

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
FISHERIES DIVISION

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

State: MONTANA Project Title: STATEWIDE FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS
Project No: F-46-R-5 Study Title: SURVEY AND INVENTORY OF COLDWATER STREAMS
Job. No: I-r Job Title: BIGHORN RIVER RANGER
Project Period: July 1, 1991- June 30, 1992

OBJECTIVES AND DEGREE OF ATTAINMENT

- 1) To collect creel and angler attitude and opinion information during the peak-use season from April through November.

The river ranger collected creel and angler attitude and opinion information on the upper 12 miles of the Bighorn River during the entire summer field season. Abnormally high flows during the summer reduced the number of anglers on the river and limited the number of angler contacts possible during a day's float. As a result, considerable effort was devoted to contacting anglers at access sites.

- 2) To encourage proper angler etiquette under crowded conditions.

The river ranger provided a visible presence for the Department on the Bighorn River during the busy summer and fall season. He was available to answer questions, listen to complaints and encourage proper angler etiquette.

- 3) To assist MDFWP biologists as necessary with annual sampling to determine fish population status.

The river ranger assisted with annual population estimates conducted on two sections of the Bighorn River during September and October. He also assisted with survey sampling on the lower river.