

Work Task B12: Maintenance of Alternate Bonytail Broodstock

FY16 Estimate	FY16 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY16	FY17 Approved Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate	FY20 Proposed Estimate
\$50,000	\$70,499.86	\$30,123.36	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000

Contact: Ty Wolters, (702) 293-8463, twolters@usbr.gov

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 (*Gila elegans*) broodstock.

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

Project Description: Bonytail are federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act; they are considered functionally extirpated from their historical range, and their persistence in the Colorado River Basin now relies entirely on stocking. Prior to 2016, the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center in Dexter, New Mexico (Center), maintained the only bonytail broodstock in the world. To guard against a catastrophic event and to secure the species' genetics, a second broodstock was developed and moved to the Mora NFH in March 2016. 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 benefit 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 Center. The budget estimates will reflect the LCR MSCP cost share in the relocation and maintenance of the new broodstock.

Previous Activities: In 2011, a multi-agency meeting was held to prioritize the creation of new refuge populations for Colorado River fishes to prevent loss of

species due to catastrophic events. Given that the only broodstock population of bonytail was maintained at a single facility, and the lack of a wild population to provide founders for a new population, bonytail were placed at the top of the list. The Center developed the alternate bonytail broodstock during FY12–14.

A review team was formed in FY15 to select the location of the alternate broodstock based on criteria developed by the Center. A recommendation was made in FY15 to relocate the alternate bonytail broodstock to another facility. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that this new broodstock is not intended to provide additional production fishes 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.

FY16 Accomplishments: The alternate bonytail broodstock was relocated to the Mora NFH in March 2016. A total of 1,267 bonytail from the 2012–14 year-classes make up the alternate broodstock. A new 5-year agreement was completed to help cover the costs of relocating and maintaining this alternate broodstock. The budget costs are a reflection of the funding to be provided to the Mora NFH plus administrative costs to oversee the agreement.

FY17 Activities: Funds will be supplied to the Mora NFH to help cover the costs of relocating and maintaining this alternate bonytail broodstock. 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.

Proposed FY18 Activities: Funding will be provided to help support the maintenance of the alternate bonytail broodstock at the Mora NFH. The cost may vary depending on contributions made through other recovery and conservation programs.

Pertinent Reports: N/A