

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  
Job. No: I-r Job Title: BIGHORN RIVER RANGER  
Project Period: July 1, 1992- June 30, 1993

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 conducted 3,683 on-site angler surveys on the Bighorn River between May 1, 1992 and April 30, 1993, and handed out a postage-paid mail-back survey to each angler. Follow-up postcards and replacement surveys were sent as needed. Monthly response rates for the mail-back survey ranged from 48% to 73% with an overall response rate of 66%. These data have all been entered into a computer database, but no analysis has been completed to date.

- 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 June and October. He also assisted with survey sampling on the lower river and netting in Bighorn Lake and the Afterbay Reservoir.