

TO: Karen Zackheim  
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SUBJECT: F-113-R5 Annual Report

## **Fish Health Management in Montana**

### **Project Overview**

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Fish Health Management Project is part of the Montana FWP Fish Hatchery Bureau. The project is responsible for fish health management at all nine Montana State fish hatcheries, nine commercial fish hatcheries, and provides fish health support to fish management projects statewide in all seven FWP regions. The Fish Health Management Project conducts annual certification inspections at all State and private hatcheries and domestic and wild brood stocks, and conducts trouble shooting diagnostics for all hatcheries and wild fish health investigations and fish kills. The project is located at the Montana FWP Fish Health Lab in Great Falls, where preparation for field work is conducted, as well as most trouble shooting diagnostics. All certification lab work is conducted for FWP at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bozeman Fish Health Center under a contract between USFWS and FWP. In addition, much of Montana's whirling disease research-related diagnostics is conducted for FWP through a contract with the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Washington State University.

In addition to coordinating all of Montana FWP's fish health management, the project oversees the aquatic nuisance species (ANS) program and the whirling disease research project for FWP. The project is responsible for issuing import permits, wild fish transfer permits and transport permits in order to ensure fish health considerations are incorporated into fish transfers into and within Montana. In addition to routine transport permits issued to schools, special exhibits and various other projects, the project is responsible for distribution of mosquitofish and tracks all mosquitofish movement within the State.

The project maintains a database of all import permits, wild fish transfer permits and transport permits issued, as well as a database of all fish health inspection work conducted in Montana. These databases are maintained at the FWP Fish Health Laboratory in Great Falls, MT.

### **Fish Health Inspections Conducted During FY 2005:**

A total of 102 fish health inspections were conducted during FY 2005. This includes all hatchery inspections, fisheries management-related inspections, fish kills investigations and specific research projects, including Westslope cutthroat restoration and recovery projects. A list of these inspections is attached to this report.

Inspection Category	Number of Inspections
State Fish Hatcheries	30
Commercial Fish Hatcheries	15
Federal Fish Hatcheries	2
Private Ponds	4
Lakes	16
Streams	35
<b>Total Number of FY2005 Inspections</b>	<b>102</b>

### **Import Permits Issued During FY 2005:**

One of the most important disease control activities conducted by the FWP Fish Health Management Project is the oversight of fish imports into Montana. An import permit is required for the importation of any fish, of any species, into Montana, except fish intended for use in home or office aquariums. FWP reviews all import requests, whether by State, federal or private entities. Permits are issued for all fish entering Montana (except aquarium fish,) whether the import is intended to be stocked in State waters, private ponds, private or government fish hatcheries, or just traveling through Montana in interstate commerce.

During FY2005 a total of 72 import permits were issued. This includes permits issued for all fish and fish eggs legally imported into Montana.

### **Wild Fish Transfers:**

Fish Managers who have a need to move fish from one location in Montana to another must seek approval for a wild fish transfer from the FWP Fish Health Committee. The committee reviews all transfer requests and approves transfers based upon fish health concerns, species issues and other considerations. If an environmental assessment is required, the committee ensures it is conducted prior to movement of any fish.

During FY2005, 11 wild fish transfers were approved for six different fish species.

## **Aquatic Nuisance Species Management:**

Montana's ANS project got off to a good start during FY2005. This is a new project funded by a mix of State and federal funds, developed to protect Montana's fishery resources from impacts of ANS species. The project, which was developed to implement Montana's Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan, works under the direction of the FWP Fish Health Management Project.

## **FY2005 Fish Health Inspection Summary:**

# **Annual Fish Health Inspection Summary**

**Fish Health Inspections conducted at the Montana Fish,  
Wildlife Parks Fish Health Lab between 7/1/04 and 6/30/05**

<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Stream</b>	040063	8/10/2004	Goldie Creek
	040064	8/10/2004	Addition Creek
	040065	8/10/2004	South Creek
	040066	8/10/2004	Upper Twin Creek
	040067	8/10/2004	Bruce Creek
	040069	8/24/2004	Dyce Creek
	040076	9/7/2004	Unnamed Tributary to Soda Butte Creek
	040077	9/14/2004	Dutchman Creek
	040079	8/1/2004	Flat Willow Creek
	040084	9/28/2004	West Gallatin River
	040090	9/17/2004	Sheep Creek
	040093	10/26/2004	Basin Creek
	040096	11/8/2004	Cottonwood Creek
	040098	11/12/2004	Sheep Creek
	040099	11/12/2004	Big Spring Creek
	040102	9/29/2004	Tenmile Creek
	040105	12/7/2004	Clark Fork River
	050013	3/1/2005	Yellowstone River
	050017	4/19/2005	Willow Creek
	050018	3/23/2005	O'brien Creek
	050020	3/22/2005	Bull River
	050021	4/1/2005	Stone Creek

050022	4/13/2005	Duck Creek
050026	4/27/2005	Muskrat Creek
050033	4/26/2005	Cottonwood Creek
050034	5/10/2005	Brown's Creek
050035	5/3/2005	Painter Creek
050036	4/1/2005	Big Spring Creek
050038	5/4/2005	Rabe Creek
050041	5/3/2005	Threemile Creek
050042	5/11/2005	Addition Creek
050043	5/11/2005	South Creek
050044	5/11/2005	Upper Twin Creek
050045	5/11/2005	Goldie Creek
050048	5/27/2005	Red Rock Creek

Summary for Location Type (35 inspections)

## Lake

040057	7/19/2004	Goose Lake
040058	7/16/2004	Noxon Reservoir
040062	8/12/2004	Tiber Reservoir
040072	8/24/2004	Hubbart Reservoir

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040087	10/18/2004	Lake Mary Ronan
040088	11/2/2004	Little Bitterroot Lake
040089	10/13/2004	Cooney Reservoir
040091	10/19/2004	Fort Peck Reservoir
050009	1/27/2005	Tongue River Reservoir
050024	4/12/2005	Holter Reservoir
050029	4/26/2005	Axolotl Lake
050031	4/13/2005	Ashley Lake
050032	4/26/2005	Lake Mary Ronan
050039	5/4/2005	Rogers Lake
050046	6/5/2005	Red Meadow Lake
050050	6/4/2005	Hound Creek Reservoir

Summary for Location Type (16 inspections)

## State Fish Hatchery

040070	8/19/2004	Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery
040073	8/17/2004	Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery

040074	8/19/2004	Big Springs State Fish Hatchery
040078	8/6/2004	Miles City State Fish Hatchery
040080	9/16/2004	Murray Springs Trout Hatchery
040081	9/15/2004	Jocko River Trout Hatchery
040083	9/20/2004	Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery
040085	9/28/2004	Washoe Park Trout Hatchery
040092	10/25/2004	Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery

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040097	11/8/2004	Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery
040101	12/3/2004	Miles City State Fish Hatchery
040104	12/9/2004	Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery
050001	1/5/2005	Murray Springs Trout Hatchery
050002	1/5/2005	Big Springs State Fish Hatchery
050007	1/19/2005	Miles City State Fish Hatchery
050008	2/14/2005	Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery
050010	2/15/2005	Washoe Park Trout Hatchery
050012	2/22/2005	Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery
050014	3/9/2005	Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery
050016	3/10/2005	Miles City State Fish Hatchery
050023	4/6/2005	Murray Springs Trout Hatchery
050025	2/15/2005	Washoe Park Trout Hatchery
050027	4/9/2005	Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery
050030	4/21/2005	Giant Springs State Fish Hatchery
050040	5/23/2005	Libby Field Station
050049	6/14/2005	Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery
050051	6/27/2005	Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery
050052	6/20/2005	Murray Springs Trout Hatchery
050053	6/20/2005	Murray Springs Trout Hatchery
050055	5/3/2005	Washoe Park Trout Hatchery

Summary for Location Type (30 inspections)

## Federal Fish Hatchery

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050011	1/28/2005	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery
050015	3/1/2005	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery

Summary for Location Type (2 inspections)

## Commercial Fish Hatchery

040060	7/14/2004	Crystal Lakes Hatchery
040061	7/15/2004	Spring Creek Trout Hatchery
040068	8/3/2004	Moccasin Creek Trout Company
040071	8/25/2004	Crystal Lakes Hatchery
040075	8/26/2004	Crystal Lakes Hatchery
040082	9/21/2004	Roy Wodarz
040094	11/1/2004	Aspen Springs Trout Farm
040095	10/1/2004	Spring Creek Trout Hatchery
040100	12/7/2004	Bitterroot Trout Hatchery
050003	1/10/2005	Rainbow Springs Trout Hatchery
050004	1/18/2005	Yellowstone River SFH
050005	1/19/2005	Nelson's Spring Creek Hatchery
050006	1/24/2005	Harriman Trout Company
050037	5/4/2005	Crystal Lakes Hatchery
050047	5/24/2005	Westslope Trout Company

Summary for Location Type (15 inspections)

## Private Pond

040086	8/3/2004	Bankhead Pond
050019	3/21/2005	Boulder Hotsprings

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050028	4/12/2005	Green Hollow Pond #2
050054	6/21/2005	Holmes Rearing Pond

Summary for Location Type (4 inspections)

**Total number of inspections conducted in FY05 = 102**