

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

State: Montana Project Number: F46R4
Job Number: I-e

Project Title: Statewide Fisheries Investigations
Study Title: Survey and Inventory of Cold Water streams
Title: Southwest Montana Cold Water Stream Investigations
Period Covered: July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991

JOB OBJECTIVES

1. Insure within hydrologic constraints that flows do not fall below levels identified in the Yellowstone Reservation and the Upper-Missouri Reservation Application.

Flows for the Yellowstone and Upper-Missouri Rivers were monitored via U.S.G.S. river gauges to determine if they were within levels designated by the reservations and reservation application.

2. Maintain existing populations of native Yellowstone and west slope cutthroat at present or increasing levels.

Conducted electrofishing surveys on some of the smaller tributary streams of the Yellowstone River to identify which have populations of native Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat, plus determining baseline numbers.

Data will be presented in a future report.

3. Maintain fish populations and habitat in streams affected by resource development activity at levels no worse than present condition.

U.S. Forest Service plans were monitored to determine if plans and goals maintained existing quality of fisheries and riparian vegetation.

4. Encourage USFS to redistribute grazing allotments to encourage recovery and stabilization of streambanks and riparian areas.

Worked with the Beaverhead National Forest to implement changes in pasture and grazing systems. (State Project)

5. Document response of Bison Creek trout population to removal of granitic sands.

No work was done on this object at this time (State Project)

6. Collect baseline fisheries data on Deep Creek to assist in determining impacts of highway construction.

No activity on this objective. (State Project)

7. Maintain the region's streambanks and channels in their present or improved condition.

Numerous SB 310 and SPA (Streambed Preservation Act) projects were

inspected with recommendations being made to minimize damage to or maintain the existing the fisheries resource.

8. Maintain water quality levels as near to baseline as possible.

Fish kills were documented, when located with any water quality violations being reported to the Montana Water Quality Bureau.

9. Maintain wild trout fishery in the East Gallatin River that supports 20,000 angler days of use annually.

A section of the East Gallatin River located both above and below the City of Bozeman sewage effluent was electro-fished to obtain wild trout population estimates in the fall to determine the effect of the existing sewage treatment on the wild trout population. Data will be presented in a future report.

10. Maintain densities of at least 1000 age II and older brown trout per mile in the Ruby River downstream from Ruby Dam supporting 7500 angler days of use annually.

One section of the Ruby River were electrofished to obtain wild brown trout population estimates of numbers, age structure and total biomass.

11. Maintain densities of a least 2500 age I and older brown trout per mile in Poindexter Spring Creek.

Two sections of Poindexter Spring Creek were electrofished to obtain wild trout population estimate to determine the status of the population.

12. Improve habitat conditions in spring creeks of the region.

Worked with local county-city planning agencies to protect the quality of the spring creek fisheries habitat, to insure no further degradation of the fisheries habitat and possibly improve existing conditions. Work was done on Willow and Big Spring Creek with data to be concluded in a future report.

13. Maximize potential of unique small streams capable of producing large trout by utilizing special regulations on selected reaches subject to intense fishing pressure.

Wild trout population estimates were made on Taylor Fork of the Gallatin River to determine if future special regulations will be necessary in the future. Data to be included in a future report.

14. Gather population data on reaches of the upper Ruby and Red Rock Rivers.

Wild trout population estimates were made via electrofishing on one section of the upper Ruby River and on two sections of the RedRock River.

VARIANCE

5. No work was done on this objective in 1991.
6. No work was done on this objective in 1991.

Spoon.

Date: August 23, 1991.

