also expended in FY15 for minor repairs and maintenance and to provide support for topographic and hydraulic surveys. These surveys were conducted in preparation for major infrastructure repairs needed to meet LCR MSCP fish production requirements. Budget expenditures were less than projected because these major infrastructure repairs, specifically the water supply line from the spring, were postponed.

**FY16 Activities:** The Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery began 2016 with approximately 72,970 razorback suckers on station. This total includes 4,918 razorback suckers of the 2013 year class, 22,451 of the 2014 year class, and 45,601 of the 2015 year class. All razorback suckers were supplied by the SNARRC. Most are expected to reach target size in 2016 and 2017. A total of 2,594 razorback suckers have been passive integrated transponder tagged and stocked into Reach 3 as of January 2016.

Replacement of the water supply line that provides water from the spring to the hatchery is planned for FY 16–17. This infrastructure is currently in critical disrepair and, without replacement, may threaten the water supply to the hatchery. A cost share for these repairs will be provided under the LCR MSCP. Funds for this cost share are expected to be obligated in FY16. The FY16 approved budget estimate will be exceeded to cover these costs.

**Proposed FY17 Activities:** Razorback sucker larvae will continue to be received from the SNARRC. Razorback suckers from the 2015 and 2016 year classes will continue to be reared. Approximately 12,000 razorback suckers greater than 305 millimeters total length are expected to be produced at the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery for the LCR MSCP in FY17. Annual administrative progress reports for FY17 activities and production numbers will also be provided by the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery.

**Pertinent Reports:** Annual administrative reports are available upon request.