

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
FISHERIES DIVISION
JOB PROGRESS REPORT

STATE: MONTANA

PROJECT NUMBER: F-46-R-3

JOB NUMBER: VI F

PROJECT TITLE: STATEWIDE FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS
STATE TITLE: STATEWIDE SURVEY AND INVENTORY
JOB TITLE: FISHING ACCESS SITE PROGRAM COORDINATION
PERIOD COVERED: JULY 1, 1989 TO JUNE 30, 1990

ABSTRACT

Three Fishing Access Site acquisitions were effected. Parks maintenance of 300 FAS sites was monitored and 32 development projects were selected. Of these, 20 sites were included within a AFA for a total of \$420.155. Four Dingell-Johnson motorboat projects were selected and funded for \$218,360.

OBJECTIVES AND DEGREE OF ATTAINMENT

1. Coordinate fishing access site acquisition, development and maintenance statewide. This task was completed and data is included.
2. Coordinate fisheries division activities funded by Dingell-Johnson motorboat access funds. This task was completed and data is included.
3. Assist Fisheries Management Bureau Chief with management plans, fishing contest applications and other tasks as assigned. Since the FAS Coordinator position was recently filled, this function was deferred until the FAS tasks were more completely assumed. This task will be included in the future.

PROCEDURES

Today's Fishing Access Site(FAS) system started with a reorganized Department in 1964 that was charged with acquiring, developing and maintaining these sites. In 1977, anglers successfully pursued legislation for an expanded FAS program. This new approach provided an earmarked portion of the fishing license fees for the purchase of new access sites.

The FAS program now manages a total of 300 designated sites dispersed around the state. These sites offer varied angling opportunities.

The relatively rapid expansion of the FAS system has presented some new problems. An internal review of development needs accomplished in 1987, showed that nearly 40% of our FAS sites needed substantial development or major maintenance work. At that time, the cost of bringing these sites up to an acceptable standard was estimated to be approximately \$4 million. Since that time, an increased awareness of handicapped accessibility has added to our system's development liability.

In 1988, the administration of the Fishing Access Site system was transferred from the Parks Division to the Fisheries Division. A coordinator position was created to direct the program. The main goal of this position is to thoroughly and efficiently manage the Department FAS sites commensurate with their level of use. The main "tool" to be used in accomplishing this task is the employment of Federal D.J. funds which will "stretch" the existing state dollars.

In addition to the Fishing Access Site responsibilities, the expansion of the Federal Sport Fish Restoration program includes a 10% earmarking of federal dollars which can only be used to develop motorboat access consistent with fisheries objectives.

The FY 90-91 biennial appropriation is about \$1.2 million. Administration of this program is divided between the Fisheries and the Parks Divisions according to development needs on appropriate waters.

FINDINGS

During this report period, "Site Protection" and "Major Maintenance" designations were delineated. Site Protection is generally defined as those projects costing more than \$10,000 yet less than \$25,000. Major Maintenance jobs are those costing approximately \$10,000 or less. These designations are intended to assist in making our present funding level extend further through this system.

All requested site projects originated at the regional level with input coming from the Fisheries and Parks Managers as well as the Regional Supervisor. These proposed projects were prioritized with consideration given to use levels, site involvement with the fisheries and recreation management plan, cost, liability, impact on the fishery, need and applicability to federal requirements.

The FY 90-91 total capital budget was set at \$732,000. The projects agreed upon to this point include 18 in the Site Protection category totaling an estimated \$434,000 and 14 in the Major Maintenance category equaling \$126,940. The remaining \$171,060 will be allocated in the next fiscal year.

A "Application For Federal Assistance" was completed for a portion of these sites(20 sites totaling \$420,155) The following table summarizes these projects by Region, Name and cost. The projects typically consist of road and parking area work, fencing, traffic barriers, signs, asphalt handicapped trails, boat ramps and latrines.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Cost</u>
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1	Kokanee Bend	\$25,000
1	Teakettle	\$25,000
2	Beavertail Pond	\$25,000
2	Harper's Lake	\$25,000
3	Mayor's Landing	\$15,000
3	Henneberry	\$25,000
3	Varney Bridge	\$ 9,200
4	Missouri Dunes	\$20,000
4	Ulm Bridge	\$25,000
5	Boulder Forks	\$15,000
5	Mallards Landing	\$14,000
5	Manual Lisa	\$23,980
5	Otter Creek	\$25,000
6	Bear Paw Lake	\$ 3,300
6	Fort Peck Dredge Cuts	\$12,000
7	Diamond Willow	\$75,000
7	Intake Dam	\$ 7,000
7	Seven Sisters	\$15,000
8	York Bridge	\$25,000

TOTAL	\$420,155
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Fishing Access Site maintenance is managed by the Parks Division. The annual statewide cost of our present level of maintenance is \$591,104. The statewide average cost per site is now \$1970.

Acquisitions are pursued in a very set procedure. A Lands Committee makes the determination as to which proposed properties are sought. The actual negotiations are handled by the Department Land Agents. The FAS Coordinator is one member of the Lands Committee.

During the period that the FAS Coordinator position has been filled(January 1, 1990 and on), three acquisitions have been completed. These sites are Culbertson Bridge, Kootenai Falls and an extension of the already existing Grey Owl site. Other actions

include the numerous lease continuations and lease payments handled by the Lands Section.

The Dingell-Johnson motorboat funds total \$1,202,026. These funds have been administratively divided between the Parks and the Fisheries Divisions. The Parks Division has a total biennial budget of \$983,333. The Fisheries Division has a total biennial budget of \$218,693. The following table lists the sites funded by fisheries.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1	Woods Bay	\$25,000
3	Harrison Lake	\$106,693
5	Gritty Stone	\$61,667
7	Fallon Bridge	\$25,000
	TOTAL	\$218,360

AFA's have been completed for these projects and the design phase has been initiated. Construction will be completed in the next fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this project be continued. It is also suggested that alternative funding sources be explored to develop these sites at a faster pace.

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