

Work Task B3: Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility

FY16 Estimate	FY16 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY16	FY17 Approved Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate	FY20 Proposed Estimate
\$275,000	\$269,149.88	\$1,397,143.77	\$50,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000

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Start Date: FY04

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Fish augmentation

Conservation Measures: BONY3, BONY4, RASU3, and RASU4

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 (*Xyrauchen texanus*) and bonytail (*Gila elegans*) 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 and Recovery Center in Dexter, New Mexico (Center), 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. This station is used for the production of razorback suckers and bonytail for release into Reaches 3–5 of the LCR to meet a portion of the augmentation goals of the LCR MSCP and as a grow-out station for razorback suckers (Lake Mohave origin larvae transferred from the Willow Beach NFH) and bonytail (supplied from the Center). The numbers of razorback suckers and bonytail reared at this station are adjusted in response to stocking needs and space limitations at other facilities. Funds are used for staff salaries, station operation and maintenance, fish feed and chemicals, and fish distribution.

This station 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 Center in winter. In most cases, these fish are first held at the Willow Beach NFH before being transferred to the Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility. 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.

Previous Activities: In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, upgrades to this station have occurred since FY04. The work completed includes the construction of a metal tank house and fiberglass fish tanks, an office, a feed storage room, and restrooms; electrical upgrades; aeration system upgrades for fish tanks in the tank house; and the purchase of a backup generator.

FY16 Accomplishments: At the start of the year, 2,309 bonytail of the 2012 year-class, 20,529 bonytail of the 2014 year-class, 677 razorback suckers of the 2011 year-class and 3,195 razorback suckers of the 2012 year-class were on station. In December 2015, fishes were harvested and tagged, 139 razorback suckers were stocked into Reach 3, 2,372 razorback suckers were stocked into Reach 4, and 825 bonytail were stocked into Reach 3.

In FY16, ponds 1, 2, and 5 were drained and dried out in order to make improvements. The levy between ponds 1 and 2 was widened, and all ponds were reshaped, disked, and packed. The water intake area was rebuilt to prevent erosion from the incoming water. A new canal intake screen was installed. The old chain-link fence surrounding the station was removed and replaced, and two new gates were installed at the south entrance. A new toolshed was purchased to replace the old wornout unit. New electrical conduit and wire was installed in the Quonset building.

FY17 Activities: In December 2016, 1,685 bonytail from Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility were stocked into Reach 3 of the LCR at Laughlin Lagoon. In addition, 885 razorback suckers were stocked into the LCR: 617 in Reach 2 at Cottonwood Cove and 268 in Reach 3 at Topock Marsh.

A change in rearing will commence in FY17. Losses of razorback suckers at the Willow Beach NFH due to the outbreak of the parasite Ich (*Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*) prompted the need for additional numbers of razorback suckers for the LCR MSCP augmentation program in future years. As part of this response, a portion of the rearing space previously designated for bonytail will be used to rear

additional razorback suckers. Approximately 9,000 razorback sucker larvae collected in Lake Mohave will be transferred to the Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility in FY17.

Bonytail will be brought on station from the Center either as larvae or fingerlings to support bonytail production goals. Delivery of approximately 10,000 bonytail from the Center is expected in late winter.

Four ponds will be dried, disked, and graded to aid future harvests. All levee roads will be graded, and another layer of rock will be added. Bird deterrents will be installed on all ponds.

Funds to accomplish FY17 activities were obligated with FY16 funds. Obligating 2 years of funds reduces administrative costs and allows for flexibility at the station. The FY17 estimated budget has been reduced accordingly.

Proposed FY18 Activities: Bonytail left on station from FY17 will be reared to target size, and fingerling bonytail will be delivered from either the Willow Beach NFH or the Center. The plan is to increase production of razorback suckers at the Achii Hanyo Native Fish Rearing Facility to supplement those being repatriated into Lake Mohave due to the loss of available fishes from the outbreak of Ich at the Willow Beach NFH.

Pertinent Reports: Annual administrative reports are available upon request.