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REGION 2

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
FISHERIES DIVISION

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

STATE: MONTANA PROJECT TITLE: STATEWIDE FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS
PROJECT NO.: F-46-R-6 STUDY TITLE: SURVEY AND INVENTORY OF COLDWATER
STREAMS
STUDY: I
JOB NUMBER: C (3212)
JOB TITLE: UPPER CLARK FORK TROUT RESTORATION
PROJECT PERIOD: JULY 1, 1992 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1993

1. Maintain instream flows at present conditions. The 1991 Montana legislative session imposed a moratorium on the issuance of most types of new water use permits. A basin wide planning process was developed and participation in this effort is ongoing.
2. Determine why trout numbers are low and why the juvenile segment is absent from the trout population. Limited efforts to determine tributary stream production of juvenile salmoids were carried out. Much of this information is a part of the data generated under the Natural Resource Damage suit filed by Montana and therefore unavailable.
3. Use data collected in fish population studies and studies conducted by other agencies to direct cleanup efforts for maximum benefits to the river fishery.

This objective has been the focus of considerable effort. Plans for channel reconstruction, demonstration tailings cleanup projects, and planning for remediation of the river segment of the Superfund Site have been extensive. Attempts to inject adequate protection and consideration for fisheries values in these processes have been met with variable success. New construction within the Warm Springs Ponds treatment system have had substantial impacts on fish distribution and movement. These have necessitated the development of new regulation strategies and a continuing attempt to include them in the next set of fishing regulations.

4. Work with other agencies to see that data are collected which will supplement fisheries data. Due to the intensive activity surrounding the natural resource damage suit, this objective has received substantial attention. A wide range of communications and consultations with other agencies involved in Superfund activities have fulfilled this objective in this project period.
5. Encourage citizen participation in river cleanup. In this reporting period a major effort has been made to broaden public involvement in the Superfund process. A primary focus has been communication with local sportsmen's groups in Butte, Anaconda and Deer Lodge. In addition, contacts have been actively pursued with more broadly oriented statewide organizations. Frequent dialogues have been held with a broad spectrum of private individuals as well.