



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Fisheries Program Six-Year Operations Plan (2000-2006)

Prepared By:

Larry Peterman, Fisheries Division Administrator
Chris Hunter, Fisheries Operations Chief
Tim Gallagher, Fisheries Assistant Administrator
Glenn Phillips, Habitat Bureau Chief
Gary Bertellotti, Hatchery Bureau Chief
Karen Zackheim, Fish Management Bureau Chief
Ken McDonald, Special Projects Bureau Chief
Jim Vashro, R-1 Fish Manager
Chris Clancy, R-2 Acting Fish Manager
Bruce Rich, R-3 Fish Manager
Steve Leathe, R-4 Fish Manager
Jim Darling, R-5 Fish Manager
Bill Wiedenheft, R-6 Fish Manager
Brad Schmitz, R-7 Fish Manager

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Introduction

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park's (FWP) Fisheries Program Six-Year Operations Plan retains the essential goals from previous planning processes— maintaining, protecting, and enhancing fish populations and aquatic habitats. The specific purpose of this Six-Year Plan is to outline, in some detail, specific strategies for achieving these goals as well as a broad spectrum of activities supporting them. In addition to setting forth these goals and strategies, this plan also describes a wide range of programs along with tools for measuring success. More importantly, this Operations Plan has the purpose of assembling a broad constituency of people working together—biologists, wardens, parks personnel, landowners, department managers, anglers, legislators, outfitters, economists, and many others—to achieve the ongoing goals of managing the state's aquatic ecosystems and recreational activities.

This plan identifies issues and challenges facing management and stewardship of Montana's fisheries resources. This is an adaptive plan that will be reviewed and revised as needed during the six-year planning period, based on public feedback and on changing resource issues and priorities.

The Operations Plan will be used to develop annual work plans, Federal Aid in Sports Fish Restoration Grants, and biennial budgets. Thus, this plan will provide Fisheries Program direction for planning, budgeting and evaluation. It will also promote communication outside of the Fisheries Program and, most importantly, will lead to improved management of Montana's valuable fisheries resources.

Guiding Principles

The mission of the Fisheries Program is to preserve and enhance aquatic species and their ecosystems to meet the public's expectations for stewardship of aquatic wildlife and sustainable recreational opportunities.

The Fisheries Program seeks to accomplish this mission by:

1. implementing policies and programs that emphasize the responsible management of wild fish populations, native fish and sport fisheries;
2. protection and restoration of fish habitat;
3. operating an efficient hatchery program to stock lakes and reservoirs where natural reproduction is limited or lacking and, when needed, using the hatchery program to fulfill management objectives for conservation programs;
4. monitoring and regulating angler harvests to maintain fish populations; and
5. providing educational programs and maintaining adequate public access to fisheries.

The Fisheries Program has historically identified a number of primary goals that remain vital for the future of Montana's fisheries resources:

- to manage the state's fishery resources for their recreational, scientific, and aesthetic values, as well as for their inherent value;
- to involve the public actively in developing policies, regulations, programs, and planning for the fisheries' future;
- to protect and restore stream and lake habitats within existing laws, rules, and regulations, using educational programs and state-of-the-art technology;
- to protect and restore species of concern, as well as threatened and endangered species, regardless of their sporting potential;
- to represent the interest of fisheries in the allocation and development of water resources;
- to determine the public's needs for access to fisheries and work to provide appropriate access;
- to expand and improve the availability of fishing opportunities in lakes and streams; and
- to enforce fishing regulations that effectively control angler harvest and protect the state's fishery resources.

The department's Six-Year Operations Plan is based on goals that meet the needs of the resource and the public's expectations. The ultimate measure of this approach to planning is the public's satisfaction with the department's management activities and meeting our legal responsibility to maintain healthy populations of Montana's fish resources. Also, this approach to planning recognizes that the department needs to know what results its programs actually accomplish, what impacts these results have made on people's lives, and whether programs have successfully addressed relevant goals, issues and problems with Montana's fisheries.

Administrative Structure

FWP is organized into central Helena staff and seven geographic regions to provide for more direct and efficient management of the state's wildlife, fisheries, recreational and cultural resources. The function of the Helena staff is to coordinate statewide programs, budgeting, planning, and the development of policy. Implementation of most policy and management activities occurs at the regional level.

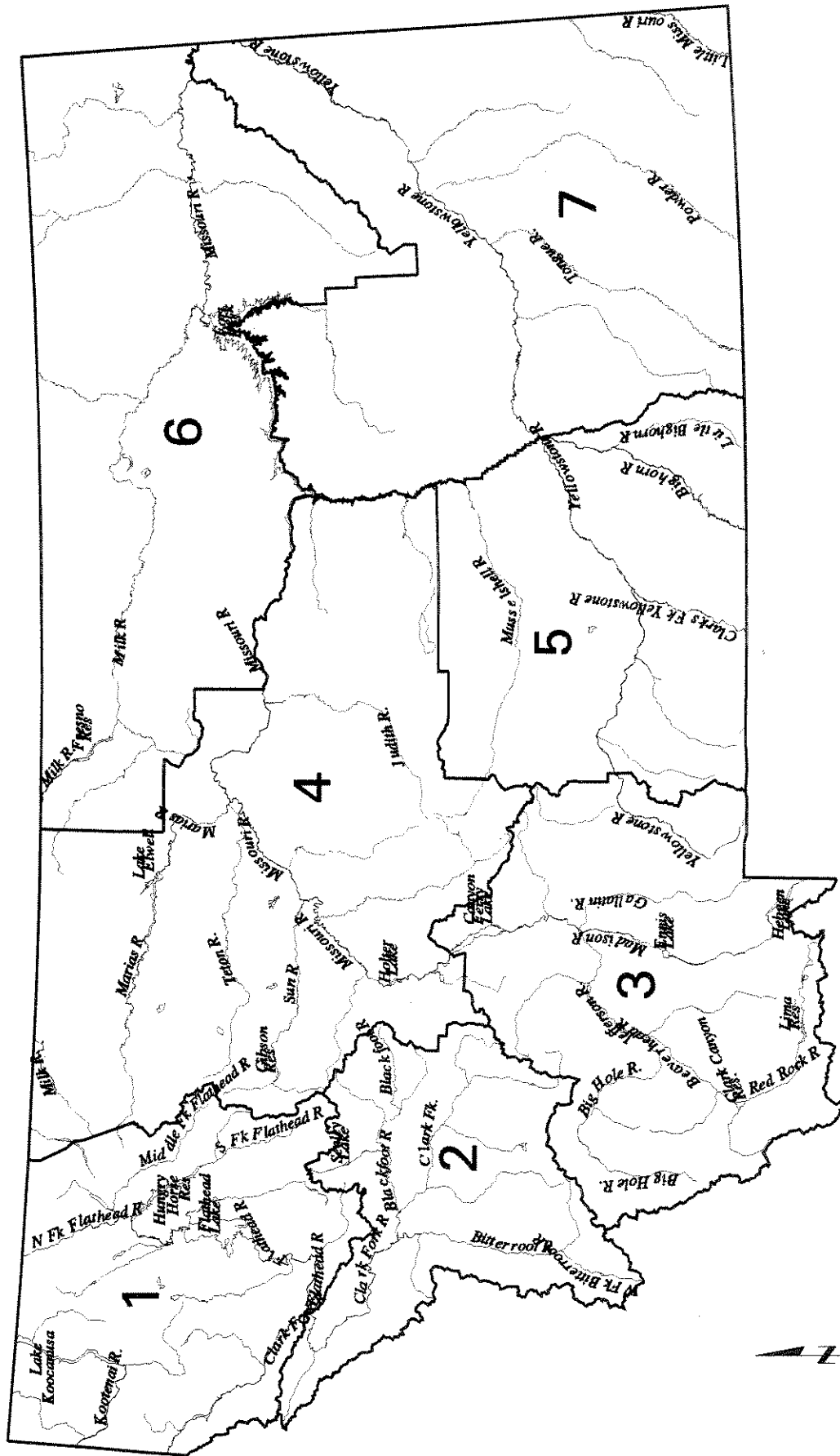
The Fisheries Program coordinates fisheries-related work in the Fisheries Division, Parks Division, Conservation Education Division and Enforcement Division. The Fisheries Division administrator coordinates the activities of the Helena-based staff that oversees habitat, hatcheries, management, and special projects. Seven FWP regions are staffed with a regional supervisor, a fisheries manager, and a varying number of biologists, technicians, field wardens and parks staff to implement and monitor the established goals and objectives of the Fisheries Program within other agency responsibilities. Nine hatcheries throughout the state are staffed to meet program objectives. The Parks Division oversees the state fishing access site program. Conservation Education implements the state aquatic education program, and the Enforcement Division is responsible for statewide enforcement activities.

FISHERIES STEWARDSHIP

Fisheries management encompasses recreational opportunities, habitat and ecosystem protection/restoration, and fish conservation. The Operations Plan is organized into four program elements that address Montana's fisheries: management, habitat, fishing access, and aquatic education. Each element encompasses specific needs for enhancing the fisheries resources. Together, these four elements form an integrated, comprehensive program for preserving and enhancing Montana's fisheries.

The Six-Year Operations Plan details the core work activities that are required to achieve the mission of the Fisheries Program. Each program element is followed with a series of pages identifying resource allocations and region-specific activities dedicated to the Fisheries Program. The forms also identify new projects or activities that would benefit the state's fisheries but cannot be accomplished with existing resources (staff and/or funding). All of the basic, core work activities identified in this six-year plan may not be accomplished every year because of limited resources (staff and/or funding). Separate from this planning document, fisheries program staff prepare annual work plans that prioritize and identify the scope of work/accomplishments anticipated for the coming year.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Regions



— Fisheries Region Boundary



Fisheries Program Element One:

FISH MANAGEMENT

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Fisheries Program Element One: FISH MANAGEMENT

The purpose of managing the state's fisheries is to protect, enhance or restore populations of native and/or non-native fish species for the benefit and enjoyment of the public now and in the future. Generally, activities include monitoring the life cycles and populations of fishes in varied habitats, regulating harvest of various fish species, and developing strategies to maintain healthy and genetically diverse fish populations to satisfy the public's desire for fishing opportunities while conserving aquatic resources.

Native and non-native species are important components of a healthy fishery in Montana. Native fish, including sport species such as westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout, bull trout, Arctic grayling, white sturgeon and pallid sturgeon, and non-game species such as sicklefin chub and sculpins may receive additional priority because of their reduced abundance, unknown status, or federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. In many waters, non-native fishes such as brook trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and walleye have become established and will be managed accordingly. Different waters have different values, and management will depend on location, ownership, species historically present, and the number and condition of fish populations in surrounding waters. It is the department's goal to restore populations of native fish species with sport value (e.g., bull trout, cutthroat trout) to levels where angling opportunities can be allowed and to have healthy, viable populations of native, non-game species.

Issues for fish management include: harvest management; maintaining habitat; native species recovery/restoration/protection; health of fish populations; hatchery capacity; fish diseases (especially whirling disease); private fish ponds; introductions of fish and other aquatic species; the public's perceptions about the quality of fishing opportunities (i.e. the impression that fish populations are declining and that fishing sites are becoming crowded); conflict among resource users; defining the role of the hatchery system for management purposes; and balancing social, political and economic concerns.

As a result of the department's efforts, the public enjoys a diversity of fishing opportunities that are directly dependent on wild-fish management in streams and the use of hatchery fish in lakes and reservoirs. Because the workload and demands for managing the state's fisheries exceeds its resources of staff and funding, priorities have to be established. Too often, important activities such as data collection (upon which research and management decisions are based) must be curtailed and public expectations of services not met.

Fisheries Program Fish Management Goals:

- Provide a diversity of quality angling opportunities through management of self-sustaining wild fisheries and the responsible use of hatchery-raised fish.
- Protect, maintain and restore native species and genetic diversity in historic ranges and ensure angling opportunities whenever possible.

Desired Outcomes:

- Aquatic ecosystems that support self-sustaining populations of native species.
- Abundant, fishable populations of sport fish species – native and non-native.
- A diversity of high quality angling opportunities used and enjoyed by the public.
- An informed public that understands and participates in fisheries management programs and activities.

Performance Measures:

- Angler use (numbers and fish harvested) and availability of fishing opportunities statewide and rates of satisfaction as measured through mail and creel surveys.
- Size, status, and trends of fish populations monitored through population surveys and inventories.
- The number of stream miles and acres of lakes and reservoirs restored to the management of native species of fish.
- Status of species of special concern, and threatened/endangered species.
- Public participation in development of management plans and fishing regulations.
- Numbers of anglers contacted by enforcement staff, and compliance with regulations as indicated by the various types of fishing violation citations issued or through angler surveys.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

The following goals, objectives and strategies identify the basic, core work that is conducted by FWP in the Fisheries Program. Additional Region-specific initiatives for Fish Management are included in the pages at the end of this section.

- **GOAL: Provide a diversity of quality angling opportunities through management of self-sustaining wild fisheries and the responsible use of hatchery-raised fish.**

Develop and implement management plans for select waters in the state in cooperation with other divisions, state and federal agencies, and the public.

- Develop alternative strategies for fish management and consider developing regional fishery management plans.
- Incorporate a recreation management element in new planning documents.
- Prepare planning, contracting and budget documents.
- Provide staff training opportunities to develop management planning skills.
- Evaluate impacts of new species introductions.
- Prepare and review Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the introduction of new species.
- Develop/implement fish management plans for waters in urban areas that are easily accessible to youth and adult anglers.
- Develop urban fishery sites based on region and statewide urban fishery management plans for stocking, regulations and site development.

Utilize and update existing management planning documents:

Statewide

Montana Warm Water Fisheries Management Plan, 1997-2006
Bull Trout Restoration Plan (2000)
MOU/Conservation Agreement for Westslope Cutthroat Trout (1999)
Conservation Agreement for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (2000)
Native Species Management Framework (in progress)

Regions

R-1 Flathead Fisheries Co-Management Plan with CSKT (in progress)
Thompson Chain of Lakes Management Plan (1997-2002)
South Fork Flathead River Management Plan (1991-1996)

- South Fork Flathead Bull Trout Conservation Plan – Interagency Plan (1997)
- Upper Flathead System Fisheries Management Plan (1989-1994)
- R-2 Bitterroot River Fisheries Management Plan (1991-1996)
- Blackfoot River Fisheries Management Plan (1987-1992)
- Rock Creek Fisheries Management Plan (1989-1994)
- R-3 Big Hole/Beaverhead Rivers Recreational Management Plan (in progress)
- Big Hole River Fisheries Management Plan (1989-1994)
- Elkhorn Cutthroat Trout Cooperative Management Plan (1999)
- R-3/4 Upper Missouri River Reservoir Management Plan, 1999-2009
- R-4 Smith River Recreation Management Plan (1999)
- R-5 Upper Bighorn (1987-1992)
- Stillwater River Fisheries Management Plan (1990-1994)
- Boulder River (1992-1996)
- Absaroka-Beartooth Mountain Lake Drainage Plan (1991)
- Crazy Mountain Lakes (1991)
- R-6 Fort Peck Reservoir Management Plan 1990-1997
- R-6/7 Montana-North Dakota Paddlefish Management Plan (2004)
- Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Plan (?)
- R-7 Yellowstone River (?)

Monitor fish populations, ecological health and trends.

Monitor fish populations using appropriate techniques including electrofishing, trap netting, gill netting, redd counts, and other techniques. Monitor habitat conditions that affect fish populations including water temperature and water quality. Collect genetic samples from native fish populations. Monitor status of whirling disease in Montana streams.

Enhance and manipulate fish populations to improve sport-fishing opportunities.

Prepare and implement annual stocking recommendations for regional waters that require augmentation. Conduct field surveys to determine effectiveness of stocking strategies. Use manual removal or chemical rehabilitation to eliminate undesirable species or reduce population size when appropriate. Introduce new species to provide better balance in fish communities and/or provide new angling opportunities. Prepare EAs and solicit public comments on new fish introductions. Design and use angler surveys to measure success. Regulate harvest to meet size or population objectives.

Regulate fishing contests to protect fishery resources and recreational opportunities.

Statewide: Coordinate the review and approval of fishing derbies/tournaments. Respond to public inquiries, maintain database, and distribute news releases.

Regions: Evaluate environmental impacts and approve or disapprove the applications. Develop strategies to minimize resource conflicts. Monitor events including regulation compliance and fish mortality. Gather and analyze data.

Regulate commercial and private stocking and collection operations to protect fisheries and other aquatic life.

Inspect, prepare EAs, and determine private fish pond and commercial aquaculture /fish pond suitability for licensing. Inspect existing ponds for illegal stocking if warranted. Review and comment on applications for fish collection permits, importation permits, commercial whitefish harvest, and commercial minnow seining operations.

Review, revise and enforce fishing regulations, rules and statutes.

Produce consistent, understandable fishing regulations. Explain regulations to the public through the news media and with individual contacts. Ensure compliance with state fishing regulations by uniformed, high visibility patrols of waters, by checking anglers to determine compliance, and by utilizing enforcement check stations. Investigate reported violations of state laws. Investigate all TIP MONT reports. Investigate license fraud violations as they are detected in accordance with department policy on managing fish populations for the benefit of the residents of Montana. Conduct covert investigations when appropriate. Emphasize special regulations, restricted seasons, restricted limits, and restricted movement of live fish. Conduct periodic angler surveys to measure compliance with sport fishing regulations and determine reasons for non-compliance. Support the current level of angler contact, violation detection and investigation.

- **Sub-Goal: Provide research and technical resources support for fish management.**

Develop and enforce recommended sport-fishing regulations statewide as needed to protect, enhance, and develop fishing opportunities and to protect certain fish species. Provide regulations to the public.

Participate in the regional and statewide fishing regulation development process. Review new tasks or responsibilities generated by new/proposed regulations or commitments to ensure adequate budget and personnel for implementation. Emphasize programmatic internal review and extensive public involvement. Consider more urgent regulation changes annually. Emphasize “quality fishing waters” and native species protection, including bull trout, cutthroat trout, grayling, pallid sturgeon, paddlefish, and sauger. Attempt to restore fishing opportunities for native species and threatened/endangered species.

Publish and make easily understandable fishing regulations available to anglers. Seek alternative methods for providing regulation information to the public, i.e. brochures for local waters or improved internet access to site-specific regulations.

Monitor importation, introduction and impacts of exotic plant and animal species.

Proactively prepare response plans to address unauthorized introductions. Species of concern include: zebra mussel, mud snail, Eurasian millfoil, etc. Emphasize public education and significantly increase the penalties for illegal introductions of fish. The public recommends implementation of a meaningful reward program for information leading to the arrest and conviction of violators.

Monitor and protect fish health.

Coordinate fish health activities statewide and nationally. Manage an integrated fish health program with primary emphasis on disease prevention. Strictly control fish imports through an import permit system. Monitor in-state movements of fish and provide disease certification for all stocked fish. Conduct routine certification sampling and troubleshooting diagnostics. Contract with the USFWS Bozeman Fish Health Center for laboratory testing. Conduct annual fish health inspections at all hatcheries. Implement and manage quarantine authority and responsibilities.

Regions: Assist with fish disease surveys in rivers, streams and lakes. Participate in Fish

Health Committee on a rotating basis. Evaluate and propose mitigation and/or regulations as a disease/pathogen management strategy. Investigate fish kills.

Hatcheries: Monitor fish health. Do not plant diseased fish. Use isolation units to prevent introduction or spread of disease.

Coordinate research, monitoring and development of mitigation measures for whirling disease.

Conduct research on the innate resistance of various strains of rainbow and/or cutthroat trout, methods of attacking the parasite through the worm host, fish behavior modification, and stream ecology variability. Coordinate statewide monitoring efforts. Recommend management strategies to control the disease.

Conduct research to mitigate fishery resource impacts from development projects/impacts and to meet management goals.

Obtain funding from hydropower operations (AVISTA, BPA, PPL, etc.) for fishery mitigation research. Design and plan studies to mitigate impacts from dam construction and maintenance, and provide technical resources to meet management goals. Conduct research on native fish restoration techniques and hatchery stocking programs.

Provide professional/technical training for staff.

Ensure that staff is trained in electrofishing safety, Rosgen habitat typing, population estimation techniques, population modeling, hydropower re-licensing, and interstate coordination.

Design and conduct surveys to assess trends and variations in fish populations, anglers' use of waters, and fish harvested to evaluate the effectiveness of management efforts.

Statewide: Conduct the statewide angling use mail survey to determine angling pressure on individual bodies of water throughout the state. Assist in the design and implementation of creel census work. Periodically survey license holders to determine harvest and use.

Regions: Conduct creel census work on selected rivers, lakes and streams. Develop protocols and schedules for monitoring native fish species. Conduct fish identification surveys of Montana anglers. Conduct angler/recreational use surveys, and use fishing outfitter use data collected by the Board of Outfitters. Conduct fishing log program where volunteer anglers keep a log of their fishing activity for the entire year. Evaluate data collected and prepare annual reports.

Develop and maintain computer databases, software systems and a geographic information system to support biological, social and economic work on Montana's aquatic resources.

Statewide: Maintain and expand use of the Montana Rivers Information System (MRIS), a statewide stream fisheries database, the MFWP Lake and Reservoir Database, a statewide lakes database, and fishing pressure information. Provide support to the Future Fisheries Improvement program, the hatchery planting program, native species management and all Geographic Information System requests from fisheries personnel. Maintain the FWP Lands Layer, including fishing access sites (FAS). Develop geographical information that will be used to identify native species management areas. Expand the use of GIS in fisheries management. Maintain the following systems: stream and lake database; fish planting database; fish strain and species code database; fishing log database; 5-year planting program database; mark/recapture data collection; collection code database; fish-aging raw data database; and the private pond database.

Updates of the data will continue to be done biannually through visits to state and federal fisheries biologists to maintain accuracy.

Design and implement software systems that assist in the management of Montana's aquatic resources.

Statewide: Develop a mark-recapture program to estimate fish populations by age class; a creel census program to aid in data analysis; a hatchery production system; a five-year stocking program; a fish planting system to monitor stocking activities; and a new system for basic fisheries data analysis.

Regions: Assist with updating databases. Special project fish data includes radio telemetry, remote habitat evaluations, fish sampling databases, and a number of landscape and river coverage.

- **Sub-Goal: Manage an efficient cold and warm water hatchery program to support statewide management and restoration plans.**

Maintain a hatchery system and supply fish to support management objectives.

Provide adequate hatchery space and personnel to produce a fish product that will meet management needs. Maintain a secure and conditioned water supply at all hatcheries. Maximize production capabilities through on-site improvements, hatchery management and production strategies, and equipment upgrades. Forecast anticipated hatchery production and brood stock needs for statewide stocking of lakes, reservoirs and urban fisheries. Collect wild eggs for annual fish production. Participate in hatchery allocation process. Prioritize demands for hatchery fish. Stock fish as directed and meet annually with managers and biologists to assure an accurate and efficient stocking program. Maintain strict fish health standards and comply with fish health policy for all hatcheries. Develop site specific modifications to accommodate unforeseen needs and circumstances for wild fish, recovery of species of special concern, development of new programs and maintaining existing broods.

Operate and maintain efficient cold and warm water hatcheries as needed to supply fish for restoration and research.

Hatcheries: Coordinate with USFWS hatcheries for production of species of special concern. Coordinate with other states and agencies to assure consistent sources of healthy eggs and gametes to fill demands that Montana's hatchery cannot meet. Provide the opportunity for other states and agencies to fill their needs from unallocated eggs in the FWP hatchery system. Maintain the genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout brood program at Washoe Park Hatchery and Yellowstone cutthroat trout at Yellowstone River Trout Hatchery to produce eggs, fry, and fingerlings for reintroduction. Continue to collect grayling eggs from several wild sources for rearing at Bluewater, Big Springs, and Somers hatcheries to support reintroduction into historic grayling habitat. Manage Rogers Lake as lacustrine grayling genetic reserve. Develop and operate Sekokini Springs as westslope cutthroat trout broodstock and natural rearing station, that can provide stream specific genetic groups for recovery, restoration, and reintroduction. Assess utilizing Kilbrennen Lake for redband brood lake. Assist with stocking programs as directed. Maintain genetic diversity of all restoration/conservation stocks. Provide technical assistance to field biologists on egg collection, instream incubation, and other field propagation techniques that comply with fish health policy and provide a product that meets the needs of fish biologists and managers. Assess the potential of the hatchery

system to meet future demands for sport fisheries, mitigation requirements, Endangered Species Act (ESA) fish recovery, and preservation of other fish species of special concern.

Regions: Assist with gathering wild gametes for restoration and research efforts (cutthroat trout, grayling, pallid sturgeon, sauger). Coordinate stocking restoration programs. Use the hatchery program in the recovery of ESA listed species including non-game fish when feasible.

- **GOAL: Protect, maintain and restore native species and genetic diversity in historic ranges and ensure angling opportunities whenever possible.**

Determine distribution and status of native species.

Utilize ongoing sport fish inventories of lakes and streams to collect data to determine species distribution, population status, and genetic composition. Monitor fluvial and adfluvial populations of native species including annual redd counts and spawning activity. Redirect or increase staffing to conduct native species monitoring. Maintain communication with local user groups. Coordinate with appropriate federal agencies (U.S. Fish Wildlife Survey (FWS), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), etc.). Survey and inventory currently unsurveyed streams through implementation of a systematic monitoring program.

Protect and restore native fish populations, their habitats, and genetic diversity, and ensure angling opportunities when possible.

Develop and adopt a native species management framework outlining how the department will protect, maintain, and restore viable populations of native fish species, species assemblages, and their habitats within their historic range. Coordinate preparation and implementation of the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Cooperative Conservation Agreement, the Bull Trout Restoration Plan, the Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Agreement, and the Native Species Management Plan. Enforce regulations designed to protect native species and investigate illegal fish introductions.

Statewide: Develop and implement a native species management plan. Oversee implementation of bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and fluvial Arctic grayling conservation programs. Native species of concern include bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, fluvial Arctic grayling, redband trout, white sturgeon, burbot, pallid sturgeon, paddlefish, sauger, and others (sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub, etc.). Develop and implement a private pond stocking plan to protect native species. Coordinate the native fish committee.

Regions: Define and establish native species management areas. Incorporate native species management into annual work plans. Work with landowners (private, federal and state) to establish and implement native species management areas. Provide assistance to landowners in developing conservation agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP). Participate on native fish committee. Develop and implement restoration plans. Emphasize native species protection in planning enforcement activities. Enhance monitoring activities for native species. Enhance staff training on native species management.

Montana Native Species of Special Concern

Class A – Limited numbers and/or limited habitats both in Montana and elsewhere in North America. Elimination from Montana would be a significant loss to the gene pool of the species or subspecies.

White sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*)
Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)
Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*)
Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri*)
Westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*)
Arctic grayling (fluvial) (*Thymallus arcticus*)
Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Class B – Intermediate between classes A and C. Limited numbers and/or habitats in Montana. Fairly widespread and fair numbers in North America as a whole. Elimination from Montana would be at least a moderate loss to the gene pool of the species or subspecies.

Interior redband trout (native rainbow) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*)
Sturgeon chub (*Macrhybopsis gelida*)
Sicklefin chub (*Macrhybopsis meeki*)
Blue sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*)
Sauger (*Stizostedion canadense*)

Class C – Limited numbers and/or limited habitats in Montana. Widespread and numerous in North America as a whole. Elimination from Montana would be only a minor loss to the gene pool of the species or subspecies.

Shortnose gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*)
Pearl dace (*Margariscus margarita*)
Northern redbelly dace (*Phoxinus eos*) x finescale dace (*P. neogaeus*)
Trout-perch (*Percopsis omiscomaycus*)
Spoonhead sculpin (*Cottus ricei*)

Develop and implement recovery and protection programs for fish designated as species of special concern, threatened or endangered.

Statewide: Manage and enhance fish populations to benefit native species whenever possible. Gather intelligence and investigate criminal damage to the resources through criminal investigation section. Provide information to regions that assist in patrol planning (e.g. geographic distribution of suspected illegal fish introductions).

Regions: Design and implement native fish restoration projects. Implement bull trout recovery program in western Montana. Implement westslope cutthroat trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout restoration projects. Cooperate with USFWS to restore cutthroat trout:

- 1) inventory and determine distribution/status;
- 2) identify sites and install barriers to restore pure populations;
- 3) expand current distribution by transplanting above natural barriers (with appropriate EAs and public review) and developing fish passage around manmade barriers that block movement; and
- 4) identify and plan chemical rehabilitation projects associated with barrier installation to remove competing fish species.

Implement the grayling recovery plan. Implement the recovery and protection program for pallid sturgeon and white sturgeon. Determine status, distribution and limiting factors for sauger. Collect sauger eggs for hatchery rearing and reintroduction efforts. Monitor and adjust management for paddlefish under the Paddlefish Management Plan. Provide a comprehensive law enforcement program for the protection of fisheries, especially species of special concern, native species, resident species and endangered/threatened species.

Statewide Programs & Coordination

Each of the seven administrative regions is responsible for management of the fisheries and aquatic resources within their geographic areas. The fisheries program is coordinated by the centralized staff in Helena, although some staff is based out of Bozeman and Kalispell. Centralized staff provides program support (budgeting, legislature, personnel, legal, etc.) to the regions and is responsible for managing a number of program initiatives directly.

Fisheries Program Staff:

Fisheries Division: Larry Peterman, Chris Hunter, Glenn Phillips, Gary Bertollotti, Karen Zackheim, Ken McDonald, Tim Gallagher, Dorothy Lindsay, Karen Dimmitt, Bob McFarland, Jim Peterson, Ken Staigmiller, Janet Hess-Herbert, Steve Carson, Deanna Meredith, **Fish Hatcheries:** Jim Schreiber, Stewart Kienow, George Kirsch, Bob Snyder, Bruce Chaney, Jack Boyce, Daryl Hodges, Gary Shaver, Mike Rhodes

Conservation Education Division: Ron Aasheim, Tom Palmer, Connie Mills, Diane Tipton

Enforcement Division: Beate Galda, Mark Earnhardt, John Ramsey

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Administration, budget management.
- Fishery management planning, fishing regulations, fish-pond licensing program. Develop a private pond stocking policy to protect native fish. Review rules, regulations and policies and update as necessary.
- Special projects, native species program management. Develop a statewide Native Species Management Framework that includes designation of special management areas, management recommendations, monitoring plans, public education plans, and necessary policies for native species conservation.
- Implement native species management plans.
- Review government projects to minimize or mitigate impacts to aquatic resources.
- Manage the Future Fisheries Program.
- Protect instream flows. Review water rights applications and procure water leases.
- Provide technical expertise on impacts of pollution on aquatic systems.
- Hydropower Licensing Coordination.
- Fish hatchery program management. Maximize production capabilities through on-site improvements and equipment upgrades at the nine state hatcheries, and construction of new facilities. Maintain five-year fish stocking plan and prioritize demands for production.
- Fish health/disease testing and coordination. Hatchery Drug Registration.
- Whirling Disease Investigations.
- Information systems management, statewide angler survey, data management. Fish Scale Mounting Lab.
- Interstate Coordination (CBFWA, MRNRC, MICRA).

Enforcement Division

- Provide input and support for programmatic teams to develop statewide fishing regulations and evaluate impacts of regulation changes on enforcement budget and staff.
- Ensure budget, equipment and training are adequate to support ongoing enforcement needs for the fisheries program.
- Gather intelligence and investigate criminal damage to threatened and endangered species using resources in the Criminal Investigation Section. Provide information to regions to assist in patrol planning.

Conservation Education

- Prepare news releases, education information and public involvement plans to support fisheries goals.

Statewide Programs & Coordination : Management

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>
Travel and moving costs.	Ongoing
Montana Rivers Information System.	Ongoing
Cabinet Gorge Fish Health Survey.	

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase enforcement division post-fishing contest surveys and patrols to monitor release mortality.• Expand enforcement's role in providing resource protection for T&E species. Research and implement alternative monitoring strategies, e.g. remote surveillance or GIS information.	2001-2006		

Region One – Northwestern Montana

Region One covers 11,200 square miles of land that includes 2700 miles of fishable streams and 450 fishable lakes. Flathead Lake is the largest natural lake in the western United States, covering 125,000 acres. Streams range from small headwaters to several large river systems, including Flathead River, Kootenai River, and the lower end of the Clark Fork River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Dan Vincent

Fisheries Division: Jim Vashro, Gary Anderson, Jon Cavigli, Mark Deleray, Jay DeShazer, Larry Garrow, Steve Glutting, Grant Grisak, Mike Hensler, Greg Hoffman, Rick Hunt, Laura Katzman, Rick Malta, Brian Marotz, Gary Michael, Clint Muhlfeld, Tom Ostrowski, Scott Rumsey, Pat Saffel, Scott Snelson, Tim Taylor, John Wachsmuth, Tom Weaver, **Hatcheries:** Stewart Kienow, Russ Macal, John Lord, Jim Schreiber, Brian Strohschein

Conservation Education Division: John Fraley

Enforcement Division: Ed Kelly, Karl Brooks, Steve Andersen, Frank Bowen, Perry Brown, Mike Quinn, Chris Ralph, Jim Roberts, Rick Schoening, Mark Soderlind, Brian Sommers

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Develop an informal fish management plan for lakes in the Olney-Stryker area.
- Chemically rehabilitate small lakes such as Skyles and Spencer lakes and restore sport fisheries.
- Complete habitat improvements to assist self-sustaining bass fisheries.
- Complete environmental assessments on tiger muskie introduction and brook trout plants.
- Evaluate and improve fishing regulations and management on Thompson River.
- Determine and correct sources of cutthroat x rainbow hybridization in Flathead Drainage.
- Determine whether remote site incubators or fry imprint plants are most effective in reestablishing wild runs of westslope cutthroat.
- Evaluate impacts of predators on cutthroat and bull trout in Flathead River upstream of lake.
- Establish fish screens on water diversions (Sinclair, Therriault, and Grave creeks, and Pleasant Valley, Fisher and Swan rivers).
- Develop unique westslope cutthroat genetic stocks at Sekokini Springs for specific applications.
- Develop inland rainbow broodstock and establish secure source of Kamloop rainbows.
- Evaluate remote site incubators to improve trout fisheries in Little Bitterroot and Ashley lakes.
- Evaluate stocking strategies (e.g. timing, boat plants) to improve fish plant success in Lake Mary Ronan, Little Bitterroot, McGregor lakes, etc.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Survey and work with anglers to increase fishing regulation compliance.

Region One – Northwestern Montana: Management

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>
Libby Dam Mitigation	ongoing
Hungry Horse Dam Mitigation	ongoing
BPA Kootenai Focus Watershed	ongoing
AVISTA Hydro Projects, Genetic Testing	ongoing

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Region Two – West Central Montana

Region Two is situated between the Idaho border and the Continental Divide. The area is dominated by 15 mountain ranges and relatively few narrow river valleys. It encompasses about 10,300 square miles of land, 1490 miles of trout streams, 170 public lakes, and numerous small reservoirs that support habitat for 17 species of sport fish. The Clark Fork River Basin is located largely within the region. Major tributaries include the ST. Regis River, Bitterroot River, Big Blackfoot River, Rock Creek, Little Blackfoot River and Warm Springs Creek. There are 55 fishing access sites and 13 Blackfoot River corridor sites in the region.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mack Long

Fisheries Division: Fish manager – vacant, Biologists - Rod Berg, Chris Clancy, Wayne Hadley, Ladd Knotek, Ron Pierce, Dave Schmetterling

Conservation Education Division: Bill Thomas

Enforcement Division: Jeff Darrah, Lloyd Acker, Terry Althaus, Dan Burns, Jeff Campbell, Dan Curtin, Doug Dryden, Ron Jendro, Doug Johnson, Bill Koppen, Derek Schott

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Develop management plans for key drainages. Assist with recreational management plans (Blackfoot River Recreation Area, Alberton Gorge Recreation Corridor). Develop alternative management strategies for waters where unauthorized fish introductions have impacted fisheries and native species complexes (Clearwater Chain of Lakes, Milltown Reservoir, Clark Fork River).
- Monitor fish populations. Develop and evaluate fishing regulations. Assist with whirling disease research and monitor infected waters (Rock Creek, Bitterroot River, Blackfoot River, and Georgetown Lake).
- Identify native species management areas and coordinate conservation activities.
- Develop and evaluate fish stocking program. Monitor fish stocking program in regional lakes and reservoirs and adaptively manage the program to enhance fishing opportunity and native species conservation.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Region Two – West Central Montana: Management

<u>Proposed Activities:</u>	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget	<u>Schedule(year/s)</u>
(specify new vs. redirect and Division)			
• Coordinate and develop fisheries management plans for the Clark Fork River and Clearwater Chain of Lakes.	0.2		
• Assess fish species distribution, abundance and community composition, as well as the influence of illegal introductions, pathogens and global warming, in regional rivers, lakes and streams.	0.5		

Region Three – Southwest Montana

Region 3, in southwest Montana, includes approximately 25,000 square miles or 17.5% of the State of Montana. Within this region are six of the premier wild trout streams in the United States: Madison, Gallatin, Jefferson, Big Hole, Beaverhead, and Yellowstone rivers. In addition, it includes the upper portion of the Missouri River, the East Gallatin River, Ruby River, Shields River and many smaller salmonid streams. Approximately 55% of the region is in public ownership (headwaters streams and 200 mountain lakes) managed primarily by the U.S. Forest Service with other federal land managed by Yellowstone National Park or Bureau of Land Management. Also included within the region are approximately 20 lowland lakes and five major reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Pat Flowers

Fisheries Division: Regional Fish Manager: Bruce Rich, Area Fish Biologists: Dick Oswald, Ron Spoon, Pat Byorth, Joel Tohtz, Project Biologists: Pat Clancey, Jim Magee

Conservation Education: Bernie Kuntz

Enforcement Division: Jim Kropp, Mark Anderson, Mike Ottman, Coy Kline, Mike Barnett, Mick Chesterfield, Jim DeBoer, Hank Fabich, Marc Glines, Jim Heck, Pete Johnson, Mike Mehn, Jim Miller, Chad Murphy, Matt Murphy, Chris Anderson, Marty Vook, Randy Wuertz

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

****Both State and LCA PROJECTS perform program activities.**

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Develop a regional fishery management plan to include all waters (except Canyon Ferry Reservoir) either specifically or categorically.
- Implement a monitoring and enhancement program on the Jefferson River.
- Implement and monitor the Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Elkhorn management plans. Conduct annual public meetings to present recent fish data from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and discuss adaptive management direction based on that data.
- Conserve and/or recover/restore populations of native fishes, with particular emphasis on, but not limited to the following species: fluvial arctic grayling, westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Implement projects on the Beaverhead and Ruby rivers for grayling.
- Cooperate with and help facilitate whirling disease monitoring and research, with emphasis on developing strategies for preventing or reversing negative effects on fish populations.
- Review plans for introductions of any non-native fishes into public and private waters to minimize potential impacts to native fish populations and communities, and detect and/or deter unauthorized/illegal introductions of non-native fishes.
- Provide rainbow trout eggs from Willow Creek, Red Rocks River and Canyon Ferry Reservoir via Deep Creek trap or other means, as needed with the assistance of hatchery personnel, including genetic and disease testing as necessary.
- Assist hatchery personnel in collection of walleye eggs from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and adjoining waters, including genetic and disease testing, as necessary.
- Utilize hatchery-reared fish to enhance lake and reservoir angling opportunity and quality without jeopardizing native or established and desirable non-native but wild reproducing fishes.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Region Three – Southwest Montana: Management

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual base increases to maintain or slightly improve current service level (which is arguably insufficient) of Regional Fisheries Management Program (not including special projects) in the face of increasing cost of materials and consumables (inflation).			2002-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create an advanced technician (grade 13) or biologist trainee (grade 14) position based in Bozeman to assist Fishery manager and area fishery biologists in all aspects of program implementation. Requested FTE would be matched by existing FTE in region to create a full time position.	1.0		2002-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New area fishery biologist position to alleviate over-allocation of work to area fishery management biologists in the southwestern majority of the region.	1.0		2002-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase efforts to conserve and/or restore native fish populations/communities. (both new and redirect)			

Region Four – North Central Montana

Region Four encompasses about 29,000 square miles in 12 north central Montana counties. The region has 13,000 miles of rivers and streams, including much of the Missouri River drainage. Major drainages include the Smith, Dearborn, Sun, Teton, Marias, and Judith rivers, and the headwaters of the Musselshell River drainage. Public fisheries are managed in over 130 reservoirs, lakes and ponds totalling around 60,000 surface acres. Fish species assemblages range from coldwater communities dominated by salmonids with less than 10 species at higher elevations to complex assemblages of 40 or more fish species in warm and cool water environments at lower elevations.

Region 4 is one of the two most heavily fished regions in the state, supporting an average of approximately 500,000 angler-days per year, which comprises approximately 20% of statewide fishing use. Major coldwater fisheries include the Missouri River downstream from Holter Dam, the Smith River, Big Spring Creek, Sun River, Belt Creek, Hauser Reservoir, Holter Reservoir, Martinsdale Reservoir, and several others. The most significant warm/cool water fisheries are in the Marias River, Missouri River from Great Falls to Judith River, Tiber Reservoir, Lake Frances, Pishkun Reservoir, and Bynum Reservoir.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mike Aderhold

Fisheries Division: Regional Manager: Steve Leathe; Fisheries Biologists: Steve Dalbey (Helena), Bill Gardner (Lewistown), Bill Hill (Choteau), George Liknes (Great Falls), Anne Tews (Lewistown); Fisheries Technicians: Paul Hamlin (Great Falls), Troy Humphrey (Helena), Randy Rodencal (Lewistown), Kelly Smith (Choteau), and other seasonal and temporary technicians.

Enforcement Division: Warden Captain: Terry Hill; Warden Sergeant: Gary Benson; Game Wardens: Bob Barber (Lewistown); Chuck Bartos (Great Falls); Jim Conner (Lewistown); Larry Davis (Augusta); Rod Duty (Conrad); Tom Flowers (Choteau); Bob Hammer (Stanford); Wendy Kamm (Fort Benton); Bruce Knutson (Cascade); John Lesofski (White Sulphur Springs); Brian Richards (Great Falls); Steve Vinnedge (Great Falls).

Conservation Education: Bruce Auchly

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Implement the fluvial Arctic grayling restoration plan for the Sun River. Participate in cooperative project to establish naturally reproducing population of fluvial arctic grayling in forks of Sun River upstream from Gibson Reservoir.
- Anticipate rewriting the 1990 management plan for Missouri River, Holter Dam to Great Falls.
- Participate in cooperative whirling disease research and monitoring project in Missouri River and tributaries downstream from Holter Dam.
- Identify causes of sauger decline in Missouri River and develop monitoring and recovery program.
- Protect, enhance and restore populations of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. Cooperate with US Forest Service to implement westslope cutthroat recovery program in Missouri River drainage.
- Continue the monitoring and stocking program for pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River above Fort Peck Reservoir. Cooperate with US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies on recovery of pallid sturgeon in Missouri River.
- Assist in implementation of protection, mitigation and enhancement program for fisheries resources affected by 7 hydropower dams operated by PPL Montana (formerly Montana Power Company) on Missouri River.
- Evaluate effectiveness of cisco introduction in Tiber Reservoir to enhance prey base for walleye and northern pike.
- Utilize hatchery-reared fish to enhance lake and reservoir angling opportunity and quality without jeopardizing native or established/desirable non-native but wild reproducing fishes.

- Utilize hatchery-reared fish to support native species recovery and research programs, particularly Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout restoration and conservation efforts.

Conservation Education Division

- **Implement Fisheries Program activities, Pages 6-12.**

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Improve enforcement presence on Missouri River in response to increased public use below Holter and in the Wild and Scenic area downstream from Great Falls.

Region Four – North Central Montana: Management

LCA Projects:		Schedule (year/s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missouri River Whirling Disease Partnership. Missouri River Pallid Sturgeon Recovery – Section 6. 			

Proposed Activities: (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement westslope cutthroat trout recovery program in northcentral Montana. 	2000-2006	2.5	\$125,00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic monitoring of native species in approximately 6000 miles of rivers and streams in northcentral Montana if new funding becomes available. 	2000-2006		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand fisheries monitoring on Judith River to determine importance for migratory fish and to gather baseline information to gage effects of future habitat restoration projects. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experimentally introduce predatory fish to control overpopulation of suckers and other nongame species and enhance trout growth in lieu of chemical control. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider introduction of sauger in Marias River above Tiber Reservoir. Prepare EA, solicit public comments and transplant fish if appropriate. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase enforcement patrols and education to improve compliance with sauger, westslope cutthroat, grayling, and pallid sturgeon fishing regulations. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate implementation of a "Block Management Program" for public fishing on private land. 			

Region Five – South Central Montana

Region 5 boundaries encircle approximately 5,500 miles of perennially flowing streams and more than 300 public lakes and reservoirs containing 19 species of sport fish which support 370,000 angler days per year. Access to public waters is provided by 43 state access sites in those areas not within federal lands. Major streams include the Yellowstone River, Boulder River, Stillwater River, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, Bighorn River, and Musselshell River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Harvey Nyberg

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Jim Darling, Biologists - Ken Frazer, Mike Poore, Fieldworkers - Mike Vaughn, Dave Hergenrider

Conservation Education Division: Bill Pryor

Enforcement Division: Dennis Hagenston, Kevin Schaal, Brandon Carpenter, Regan Dean, Bryan Golie, Kevin Holland, Kevin Nichols, Adam Ramlow, Jeff Scott, Kerry Wahl, Tom Watkins

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Continue to inventory, protect and enhance Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations as part of the Yct Conservation Agreement and Program. Coordinate with Region 3. Monitor introduction of Yellowstone cutthroat trout into the Yellowstone River near Billings. Implement restoration plans for Yct in Bad Canyon Creek.
- Monitor fish passage in the Yellowstone River.
- Conduct angler surveys on the Yellowstone River to estimate angler harvest of sauger and on the Stillwater River to identify angler versus boater conflicts.
- Update the Bighorn River Management Plan to include water rights decisions and methods for addressing overcrowding.
- Support native species recovery and research programs, particularly Yct restoration and conservation efforts through utilization of hatchery resources.
- Utilize hatchery-reared fish to enhance lake and reservoir angling opportunity and quality without jeopardizing native or established/desirable non-native but wild reproducing fishes.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Region Five – South Central Montana: Management

Proposed Activities: (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Bighorn River Management Plan to include water rights discussion and methods for addressing overcrowding with contracted help-New • Investigate status of sauger in Yellowstone River – Redirect • Rehabilitate Bad Canyon Creek-Redirect • Implement Yellowstone Cutthroat Conservation Plan-Redirect • Establish intern program for sampling Absaroka-Beartooth Mountain lakes - New 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2001-2003 2000-2006 2000 2000-2006 2000-2006 		

Region Six – Northeast Montana

Region 6 covers approximately 22,000 square miles in northeastern Montana. The major river drainage is the Missouri River. Tributaries include the Milk River, Poplar River, and Redwater River. Fort Peck Reservoir is the largest water body in Montana, with a surface area of 240,000 acres and 1,500 miles of shoreline at full pool. Approximately 50 different fish species occupy the reservoir. Approximately 16 fish species have been introduced, mostly game fish, to enhance fishing opportunities. Other important reservoirs include Fresno and Nelson.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Jim Satterfield

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Bill Wiedenheft, Biologists - Kent Gilge, Mike Ruggles, Bruce McMorris

Enforcement Division: Sam Shepard, Mike Herman, Kelly Friede, Steve Jones, Jon Obst, Shane Reno, Chris Wright

Conservation Education: Todd Glaser

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Review and update Fort Peck Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan – 2000.
- Review and update management plan with Warm Water Advisory Committee for the 12 larger R-6 reservoirs, and numerous small reservoirs.
- Review and update Paddlefish Management Plan for lower Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers as needed.
- Conduct paddlefish creel on the Missouri River above Fort Peck Reservoir on a biannual basis. Continue to monitor the paddlefish population to perpetuate a sustained harvest by anglers.
- Continue to sample and test Fort Peck Reservoir cisco, Chinook salmon, and tailrace rainbow trout for whirling disease.
- Trap and spawn walleye and Chinook salmon from Fort Peck Reservoir to provide a source of eggs for statewide distribution.
- Rear walleye fry to fingerlings in ponds adjacent to Fort Peck Reservoir.
- Trap and spawn chinook salmon on Fort Peck Reservoir to perpetuate a fishable population in Fort Peck.
- Permit and oversee fishing tournaments held on Fort Peck and Fresno reservoirs.
- Continue Pallid Sturgeon recovery efforts coordinated with Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Committee.
- Gather information on the status of sauger and sicklefin chub populations in the Missouri and Milk rivers.
- Assist with design and development of the proposed Fort Peck Fish Hatchery.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Region Six – Northeast Montana: Management

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	Schedule (year/s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Program on lower Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers (WAPA)	2000-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue Milk River Fisheries study (BOR)	2000

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop urban fisheries in Malta, Havre, Glasgow, and Wolf Point.	Ongoing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess status of sauger in R-6, as time and manpower allow.	2000-2002		

Region Seven – Southeast Montana

Region 7 includes 12 southeastern counties with approximately 30,000 square miles of land. The region is bisected by 280 miles of the Yellowstone River. Major tributaries include the Tongue River (209 miles in R-7) and Powder River (217 miles in R-7). The Tongue River Reservoir is the only large acreage water body in the Region, comprising 3,500 acres, although there are numerous small reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Don Hyyppa

Fisheries Division: Region Fisheries Manager – Brad Schmitz, Fieldworker – Vic Riggs

Enforcement Division: Bryce Christensen, Mike Moore, Randy Arnold, Jack Austin, Lennie Buhmann, Josh Doniak, Steve Marx

Fisheries Program Element: Management

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement core Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.
- Recreational fishing:
 1. Evaluate and promote urban fishery development at Sidney, Glendive and Miles City locations.
 2. Evaluate survival and status of warm water fish populations in the Tongue River Reservoir following increased water elevation. Determine the potential of establishing a tiger muskie component to the existing fish population structure.
- Native species management:
 1. Pursue all possible solutions to habitat impediments limiting Yellowstone River fish populations. Including the removal of fish passage barriers at Cartersville Diversion, Intake Diversion and the T&Y Diversion on the Tongue River.
 2. Continue to pursue cooperative solutions to fish entrainment problems at Yellowstone River irrigation structures. Primary focus being on the Intake Diversion structure.
 3. Coordinate increased research efforts on Yellowstone River system sauger populations, focusing on determining current population status, angler harvest impacts, environmental/habitat limitations, chronological movement patterns and susceptibility of sauger to angler harvest.
 4. Assist other regional fisheries staff in collecting native species population data on T&E species (pallid sturgeon), and species of special concern (blue sucker, cyprinids).
 5. Participate in interstate/interagency conservation efforts to improve ecosystem health on the Tongue and Yellowstone river systems. Focus primarily on channel morphology, passage and entrainment.
- Continue to manage paddlefish using the Interstate Management Plan developed to ensure health paddlefish stocks and maintain recreational opportunities. Monitor harvest and respond to population fluctuations.
- Continue to participate in walleye-egg taking operations at Fort Peck Reservoir to the extent possible.

Enforcement Division

- Implement core Fisheries Program activities. Pages 6-12.

Region Seven – Southeast Montana: Management

Proposed Activities: (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory and survey small stream systems to identify abundance and distribution of native fish populations and seasonal use patterns of small stream habitats. Information collected is crucial in making management decisions related to potential habitat alterations. Study proposal development and cooperative funding would need to be addressed. FWP cost share would be needed. 	2000-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of other irrigation diversions on the Tongue and Yellowstone rivers, and restoration of the system included wherever possible. Redirect efforts following successful completion of habitat renovations at the Cartersville Diversion. 	2003-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine angler use and harvest of Yellowstone River fish. Collect creel information in coordination with other efforts (habitat improvement, graduate research, etc) focused on sauger restoration within the YSR system. Link to the graduate research to be conducted during 2000-2001. 	2000-2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer data entry is needed to bring Region 7 into a compatible format. Answers to current management questions are inaccessible as volumes of regional fisheries data remains in paper form. A proposal to contract this work is under development. 	2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the opportunity to develop a sauger brood stock to augment populations in southeastern Montana waters as determined by sauger management plans. 	

Fisheries Program Element Two:

HABITAT

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Fisheries Program Element Two: HABITAT

Fish thrive in diverse, healthy aquatic ecosystems. Good fish habitat consists of three essential elements:

1. Physical habitat features—landscape features such as streambeds and banks, riparian areas, and cover that, together, provide a favorable environment for fish and other aquatic life to carry out all essential phases of their life cycles;
2. Water quality—water of suitable quality for sustaining healthy populations of fish and other aquatic life; and
3. Water quantity—adequate water flow in streams throughout the year and satisfactory water levels in lakes and reservoirs to sustain healthy aquatic communities.

Montana's habitat protection and restoration program is necessary for two reasons. First, the public generally values healthy streams with productive fisheries. Hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of Montana rivers and streams, and some lakes, have been degraded in the past because of land-management practices and other human activities. Habitat work on these streams will benefit the resource. Equally important, current and projected development has the potential for degrading riparian habitats even further.

Fisheries Program Habitat Goals:

- Preserve and protect aquatic habitats.
- Restore and enhance important degraded habitats.
- Restore and maintain adequate water flow in streams and satisfactory water levels in lakes/reservoirs to support priority fisheries.

Desired Outcomes:

- An increase in high-quality aquatic ecosystems (water quality, water quantity, and physical features) that support fish populations.
- An informed public that supports and participates in efforts to restore and protect the state's aquatic habitat.

Performance Measures:

- Inventories of riparian health, bank and channel integrity, long-term effectiveness of various habitat treatments, and the responses of fish populations to changes in habitat.
- Public participation in efforts to restore and protect habitat through partnerships and watershed groups.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

The following goals, objectives and strategies identify the basic, core work that is conducted by FWP to protect and restore habitat. Additional Region-specific initiatives for habitat are included in the pages at the end of this section.

- **GOAL: Preserve and protect aquatic habitat.**

Administer the *Stream Protection Act (SPA) of 1963 (124 Permits).*

Review SPA applications for government projects involving stream disturbance. Issue permits (124 permits) with stipulations that eliminate or mitigate impacts to aquatic ecosystems. Monitor construction sites to determine compliance with SPA permit conditions. Require corrective actions as needed. FWP reviews and issues an average of 400-500 applications/permits each year.

Statewide: Participate on the FWP-Montana Department of Transportation Task Force and the TEA-21 Environmental Features Coordinating Committee to develop recommendations and guidelines for resolving issues related to transportation projects and to facilitate permitting. Provide legal support for correcting or mitigating violations. Coordinate with other stream permitting agencies (Department of Environmental Quality, Corp of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Conservation Districts) to promote consistency. Provide staff training in hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, and provide other pertinent training necessary to review hydraulic projects. Investigate violations and recommend remedial measures. Provide orientation and ongoing internal training for personnel who review projects to improve review procedures and project recommendations. Provide training to wardens to recognize and report SPA permit violations.

Work with conservation districts to implement the *Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975 (310 Permits).*

Review an average of approximately 2000 applications yearly for 310 permits, and comment as necessary to mitigate or eliminate impacts to fisheries and their habitat. Testify in court or arbitration hearings when disputes over permit conditions, or violations cannot be settled. Attend annual area conservation district meetings and participate in educating local conservation districts and landowners about the importance of stream health issues. Seek alternatives to the use of concrete rip-rap in some eastern districts.

Statewide: Provide arbitration, legal and policy support for regions. Participate on MACD 310 Committee. Monitor and allocate budgets. Provide staff training in river mechanics/fluvial geomorphology and other specialized training that helps biologists. Continue timely response to a rapidly increasing number of permit applications by expanding the use of contractors.

Participate in land use decision-making with various local, state, and federal agencies that regulate activities potentially affecting habitat (e.g. floodplain development, forest practices, road building, grazing, and so on) to ensure that water quality and fisheries are protected.

Statewide: Review Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit applications submitted to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and recommend changes necessary to protect aquatic life. Coordinate with the DEQ on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program development and implementation for water quality improvement to benefit fisheries. Comment and participate in hard rock mine planning, operation and cleanup activities. Coordinate with U.S. Forest Service (USFS), DEQ and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as appropriate. Comment and participate in decisions involving the use of pesticides throughout the state, including mosquito control, weed control, pesticide registration, fish toxicants, etc.

Regions: Review subdivision proposals for fisheries impacts. Participate in Timber Sale audits sponsored by Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC). Review

highway plans to protect wetlands and riparian corridors. Attend public and technical advisory meetings of other agencies and commercial developers to represent the needs of the aquatic ecosystem. Work with FWP Wildlife Program to protect and improve aquatic habitats on Wildlife Management Areas and through conservation easements. Perform sediment source surveys on USFS lands to identify areas in need of special management or remedial work.

Work with private landowners and organizations to further habitat protection efforts.

Work with private landowners to develop fish habitat restoration projects and other conservation projects on their lands. Work with landowners and private organizations to facilitate the formation of local watershed groups and coordinate with these groups. Utilize the Future Fisheries Improvement Program to implement habitat protection and enhancement projects. Secure conservation easements. Continue to educate and assist landowners with habitat protection measures through the 310 permitting process and other avenues.

Statewide: Work with DNRC, DEQ, conservation districts, and others to develop educational materials promoting land management activities that protect fish habitat.

Implement educational efforts stressing the components of habitat and the importance of protecting and restoring fish habitats.

Provide presentations to angling organizations, schools and other community groups stressing the components of fishery habitat and the importance of protecting and restoring fish habitats. Dedicate partial FTE to aquatic habitat education; current staffing is not available to adequately complete this objective.

Statewide: Develop educational brochures, booklets, magazine articles, news releases, video releases, etc. describing habitat protection and restoration activities. Develop stream crossing and fish passage criteria.

Assess the conditions of habitats and the resources affected by degraded habitats (e.g., conducting environmental inventories of fish habitats, investigating fish kills, measuring contaminants in fish tissues, monitoring water quality, and so forth).

Conduct sediment core sampling and embeddedness surveys on key bull trout and westslope/Yellowstone cutthroat trout tributaries. Increase staffing for monitoring habitats and degraded systems for identification of problem areas needing restoration activity or other intervention. Assist BOR, Montana Power Company (also Pennsylvania Pacific and Light Montana, PPLM), and DEQ conducting studies on fish movements (hydroacoustics and telemetry), measurement of seasonal dissolved oxygen trends, and effects on sentinel fish, etc. Monitor BOR compliance with current operating guidelines. Monitor water quality when opportunity arises or when necessity dictates.

Statewide: When fish kills occur, seek compensation or mitigation as appropriate and maintain a central fish kill file. Conduct studies to document the effects of various activities (e.g. mining, dam operations, sewage disposal, grazing, logging, etc.) on water quality, fishes and their habitat, and recommend appropriate action. Investigate and document contaminant spills when they reach surface waters. Monitor mercury and organic chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenols (PCB), in fish tissue from lakes statewide.

- **GOAL: Restore and enhance important degraded aquatic habitat.**

Implement habitat restoration projects and administer the Future Fisheries Improvement Program to restore important habitats on public and private lands.

Statewide: Review project proposals; visit project sites as needed; and provide FWP funding recommendations to the Future Fisheries Review Panel. Complete Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) EA review requirements for projects; prepare and manage project contracts and budgets; coordinate or conduct project completion inspections. Advertise the program and its accomplishments through various media. Monitor effectiveness of projects at obtaining the desired results. Manage a contract to monitor compliance with project agreements and grazing management plans.

Regions: Identify potential projects in the field. Develop a working relationship with private landowners and other agencies. Prepare (or assist in preparation) grant applications, and assist with project completion on the ground. Native species restoration will require additional habitat work, along with TMDL designation. Current manpower is insufficient to effectively implement and monitor habitat restoration programs.

Provide internal training in the restoration of habitats.

Provide opportunities for biologists involved with stream permitting or review of habitat restoration projects to attend at least one training session in basic fluvial geomorphology and hydrology. Provide all biologists with basic and advanced Rosgen training and water rights training. Provide opportunities for more advanced training for biologists who plan, supervise or design habitat restoration projects. Attend workshops, seminars, etc. as available.

Coordinate restoration activities with other agencies that administer habitat and water quality restoration programs.

Work with private interests (AVISTA, PPLM, Montana Power Company), federal agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power, Western Area Power Administration) and private irrigators to maintain adequate water supplies for fish, improve fish passage and eliminate fish entrainment at dams and irrigation diversion sites. Develop cooperative projects located on private lands. Coordinate with: FWS, Partners in Fish and Wildlife program; USFS, Montana Watershed Coordination Council -- a statewide organization devoted to watershed planning; Natural Resource Damages (NRD) program and the Upper Clark Fork River Education and Advisory Council; sediment control activities with USFS; DNRC on land use plans, particularly on native fish restoration; DEQ-TMDL program; Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (COE); and BOR, etc..

Review, evaluate and prioritize habitat projects to maximize benefits relative to investment.

Statewide: Review Future Fisheries project applications and make recommendations for approval/disapproval to advisory council.

Region: Coordinate and prioritize restoration activities with local watershed groups. Determine where habitat restoration projects are necessary and prioritize in each region.

Monitor the effectiveness of efforts to restore habitats.

Monitor the effectiveness of habitat restoration projects using protocols established in the Future Fisheries program. Monitor compliance with maintenance agreements in the Future Fisheries Improvement Program. Monitor compliance with conservation

easements to protect fish habitat. Monitor habitat protection and restoration on state school trust land for DNRC. Conduct sediment coring and embeddedness monitoring for USFS. Conduct long-term fish population monitoring to evaluate positive or negative trends in critical areas. Conduct fish population surveys to monitor response to habitat and flow improvement projects. Implement cooperative efforts to monitor fish passage and fish loss for diversion structures. Reduce fish losses from irrigation canals and dams. Statewide: Prepare a monitoring report every two years for inclusion in the Future Fisheries report to the legislature. Make program adjustment recommendations as needed.

- **GOAL: Restore and maintain adequate water flow in streams and satisfactory water levels in lakes/reservoirs to support priority fisheries.**

Protect the department's existing instream water rights and water reservations through the water adjudication process and otherwise.

Participate in the statewide water adjudication process to both protect FWP rights and interests in specific basins, as well as contribute to accurate, efficient, fair and implementable decrees on a statewide basis. Review water permit applications to DNRC for potential impact to FWP's water rights and reservations, and general fishery protection interests. In both the adjudication and water permit processes, object as necessary and practical; proactively negotiate reasonable solutions when possible.

Track flows and lake levels as practical and relevant to FWP rights and agreements via field staff, cooperators, contractors, water commissioners, and associated gauges, predictive mechanisms, and structural measurement devices. Make calls on junior users as appropriate. Ensure junior users are aware of the relative reliability of their permits/rights in comparison to FWP senior rights.

Provide staff support and training (if requested) on water rights and flow protection/enhancement tools available in Montana. Continue critical review and constructive dialogue among FWP, DNRC, and Water Court staff and concerned citizens on policies and procedures regarding new permit issuance and existing water right issues and administration.

Enhance flow in priority dewatered streams through the water leasing program or other voluntary means.

Identify potential candidate streams via need and importance. Continue investigating potential projects and assist in developing agreements. Work with private landowners, NRCS, USFWS, Bureau of Reclamation, irrigation districts, and others to identify and develop water salvage and/or leasing projects and devise solutions to irrigation structure problems. Promote concept that major publicly-funded water salvage projects should provide some public benefits to the fishery if needed, and that any such projects justified at least partially on flow enhancement benefits to a downstream fishery should include securement of that flow for the fishery.

Acquire water for instream flows where practical through the water reservations process or by purchasing stored water. Encourage and support private water right holders temporarily converting diversionary rights to instream flow where such actions would benefit them and the fishery.

Work at statewide and local level to enhance availability and usability of stream flow and climatic information and predictions so water users have tools to help them effectively and cooperatively manage water use. Continue to develop and provide information on how flow levels relate to fishery health and encourage local water user understanding of options available to blend their needs with those of the fishery. Focus on priority streams and lakes and priority users, and step up efforts under low flow conditions.

Work with reservoir operators to incorporate management procedures to regulate water flow in streams and water levels in lakes and reservoirs for the benefit of fish and other aquatic life.

Work with primary water rights holders to optimize reservoir levels and stream flows. Recommend fish friendly operation plans for major dams. Work with BOR, MPC, PPLM and irrigation districts. Specify desirable reservoir levels and river flows for fish, wildlife and recreation. Obtain river flow and reservoir level commitments for new federal licenses. Provide recommendations on dam maintenance activities. Investigate administrative, legal or legislative means to establish minimum flow standards downstream from selected projects. Monitor compliance with reservoir operation guidelines, attend annual advisory group meetings, and revise guidelines when necessary. Evaluate effects of winter water level fluctuations and make operation recommendations. Monitor proposed new water withdrawal projects, gather and provide information, and make recommendations to reduce aquatic resource impacts. Respond to applications for installation of new small hydropower units.

Work with communities and local watershed groups to protect and enhance stream flows and lake levels in priority areas.

Provide information and technical assistance to local communities and individuals on water issues, low flow planning, and flow protection/enhancement tools available in Montana. Suggest and support local water quantity planning efforts through watershed groups, conservation districts, water quality districts, etc. Identify and pursue water leasing opportunities. Document flow-enhancement success stories to share with other groups, individuals, and the media where appropriate.

Review water rights applications.

Work to maintain necessary minimum flows for fish wherever possible.

Statewide Programs & Coordination

Each of the seven administrative regions is responsible for management of the fisheries and aquatic resources within their geographic areas. The fisheries program is coordinated by the centralized staff in Helena, although some staff is based out of Bozeman and Kalispell. Centralized staff provides program support (budgeting, legislature, personnel, legal, etc.) to the regions and is responsible for managing a number of program initiatives directly.

Fisheries Program Staff:

Fisheries Division: Larry Peterman, Chris Hunter, Glenn Phillips, Karen Zackheim, Ken McDonald, Tim Gallagher, Dorothy Lindsay, Karen Dimmitt, Mark Lere, Kathleen Williams, Don Skaar, Eric Reiland, Brad Shepard

Conservation Education Division: Ron Aasheim, Tom Palmer, Connie Mills, Diane Tipton

Enforcement Division: Beate Galda, Mark Earnhardt, John Ramsey

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Administration, budget management.
- Future Fisheries Program, habitat protection coordination, stream/lake enhancement, Stream Protection Act coordination.
- Water leasing, instream flow coordination. Review water rights applications to preserve minimum flows necessary for fisheries where possible.
- Water pollution control and monitoring. Provide technical expertise on impacts of pollution on aquatic systems.
- Participate in hydro-power facility re-licensing negotiations and implementation meetings to minimize or mitigate impacts to aquatic resources.

Conservation Education Division

- Provide program support for public outreach efforts.

Enforcement Division

- None.

Statewide Programs & Coordination: Habitat

LCA Projects:

Schedule (year/s)

- Ten-Mile Aquatic Inventory.
- Painted Rocks Water Purchase.

Proposed Activities:

Schedule

Proposed FTE

Proposed Budget

(specify new vs. redirect and Division)

 (year/s)

- Establish permanently protected stream corridors in key drainages through conservation agreements with landowners. Fisheries redirect. Fisheries, new. 2000-2006
- Develop "Rosgen" regional curves and establish reference reaches.
- Introduce legislation to require water rights for new private ponds. Redirect. 2000-2001
- Hire a contractor to monitor Future Fisheries Improvement projects.
- Develop a statewide habitat mitigation policy.
- Provide training to enforcement field wardens to recognize permit violations, pollution indicators, etc., to assist in monitoring efforts. 2002-2006

Region One – Northwestern Montana

Region One covers 11,200 square miles of land that includes 2700 miles of fishable streams and 450 fishable lakes. Flathead Lake is the largest natural lake in the western United States, covering 125,000 acres. Streams range from small headwaters to several large river systems, including Flathead River, Kootenai River, and the lower end of the Clark Fork River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Dan Vincent

Fisheries Division: Jim Vashro, Gary Anderson, Jon Cavigli, Mark Deleray, Jay DeShazer, Larry Garrow, Steve Glutting, Grant Grisak, Mike Hensler, Greg Hoffman, Rick Hunt, Laura Katzman, Rick Malta, Brian Marotz, Gary Michael, Clint Muhlfeld, Tom Ostrowski, Scott Rumsey, Pat Saffel, Scott Snelson, Tim Taylor, John Wachsmuth, Tom Weaver, **Hatcheries:** Stewart Kienow, Russ Macal, John Lord, Jim Schreiber, Brian Strohschein

Conservation Education Division: John Fraley

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.
- Complete habitat improvement to assist self-sustaining bass fisheries.
- Establish fish screens on water diversions in Sinclair, Therriault, and Grave creeks and Pleasant Valley Fisher and Swan rivers.
- Reconnect spawning and rearing habitat blocked by barriers on Paola and Tunnel creeks.
- Restore fish habitat in Emery, Sinclair, Dayton, and Young creeks.
- Establish instream flow recommendations for seasonal flows and flow fluctuations in Flathead and Kootenai rivers to coordinate with dam operations.
- Assist watershed groups (Elk, Prospect, Beaver Creek, etc.) in Lower Clark Fork.
- Evaluate impacts on aquatic insects of dam flow releases for Lower Columbia salmon flows.
- Reconnect spawning and rearing habitat blocked by barriers (Paola and Tunnel creeks).
- Restore fish habitat (Emery, Sinclair, Dayton, and Young creeks).
- Establish instream flow recommendations for seasonal flows and flow fluctuations in Flathead and Kootenai rivers to coordinate with dam operations.
- Assist with erosion control and revegetation projects (Libby, Parmenter and Flower creeks).
- Evaluate impacts of dam flow releases for Lower Columbia salmon on aquatic insects.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.

Region One – Northwestern Montana: Habitat

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>
Libby Dam Mitigation	ongoing
Hungry Horse Dam Mitigation	ongoing
BPA Kootenai Focus Watershed	ongoing
AVISTA Hydro Projects, Genetic Testing	ongoing

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Region Two – West Central Montana

Region Two is situated between the Idaho border and the Continental Divide. The area is dominated by 15 mountain ranges and relatively few narrow river valleys. It encompasses about 10,300 square miles of land, 1490 miles of trout streams, 170 public lakes, and numerous small reservoirs that support habitat for 17 species of sport fish. The Clark Fork River Basin is located largely within the region. Major tributaries include the ST. Regis River, Bitterroot River, Big Blackfoot River, Rock Creek, Little Blackfoot River and Warm Springs Creek. There are 55 fishing access sites and 13 Blackfoot River corridor sites in the region.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mack Long

Fisheries Division: Fish manager – vacant, Biologists - Rod Berg, Chris Clancy, Wayne Hadley, Ladd Knotek, Ron Pierce, Eric Reiland, Dave Schmetterling

Conservation Education Division: Bill Thomas

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.
- Review and comment on documents related to Superfund activities that have potential to affect fisheries resources.
- Review administrative actions related to Natural Resource Damages (NRD) settlement planning in the Clark Fork Basin. Assist in drafting the River Restoration Plan for the NRD settlement. Develop restoration projects for NRD settlement funding.
- Coordinate habitat restoration activities. Coordinate restoration activities with other public and private entities, ensuring implementation of beneficial projects, particularly in the Blackfoot River, Rock Creek and Clark Fork River drainages.
- Protect aquatic habitats through administration of regulatory (permitting) processes.
- Implement and negotiate water conservation measures. Identify new water-leasing opportunities related to Painted Rocks Water Management Plan (Bitterroot River), Murphy Water Rights (Blackfoot River), and the Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee's emerging water management plan.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.

Region Two – West Central Montana: Habitat

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	Schedule (year/s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montana Power Company Mitigation 	Annual

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire a coordinator to prepare grant proposals and facilitate NRDA restoration activities. New 	2000-2006	1.0	\$60,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in land use decision-making processes and facilitate conservation easements on important riparian habitats. 		0.6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review administrative actions and develop restoration plans for the NRD settlement. New 		0.6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor habitat restoration and enhancement activities in the Blackfoot, Rock Creek, and Clark Fork drainages. 		1.4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer the Stream Protection Act and assist conservation districts in administering the Natural Streambed and Land Protection Act in Missoula, Mineral, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, and Granite Counties. New 		0.6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify new water leasing opportunities and implement water conservation activities on Rock Creek, Blackfoot, Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers. New 		0.2	

Region Three – Southwest Montana

Region 3, in southwest Montana, includes approximately 25,000 square miles or 17.5% of the State of Montana. Within this region are six of the premier wild trout streams in the United States: Madison, Gallatin, Jefferson, Big Hole, Beaverhead, and Yellowstone rivers. In addition, it includes the upper portion of the Missouri River, the East Gallatin River, Ruby River, Shields River and many smaller salmonid streams. Approximately 55% of the region is in public ownership (headwaters streams and 200 mountain lakes) managed primarily by the U.S. Forest Service with other federal land managed by Yellowstone National Park or Bureau of Land Management. Also included within the region are approximately 20 lowland lakes and five major reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Pat Flowers

Fisheries Division: Regional Fish Mgr: Bruce Rich, Area Fish Biologists: Dick Oswald, Ron Spoon, Pat Byorth, Joel Tohtz, Project Biologists: Pat Clancey, Jim Magee

Conservation Education: Bernie Kuntz

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

****Both State and LCA PROJECTS perform program activities.**

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.
- Actively participate in community based “watershed management” groups such as the Big Hole Watershed Committee, Beaverhead Community Forum, and the Yellowstone River Task Force.
- Coordinate with DNRC to review Toston mitigation for the Missouri River and tributaries.
- Begin a significant effort aimed at determining limiting factors of habitat and their causes in the Jefferson River with intent to eventually improve fish habitat and subsequent populations in the river and its tributaries.
- Work with the USGS on heavy metal cleanup in the Boulder River watershed.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.

Region Three – Southwest Montana: Habitat

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Region Four – North Central Montana

There are approximately 13,000 miles of streams and rivers in north central Montana. Region 4 Fisheries staff works with private landowners, Conservation Districts, local governments, and state and federal agencies in 12 counties to implement the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310 law) and the Stream Protection Act (SPA law) to protect aquatic habitat. This work is a major part of the Region 4 fisheries program and typically involves site inspections of 200-300 projects annually. Recommendations are made to protect and enhance aquatic and riparian habitat, which benefits a wide variety of native and non-native aquatic species as well as riparian-dependent wildlife species. Major watersheds include the Missouri, Smith, Dearborn, Sun, Teton, Marias, and Judith rivers as well as the headwaters of the Musselshell. Habitat protection and enhancement activities are also conducted on several of the approximate 130 reservoirs, ponds and lakes in the area.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mike Aderhold

Fisheries Division: Regional Manager: Steve Leathe; Fisheries Biologists: Steve Dalbey (Helena), Bill Gardner (Lewistown), Bill Hill (Choteau), George Liknes (Great Falls), Anne Tews (Lewistown); Fisheries Technicians: Paul Hamlin (Great Falls), Troy Humphrey (Helena), Randy Rodencal (Lewistown), Kelly Smith (Choteau), and other seasonal and temporary technicians.

Conservation Education: Bruce Auchly

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.
- Cooperate with other agencies to monitor dissolved oxygen levels below Canyon Ferry Dam, determine fisheries impacts, and develop and evaluate potential solutions.
- Monitor annual operations of Tiber and Canyon Ferry dams and provide guidelines and recommendations to protect and enhance aquatic resources in reservoirs and tailwaters.
- Participate in watershed groups on Sun River, Teton River, Big Spring Creek, and other watersheds when appropriate.
- Monitor DNRC commitment to establish minimum pool on all state-owned reservoirs.
- Develop the fishing pier at Wadsworth Pond at the west end of Great Falls for fishing and disabled access.
- Deepen and develop one of the Old Folks Ponds at the east end of Lewistown for fishing.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.

Region Four – North Central Montana: Habitat

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with PPL Montana to assist in implementation of fisheries protection, mitigation and enhancement plan for seven newly licensed hydroelectric dams on the Missouri River in Region 4. 	

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund work with Sun River watershed group to: 1) comprehensively inventory fisheries resources; 2) implement and evaluate project to enhance river and tributary flows; 3) implement and evaluate projects to reduce fish losses in major irrigation diversions; and 4) improve fish habitat in the Sun River and key tributaries. Install and operate streamflow gauging stations on Sun River at Highway 287, Sheep Creek (tributary to Smith River at Camp Baker), Judith River (2 locations), upper Dearborn River, and North Fork Smith River if funding becomes available. Work with private landowners, Helena staff, and other agencies to obtain water leases on Little Prickly Pear Creek, Dearborn River, Big Prickly Pear Creek, upper Smith River, and other waters. Establish Big Prickly Pear Creek watershed group to develop solutions for mining impacts, water depletion, sewage treatment discharge effects, and aquatic habitat degradation. Use consultant or other resources to assist in review of stream protection projects and private ponds in north central Montana. 	4-6years	2.5	\$125,000 per year

Region Five – South Central Montana

Region 5 boundaries encircle approximately 5,500 miles of perennially flowing streams and more than 300 public lakes and reservoirs containing 19 species of sport fish which support 370,000 angler days per year. Access to public waters is provided by 43 state access sites in those areas not within federal lands. Major streams include the Yellowstone River, Boulder River, Stillwater River, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, Bighorn River, and Musselshell River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor - Harvey Nyberg

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Jim Darling, Biologists - Ken Frazer, Mike Poore, Fieldworkers - Mike Vaughn, Dave Hergenrider

Conservation Education Division: Bill Pryor

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.
- Working with CD's and DNRC at improving Butcher Creek, Otter Creek, Careless Creek, Painted Robe Creek, and spring creeks. 2000-2006.
- Participating in developing a Water Rights Compact for the Bighorn River. 2000. Seek water quality improvements for Soap, Rottengrass, and Beauvais creeks in the Bighorn Drainage.
- Through the Future Fisheries Improvement Program, restore additional spring creek tributaries to the Yellowstone River to increase trout spawning habitat.
- Pursue fish passage at Cartersville Diversion and monitor/modify the fishway at Huntley Diversion. Conduct similar efforts for the Bighorn and Musselshell river diversions.
- Seek alternatives to use of concrete riprap on Yellowstone River banks.
- Participate with NRCS in restoration of Musselshell River tributary habitat.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.

Region Five – South Central Montana: Habitat

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget
• Participate in extension of Yellowstone River Task Force work to remainder of river - Redirect	2000-2006		
• Establish flows for additional Bighorn River side channels in cooperation with WAPA and USBR - Redirect	2000-2001		
• Pursue fish passage around Yellowstone River diversions - Redirect	2000-2006		
• Continue working with Musselshell River groups to improve flows, fish passage, and habitat of mainstem and tributaries - Redirect	2000-2006		

Region Six – Northeast Montana:

Region 6 covers approximately 22,000 square miles in northeastern Montana. The major river drainage is the Missouri River. Tributaries include the Milk River, Poplar River, and Redwater River. Fort Peck Reservoir is the largest water body in Montana, with a surface area of 240,000 acres and 1,500 miles of shoreline at full pool. Approximately 50 different fish species occupy the reservoir. Approximately 16 fish species have been introduced, mostly game fish, to enhance fishing opportunities. Other important reservoirs include Fresno and Nelson.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Jim Satterfield

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Bill Wiedenheft, Biologists - Kent Gilge, Mike Ruggles, Bruce McMorris

Conservation Education: Todd Glaser

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.
- Restore and enhance fish habitat on Beaver Creek through Future Fisheries Improvement Program and MT Dept. of Transportation
- Coordinate with Montana Water Rights Compact Commission to protect flows and provide adequate reservoir storage for fisheries in Milk River Drainage. Evaluate potential fish losses into irrigation diversions on the Milk River.
- Improve fish spawning habitat on Fresno, and other water impoundments to increase natural production.
- Refurbish old impoundments and create new small impoundments to enhance public fishing opportunities.

Conservation Education Division

Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.

Region Six – Northeast Montana: Habitat

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	Schedule (year/s)	Budget Center	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget

Region Seven – Southeast Montana

Region 7 includes 12 southeastern counties with approximately 30,000 square miles of land. The region is bisected by 280 miles of the Yellowstone River. Major tributaries include the Tongue River (209 miles in R-7) and Powder River (217 miles in R-7). The Tongue River Reservoir is the only large acreage water body in the Region, comprising 3,500 acres, although there are numerous small reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Don Hyypa

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Brad Schmitz, Fieldworker - Vic Riggs

Fisheries Program Element: Habitat

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.
- Habitat restoration projects include improvement of irrigation diversion structures on the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers to improve fish passage and prevent entrainment. Priorities for the next six years include fish passage at the Cartersville and T&Y diversions and entrainment reduction at the Intake Diversion.
- Flow negotiations are underway within the Tongue River system to improve sauger spawning and recruitment in the system. There is a potential need to lease water. This effort will continue to develop opportunities for habitat improvement.
- Reservoir elevations at the Tongue River reservoir are being addressed with DNRC and the newly appointed Tongue River Reservoir Water Allocation Board. Efforts to improve in-reservoir water management will improve habitat requirements for the various warm water species in the impoundment.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 30-34.

Region Seven – Southeast Montana: Habitat

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	Schedule (year/s)	Budget Center	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget

	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget
(specify new vs. redirect and Division)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tongue River restoration opportunities. As opportunities to acquire fishing access and easement along the Tongue River increase, the ability to improve existing river habitat will arise. Restoration projects may range from improving small irrigation diversions to instream channel maintenance. Timing of these projects is dependant upon the Region 7 Tongue River Initiative and allocation of lands within the drainage. Cost and funding sources will need to be evaluated on a project by project basis. • Urban fisheries improvements. Currently, Region 7 has four ponds in close proximity to urban centers which need physical repairs to outlet structures or impoundment faces. These ponds have provided hours of recreational angling and efforts to retain and repair them are needed. Funding sources are undetermined at this time but cooperative opportunities to repair the structures exist. Potential funding could be acquired through BLM/FWP-Future Fisheries Program. Estimated repair costs need to be determined. Repairs need to be implemented within the next three years to retain the ponds. 			

Fisheries Program Element Three:

FISHING ACCESS

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Fisheries Program Element Three: FISHING ACCESS

The Fishing Access Program provides the public with access to Montana's streams, lakes, and reservoirs. The program provides recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the state for virtually all of Montana's fish species.

The number of Fishing Access Sites (FAS) has grown from relatively few in the 1960's and early 1970's to over 300 today. Many sites were acquired through donations or at a very minimal cost to the department. As land values have increased, the cost of suitable FAS has increased. Funding for FAS acquisition is generated primarily from earmarked angler license dollars: \$1 from each resident fishing license and \$5 from each non-resident fishing license.

The FAS program involves two primary areas of focus: the acquisition of new sites and the ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) activities for existing sites. Sites are acquired as suitable land purchase, easement, or lease opportunities become available. Based on site location, urban or rural, the amount of use, adjacent landowners, and expectations of the public, O&M responsibilities can be significant at individual sites. Typical activities may include: fencing, vandalism repairs, signs, weed control, latrine pumping, camping fee collection, road/parking areas maintenance, landowner relations, and conflict resolution.

The acquisition of new FAS or development of existing sites will be linked to the availability of funds for maintenance, development, and enforcement. Maintenance and enforcement budgets are stretched to provide needed services to current sites because of increased use, more stringent environmental standards, inadequate sources of funding and increased demands by the public for added services. Commercial use of fishing access sites is an issue that is currently being addressed through a statewide registration process. The department may be required to develop a fee structure and establish criteria and regulations for commercial use.

Fisheries Program Fishing Access Goals:

- Maintain public access for fishing and recreational activities on state waters.
- Increase public access for fishing and recreation on selected state waters.
- Provide management and funding for the Fishing Access Site Program to assure continued opportunities for public use.
- Protect the public's safety and enjoyment of water recreation through education and enforcement of regulations.

Desired Outcomes:

- Enhanced public fishing and recreational opportunities through responsible access to Montana's waters.
- Public satisfaction with maintenance and use of existing FWP fishing access sites.
- Respect for private property and stream access rights.

Performance Measures:

- Maintaining or increasing the number of miles of streams and acres of lakes and reservoirs readily available to public recreation.
- Increased public use of fishing access sites and monitoring the types of use.
- A majority of users reporting that fishing access sites were adequately maintained and generally in good condition.

- A reduction in the frequency of reported conflicts between different users and between users, landowners, and commercial outfitters.
- An increase in the percentage of users who felt that their recreation experience was above average.
- A reduction in the number and kinds of violations cited based on the number of users contacted by enforcement personnel.
- The number of successful cooperative ventures in both acquisition and maintenance of fishing access sites.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

The following goals, objectives and strategies identify the basic, core work that is conducted by FWP. Additional region-specific initiatives for fishing access/conflict management are included in the pages at the end of this section.

- **GOAL: Maintain public access for fishing and recreational activities on state waters.**

Prepare site-specific development and management plans for select fishing access sites.

Provide fishery resource input for FAS acquisition, development and management. Review and approve development plans prepared by Design and Construction staff. Participate in annual tour of regional sites for management planning. Coordinate with Parks Division to implement management objectives for each FAS as it is developed and on an annual basis. Respond to requests for management changes using MEPA. Conduct needs analysis and cost analysis on sites proposed for acquisition as to level of use to be expected, level of development needed, and costs of operations and maintenance if a site is acquired. Identify potential sites for corridor management planning. Utilize spatial and tabular FAS databases to prepare site surveys, determine access opportunities, and explore future access opportunities. Maintain the spatial and tabular FAS databases.

Conduct operation and maintenance activities.

Hire, train and supervise seasonal employees and volunteers. Collect, remit and monitor recreation and/or non-recreation use fees, permits, leases and easements. Monitor and enforce park rules and regulations as required, and investigate and respond to illegal activities or acts of vandalism. Collect management, visitor and revenue statistics and prepare reports. Prepare news releases and work with news media on regular seasonal activities as well as special projects. Maintain and repair tools and equipment. Conduct opening/closing checklist procedures for buildings, roads, trails, parking, grounds, boating and swimming areas, water supply and disposal, and utilities. Conduct daily, weekly, and monthly maintenance checklist procedures. Obtain necessary permits and repair buildings, grounds, utilities, etc. when vandalized or as needed. Repair and/or replace safety, traffic, guide and informational signing when vandalized or as needed. Control weeds as needed. Conduct chemical pesticide controls as necessary or directed. Contract for porta-potties at FAS as necessary, and monitor compliance with contracts. Provide assistance to private landowners for litter control and site maintenance.

Fulfill requirements of the stream access law.

Conduct investigations in response to petitions requesting access closures, as directed by the FWP Commission. Evaluate the validity of issues raised in the petition and report findings to the FWP Commission. Work with legal staff to resolve access and portage issues brought to the department's attention by the public. Respond to attorney general's opinions about access at bridges.

- **GOAL: Increase public access for fishing and recreation on selected state waters.**

Identify waters in need of additional access and develop strategies to meet these needs.

Provide input and feedback on public access for fishing and recreation. Pursue access opportunities to high-quality, non-floatable (small/medium) streams. Enhance recreational opportunities for the public and provide a law enforcement program to protect private property and fishing access sites to maintain stream access by the public. Identify potential new funding sources or other opportunities to support FAS acquisition and maintenance. Complete MEPA, HB495, and Federal Aid documents necessary for land acquisition.

Region One: Identify access potential within Thompson and Fisher rivers conservation easements. The public has expressed interest in access for Lake Blaine and McGilvray Lake.

Region 2: Areas in need include the upper Clark Fork, parts of the lower Clark Fork, and key locations along Rock Creek, Bitterroot River and Blackfoot River.

Region 3: Canyon Ferry Reservoir (BOR). Address algae problem near the Silos to improve fishing.

Region Four: High Priority -- Lower Big Spring Creek, upper Smith River, upper Judith River, and Missouri River (Fort Benton); Medium priority -- Warm Springs Creek (Lewistown), lower Musselshell River, and Belt Creek (upper end Sluice Boxes).

Region Five: Yellowstone River, Rock Creek near Joliet, Clarks Fork at Bridger, Bighorn River near Saint Xavier, Musselshell River, Boulder River, and Stillwater River.

Region Six: Lower Missouri River and Milk River prior to Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

Region Seven: Tongue River, Powder River, Yellowstone River.

Prepare site surveys and provide oversight for construction of new FAS.

Oversee capital and major maintenance projects to ensure quality facilities that are low maintenance and appropriate for the area being developed. Design and construction prepares surveys and plans, and provides most oversight.

Continue with the current design standards and philosophy of constructing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible latrines and related improvements where practical on all new FAS construction projects.

Participate in the "Crossing the Barriers Committee" regarding handicapped access and handicapped recreational opportunities. Coordinate with advocacy groups on special projects as assigned. Provide coordination for handicapped accessibility in regions. Develop/maintain a list of handicapped accessible FAS and State Parks for users. Ensure compliance with ADA requirements in construction projects and for updating pathways and latrine facilities. Install handicap accessible fish-cleaning stations.

- **GOAL: Provide management and funding for the Fishing Access Site Program to assure continued opportunities for public use.**

Increase public support for the operations, benefits and needs of the FAS Program.

Work with public and local groups to obtain input and support for acquisition of specific new sites. Work with sportsmen groups and civic clubs to obtain assistance in developing and maintaining FAS and urban fishing sites. Statewide and regional Conservation Education, Parks and Fisheries personnel communicate with the public in the field, through the media, and with presentations to clubs/schools.

Develop and provide improvements at FAS only to the extent necessary to address the public's level of use at individual sites.

Collect management, revenue, and visitor statistics and prepare reports for Helena headquarters. Prepare and/or review management plans and master plans as requested. Prepare news releases and work with news media on special projects. Coordinate with advocacy groups on special projects as assigned.

Investigate and pursue new funding sources and/or partnerships to supplement the existing program.

Seek funding through the Boat-in-Lieu program. Seek dam mitigation funding for FAS development and maintenance. Coordinate with special interest groups, service groups and city/county agencies.

Identify and pursue alternatives to fee title means of obtaining public access to angling waters.

Attempt to obtain block management access. Develop access on county lands. Respond to offers from landowners and other agencies. Preserve access at bridge crossings.

Prepare applications for federal assistance to fund the protection of sites and motorboat projects.

Prepare grant applications as necessary for particular projects. Provide input regarding funding needs for site protection and development.

Implement a program for registration of commercial users of FAS and other department lands.

Fees generated from commercial users would be used for necessary operations and maintenance. Monitor commercial use of sites. Enforce regulations regarding commercial use of FAS and State Parks.

- **GOAL: Protect the public's safety and enjoyment of water recreation through education and enforcement of regulations.**

Develop strategies to reduce conflicts among user groups and landowners along streams and lakes.

FWP has acquired new authority that can be used to manage recreational/social conflicts on public waters through HB 626. The department is in the process of developing a statewide process and guidelines for identifying and prioritizing additional waters in need of recreation management planning. Work with private land fishing access. Develop urban fishing opportunities. Install signing, and provide information to recreationists

regarding ethical use of jet skies and other recreational boats. Enforce regulations in and around State Parks and Fishing Access Sites. Complete survey work to ascertain the effectiveness of boating restrictions currently in effect. Initiate one-on-one contact with landowners and user groups, etc.

Oversee implementation of the Montana stream access laws.

Provide educational, survey, and enforcement opportunities to promote river user ethics. Investigate stream access law violations as they are reported by the general public and property owners. Investigate trespass complaints as they are reported by property owners. Continue to enforce Montana statutes with regard to stream access and private property. Provide staff training opportunities in conflict management.

Identify and provide the level of enforcement presence appropriate for each site.

Coordinate Fisheries, Parks and Enforcement to identify problem sites and allocate patrols. Seasonal park rangers are used to patrol key FAS and to ensure compliance with camping fees, rules and regulations. Utilize campground hosts when appropriate. Repair and/or replace safety, traffic, guide and informational signing when vandalized or as needed. Conduct routine and random patrols to reduce vandalism and protect FAS. Install electronic remote sensing equipment at sites with repeated vandalism. Provide county funding for water safety officers.

Respond to public interests and concerns regarding fishing access.

Prepare printed informational brochures and answer requests for information by phone and letter. Meet with affected parties to develop solutions to problems and resolve issues. Participate in conflict resolution or user group meetings. Determine conflict areas through work groups and input from field staff, and investigate citizen complaints.

Statewide Programs & Coordination

Each of the seven administrative regions is responsible for management of the fisheries and aquatic resources within their geographic areas. The fisheries program is coordinated by the centralized staff in Helena, although some staff is based out of Bozeman and Kalispell. Centralized staff provides program support (budgeting, legislature, personnel, legal, etc.) to the regions and is responsible for managing a number of program initiatives directly.

Fisheries Program Staff:

Parks Division: Doug Monger, Allan Kuser

Fisheries Division: Larry Peterman, Chris Hunter, Tim Gallagher, Janet Hess-Herbert, Steve Carson

Enforcement Division: Beate Galda, Mark Earnhardt, John Ramsey

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Administration, budget management.
- Develop and manage urban fishing opportunities, and maintain children's fishing opportunities through development of special fishing ponds and regulations.

Enforcement Division

- Random patrols to identify use and resource violations.

Parks Division

- Administration, budget management.
- Fishing access coordination and site management. Provide operations and maintenance support for fishing access sites; develop fishing access sites; seek additional funding for fishing access site programs; and reduce conflicts among user groups at access sites.

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement – improve activity tracking to develop better statistics for planning deterrent patrols. Enforcement – research and implement alternative site monitoring strategies, e.g. remote surveillance. 	2001-2003 2001-2003		

Region One – Northwestern Montana

Region One covers 11,200 square miles of land that includes 2700 miles of fishable streams and 450 fishable lakes. Flathead Lake is the largest natural lake in the western United States, covering 125,000 acres. Streams range from small headwaters to several large river systems, including Flathead River, Kootenai River, and the lower end of the Clark Fork River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Dan Vincent

Parks Division: Marty Watkins

Fisheries Division: Jim Vashro, Gary Anderson, Jon Cavigli, Mark Deleray, Jay DeShazer, Larry Garrow, Steve Glutting, Grant Grisak, Mike Hensler, Greg Hoffman, Rick Hunt, Laura Katzman, Rick Malta, Brian Marotz, Gary Michael, Clint Muhlfeld, Tom Ostrowski, Scott Rumsey, Pat Saffel, Scott Snelson, Tim Taylor, John Wachsmuth, Tom Weaver, **Hatcheries:** Stewart Kienow, Russ Macal, John Lord, Jim Schreiber, Brian Strohschein

Enforcement Division: Ed Kelly, Karl Brooks, Steve Andersen, Frank Bowen, Perry Brown, Mike Quinn, Chris Ralph, Jim Roberts, Rick Schoening, Mark Soderlind, Brian Sommers

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Develop a block management program to assist private landowners providing public fishing access.
- Develop or enhance family fishing opportunities in or near each population center. Work with “Crossing the Barriers” committee to provide fishing for anglers with disabilities.
- Work with counties and state agencies to cooperatively develop fishing access.
- Work with Plum Creek Timber to ensure public fishing access in Thompson and Fisher drainages and on selected lakes.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Parks Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Secure and maintain porta-potties at Thompson Chain of Lakes (TCL).

Region One – Northwestern Montana: Fishing Access

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Region Two – West Central Montana

Region Two is situated between the Idaho border and the Continental Divide. The area is dominated by 15 mountain ranges and relatively few narrow river valleys. It encompasses about 10,300 square miles of land, 1490 miles of trout streams, 170 public lakes, and numerous small reservoirs that support habitat for 17 species of sport fish. The Clark Fork River Basin is located largely within the region. Major tributaries include the ST. Regis River, Bitterroot River, Big Blackfoot River, Rock Creek, Little Blackfoot River and Warm Springs Creek. There are 55 fishing access sites and 13 Blackfoot River corridor sites in the region.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mack Long

Parks Division: Lee Bastian

Fisheries Division: Fish manager – vacant, Biologists - Rod Berg, Chris Clancy, Wayne Hadley, Ladd Knotek, Ron Pierce, Eric Reiland, Dave Schmetterling

Enforcement Division: Jeff Darrah, Lloyd Acker, Terry Althaus, Dan Burns, Jeff Campbell, Dan Curtin, Doug Dryden, Ron Jendro, Doug Johnson, Bill Koppen, Derek Schott

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Develop a formal FAS acquisition program. Acquire 12-18 new sites.
- Identify maintenance needs at existing FAS.
- Seek sites to provide angling opportunity for children and families near urban areas.
- Seek other non-departmental public access opportunities.
- Develop additional sources of funding for acquisition and maintenance, such as a non-angler use fee at fishing access sites.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Parks Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Region Two – West Central Montana: Fishing Access

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
• Develop formal FAS acquisition program that identifies governing policies, guidelines and priority areas for up to 12-18 new sites.		0.3	
• Improve FAS maintenance program using additional sources of funding.		0.1	
• Seek opportunities for public access with other governmental bodies and private landowners.		0.2	

Region Three – Southwest Montana

Region 3, in southwest Montana, includes approximately 25,000 square miles or 17.5% of the State of Montana. Within this region are six of the premier wild trout streams in the United States: Madison, Gallatin, Jefferson, Big Hole, Beaverhead, and Yellowstone rivers. In addition, it includes the upper portion of the Missouri River, the East Gallatin River, Ruby River, Shields River and many smaller salmonid streams. Approximately 55% of the region is in public ownership (headwaters streams and 200 mountain lakes) managed primarily by the U.S. Forest Service with other federal land managed by Yellowstone National Park or Bureau of Land Management. Also included within the region are approximately 20 lowland lakes and five major reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Pat Flowers

Parks Division: Jerry Walker

Fisheries Division: Regional Fish Mgr: Bruce Rich, Area Fish Biologists: Dick Oswald, Ron Spoon, Pat Byorth, Joel Tohtz, Project Biologists: Pat Clancey, Jim Magee

Enforcement Division: Jim Kropp, Mark Anderson, Mike Ottman, Coy Kline, Mike Barnett, Mick Chesterfield, Jim DeBoer, Hank Fabich, Marc Glines, Jim Heck, Pete Johnson, Mike Mehn, Jim Miller, Chad Murphy, Matt Murphy, Chris Anderson, Marty Vook, Randy Wuertz

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

****Both State and LCA PROJECTS perform program activities.**

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Assist in development of water based recreation management plans, such as current efforts on the Beaverhead and Big Hole rivers.
- Prioritize needs within the region for future FAS acquisition and/or development. Acquire and develop high priority sites.
- Work with other government agencies, non-government organizations and private individuals and landowners to provide adequate public access to regional fishery resources.
- Facilitate disposal of surplus FAS's. Act as advisor to Parks Division in development, operations and maintenance of FAS's.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Parks Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Develop, operate and maintain regional FAS sites/program.

Region Three – Southwest Montana: Fishing Access

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Region Four – North Central Montana

Region Four encompasses about 29,000 square miles in 12 counties. The region has 3700 miles of rivers and streams, including much of the Missouri River drainage. Major sub-drainages include the Dearborn, Sun, Marias, and Judith rivers, and part of the Musselshell River drainage. Public fisheries are managed in over 130 lakes/reservoirs and ponds. The region supports a large share of angling in the state, with an average of 400,000 to 500,000 angler-days logged annually.

There are currently 41 fishing access sites operated and maintained by the Department in Region 4. In addition, Region 4 personnel maintain one site in R5 (Selkirk on the upper Musselshell) and three sites in R6 (Bearpaw Lake, Faber Reservoir, and Fresno Reservoir tailwater). Most of the R4 sites (30 total) are on reservoirs and ponds.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mike Aderhold

Parks Division: Regional Manager: Dave Todd; Maintenance Supervisor: Ray Swartz; Smith River Parks Manager: Joe O'Neill; Maintenance Worker: Don Morris; also several seasonal workers.

Fisheries Division: Regional Manager: Steve Leathe; Fisheries Biologists: Steve Dalbey (Helena), Bill Gardner (Lewistown), Bill Hill (Choteau), George Liknes (Great Falls), Anne Tews (Lewistown).

Enforcement Division: Warden Captain: Terry Hill; Warden Sergeant: Gary Benson; Game Wardens: Bob Barber (Lewistown); Chuck Bartos (Great Falls); Jim Conner (Lewistown); Larry Davis (Augusta); Rod Duty (Conrad); Tom Flowers (Choteau); Bob Hammer (Stanford); Wendy Kamm (Fort Benton); Bruce Knutson (Cascade); John Lesofski (White Sulphur Springs); Brian Richards (Great Falls); Steve Vinnedge (Great Falls).

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Develop projects to improve opportunities for urban and disabled anglers, including: Wadsworth Pond (Great Falls); Old Folks ponds (Lewistown); Missouri River in Fort Benton; Pelican Point (Missouri River).
- Attempt to re-establish historic public access at Fitzpatrick Lake near Shelby.
- Assist city of Fort Benton in development of improved boating access facilities on Missouri River.
- Work with town of Valier, Great Falls Chapter Walleyes Unlimited, and the local irrigation district to develop a boating access site on Lake Frances that is functional at low water levels.
- Complete Carter Ferry acquisition and continue to work with BLM on the Marias and Sun rivers.
- Assist private landowner with dam repair work on Upper Carter Pond.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Parks Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Improvement projects have been recently completed at the following sites: Wolf Creek Bridge (Missouri River); Hruska (Big Spring Creek); Bynum Reservoir; Ackley Lake; Martinsdale Reservoir; Nilan Reservoir; Bean Lake; Pelican Point (Missouri River); and Pishkun Reservoir.
- Site improvements are scheduled for Newlan Creek Reservoir (boat ramp, parking, latrines); Martinsdale Reservoir (boat ramp, barriers, handicap parking pad); Eden Bridge (stabilization); and Bean Lake (handicap parking pad for latrine). Improvements may also occur at Big Bend (Missouri River).

- Acquire new fishing access sites in the following priority areas: Lower Big Spring Creek, upper Smith River, upper Judith River, Warm Springs Creek, lower Musselshell River, Belt Creek, and coordinate with BLM on Sun River access.
- Prepare individual site management plans for all R4 fishing access sites.
- Sites proposed for special maintenance/improvement projects include: Missouri River below Belt Creek (cooperative with PPL Montana); Craig (Missouri River); Smith River (near Fort Logan); Dearborn site (Missouri River); Sun River (near town of Sun River); Carter Ferry (Missouri River); Newlan Creek Reservoir; Arod Lakes; and Front Range reservoirs (boat docks).

Region Four – North Central Montana: Fishing Access

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need additional manpower and funding to maintain existing and new access sites in R4. Parks, new. 			

Region Five – South Central Montana

Region 5 boundaries encircle approximately 5,500 miles of perennially flowing streams and more than 300 public lakes and reservoirs containing 19 species of sport fish which support 370,000 angler days per year. Access to public waters is provided by 43 state access sites in those areas not within federal lands. Major streams include the Yellowstone River, Boulder River, Stillwater River, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, Bighorn River, and Musselshell River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Harvey Nyberg

Parks Division: Doug Haberman

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Jim Darling, Biologists - Ken Frazer, Mike Poore, Fieldworkers - Mike Vaughn, Dave Hergenrider

Enforcement Division: Dennis Hagenston, Kevin Schaal, Brandon Carpenter, Regan Dean, Bryan Golie, Kevin Holland, Kevin Nichols, Adam Ramlow, Jeff Scott, Kerry Wahl, Tom Watkins

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Partnering with the City of Bridger to maintain a site acquired from Carbon County. 2000-2001
- Encourage a cooperative agreement with Montana Department of Transportation to prevent further loss of access at right-of-ways when bridges are replaced, and to allow access at Musselshell River properties.
- Pursue Yellowstone River access development at Five-mile Creek (with YRPA spell out) and Eagle Nest Ranch near Reedpoint (with Bureau of Land Management).
- Develop recreational conflict management plans on the Stillwater and Boulder Rivers.
- Continue to pursue access at Lebo Lake and Lower Glaston Reservoir.
- Rafting outfitters help maintain Absaroka FAS. 2000-2006

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Parks Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Region Five – South Central Montana: Fishing Access

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pursue former railroad ROW along the Musselshell River which was transferred to MDT - Redirect• Work with MDT to retain traditional access at bridge crossings, especially when they are being replaced. Redirect	2000-2006 2000-2006		

Region Six – Northeast Montana

Region 6 covers approximately 22,000 square miles in northeastern Montana. The major river drainage is the Missouri River. Tributaries include the Milk River, Poplar River, and Redwater River. Fort Peck Reservoir is the largest water body in Montana, with a surface area of 240,000 acres and 1,500 miles of shoreline at full pool. Approximately 50 different fish species occupy the reservoir. Approximately 16 fish species have been introduced, mostly game fish, to enhance fishing opportunities. Other important reservoirs include Fresno and Nelson.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Jim Satterfield

Parks Division: vacant

Fisheries Division: Region Fisheries Manager - Bill Wiedenheft, Biologists – Kent Gilge, Mike Ruggles, Bruce McMorris

Enforcement Division: Sam Shepard, Mike Herman, Kelly Friede, Steve Jones, Jon Obst, Shane Reno, Chris Wright

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Complete the Culbertson Bridge FAS and identify other new sites on the lower Missouri River.
- Develop new urban fishing ponds at Havre, Malta and Glasgow.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Parks Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Complete the Culbertson Bridge FAS and develop other new sites on the lower Missouri River.

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed</u> FTE	<u>Proposed</u> Budget
• Plan and develop a new Lewis and Clark FAS on the Missouri River near Wolf Point.	2000-2006		
• Plan and develop a new Mouth of Milk FAS on the Missouri River near Fort Peck.	2000-2006		

Region Seven – Southeast Montana

Region 7 includes 12 southeastern counties with approximately 30,000 square miles of land. The region is bisected by 280 miles of the Yellowstone River. Major tributaries include the Tongue River (209 miles in R-7) and Powder River (217 miles in R-7). The Tongue River Reservoir is the only large acreage water body in the Region, comprising 3,500 acres, although there are numerous small reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Don Hyypa

Parks Division: John Little

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Brad Schmitz, Fieldworker - Vic Riggs

Enforcement Division: Bryce Christensen, Mike Moore, Randy Arnold, Jack Austin, Lennie Buhmann, Josh Doniak, Steve Marx

Fisheries Program Element: Fishing Access

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Focus on urban fishing opportunities to the extent of available resources.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.

Parks Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 52-55.
- Develop additional fishing access sites opportunistically and as funding is available.

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Fisheries Program Element Four:

AQUATIC EDUCATION

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Fisheries Program Element Four: AQUATIC EDUCATION

The Aquatic Education Program was developed to offer the public opportunities for learning about the responsible use and management of the state's fisheries, waters, and other aquatic resources. Although it sponsors a variety of educational activities, the program has two fundamental purposes: to integrate aquatic education into school curricula across the state and to promote fish conservation and the sport of fishing among both young people and adults.

The need for an aquatic education program has often been demonstrated to anglers, department staff, and fishing clubs. Over the years, a good deal of evidence suggests that some members of the public have unwittingly engaged in practices that significantly misuse or abuse the state's aquatic resources and thus threaten future recreational activities. In an effort to preserve these irreplaceable resources, the Aquatic Education Program has initiated a variety of activities designed to enhance the public understanding of the state's fisheries and water-quality issues and thereby cultivate informed, ethical behavior among those using these resources. The benefits to be derived from these educational activities include promoting a better understanding and enjoyment of Montana's aquatic environment, improved angling skills, and improving water safety.

Fisheries Program Aquatic Education Goals:

- Provide aquatic education and information about Montana's fisheries and regulations to the public.
- Develop, refine and expand family fishing opportunities.
- Educate the public about importation regulations and the problems with illegal introductions.
- Implement a native species information and education plan.
- Provide aquatic education and information about Montana's fisheries to schools and teachers.
- Conduct aquatic education and fisheries management training for FWP staff.

Desired Outcomes:

- A public (youth and adults) that is knowledgeable about and values the state's aquatic ecosystems.
- More people who know how and where to fish.
- More people who use water safety practices in their recreational activities.
- Informed public participation in decisions about using and preserving Montana's aquatic resources.
- Public support for native fish programs.

Performance Measures:

- Increasing participation in educational outreach and school programs; the number of educators and volunteer fishing instructors trained; the number of aquatic education workshops conducted; the number of fishing-tackle-loaner sites developed; and participation in the Riverwatch monitoring program.
- Increasing participation in Family Fishing Adventures.
- Production and distribution of educational materials including the *Montana Angling Youth* newsletter.
- A reduction in the number and kinds of violations cited based on the number of boaters/floaters contacted by enforcement personnel.

- Increased awareness of, and participation in, efforts to restore native species in Montana.
- Public comments received on Environmental Assessments or issues of public interest, and participation in public meetings or development of management plans.
- More fishing licenses sold.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The following goals, objectives and strategies identify the basic, core work that is conducted by FWP. Additional region-specific initiatives for Aquatic Education are included in the pages at the end of this section.

- **GOAL: Provide aquatic education and information about Montana's fisheries and regulations to the public.**

Offer courses and clinics, distribute educational materials, and maintain the presence of Fish, Wildlife & Parks employees in aquatic education activities.

Prepare a general aquatic education program for the dissemination of information on fisheries issues and regulations to the public. Provide education on ethics and pertinent issues through public programs, distribution of printed material and informative contacts. Disseminate information through the use of printed materials, programs, license agents and the media on fisheries issues. Develop aquatic education displays consistent with the goals of the Aquatic Education Program. Produce and distribute posters and brochures to inform and educate anglers on the basis and need for angling regulations. Maintain a fisheries display in regional headquarters buildings. Provide an aquatic education display at the Montana State Fair. Plan and construct interpretive kiosks for public viewing at high visibility sites.

Increase fisheries information activities for adults.

Use new tools such as FWP web site, press releases, Montana Outdoors, and other media. Utilize the FWP Watchable Wildlife Program to enhance educational opportunities for public viewing areas and provide informational signing. Maintain a list of local ponds where public access is allowed. Provide information for weekly Outdoors Fishing Report published seasonally in local newspapers. Produce weekly television fishing reports.

Conduct introductory workshops for adult angler groups with special emphasis on women, minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Work with user groups to create learning opportunities (workshops, fishing clinics, Becoming an Outdoors Women, etc.) for women, minorities and persons with disabilities. Conduct fishing fairs for all anglers. Conduct women's fishing courses. Conduct "Fishing Without Barriers" days. Provide fishing fairs.

Develop a habitat and fisheries ecology program for the general public, including non-anglers.

Develop a short course on fisheries and lake ecology for adult continuing education. Develop educational opportunities for landowners and developers on riparian management. Develop a native fish awareness program to educate the public about the value of native species, and importance of maintaining healthy and functional riparian and aquatic ecosystems. Provide a law enforcement program with special emphasis on native and resident fish protection and education.

- **GOAL: Provide aquatic education and information about Montana's fisheries to schools and teachers.**

Maintain, refine, and expand the Aquatic Education Program for teachers and schools.

Offer teacher-training workshops to in-service and pre-service teachers and supply educational materials and equipment to schools. Train educators annually at Project Aquatic Wild and Project Wet workshops. Provide public presentations in schools. Coordinate and work with teachers to implement the Lake Ecology and Riverwatch programs, and provide necessary materials. Participate in "Project Wild" workshops. Maintain and distribute aquatic educational trunks.

Produce and distribute new educational aids and programs.

Prepare new posters, brochures and activity guides. Assemble new educational trunks for aquatic education, e.g., fly-tying, the plight of the sauger, riverbank stabilization, and native species. Contract with the Boone and Crockett Club to develop an aquatic K-12 curriculum component for the Browning school district. Implement an integrated natural resources curriculum in schools through teacher workshops. Develop a lake ecology curriculum to be used by K-12 Montana educators.

- **GOAL: Develop, refine, and expand family fishing opportunities.**

Conduct youth fishing workshops and promote youth angling opportunities.

Assist private organizations and public agencies with the planning, organizing, promoting, and facilitation of youth fishing workshops. Contract with the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) to conduct fly fishing workshops and clinics. Coordinate youth education programs in local schools using trained volunteer instructors. Recruit and train volunteer fishing instructors. Recruit and train new schools for participation in the "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" program (HOFNOD). Cooperate with local fishing groups to sponsor clinics, family fishing days and other special events. Identify and develop kids and family fishing opportunities in proximity to urban areas. Promote the FWP free fishing day program. Promote urban fishing opportunities for youth and families.

Prepare and distribute the *Montana Angling Youth* newsletter three times a year for pre-school through third-grade children.

Present topics such as fish identification, fishing techniques, water safety, fishing regulations, and other topics related to fish and aquatic ecosystems. Write or contract for articles. Promote the "MAY Club" program and maintain a mailing list. Distribute newsletter at general aquatic presentations.

Develop new fishing tackle loaner sites and support existing sites.

Establish new loaner sites in conjunction with new HOFNOD schools/communities. Equip and promote sites.

- **GOAL: Educate the public about importation regulations and the problems with illegal introductions.**

Collect data and develop a public awareness campaign.

Maintain an illegal introduction database to include new findings and documentation. Develop a video, public service announcements and news releases detailing the extent and impacts of illegal introductions. Work with major angling groups, local clubs and service organizations to increase knowledge. Provide the Enforcement Division with information to facilitate increased deterrence and detection. Post signs at FAS to inform the public of problems with introduction of exotics.

- **GOAL: Implement a native species information and education plan.**

Educate and generate support for Montana's native fish species and species assemblages.

Prepare a native species information and education plan that can be implemented statewide. Educate the public about species of special concern. Foster appreciation for, attach value to, and gain public support for the protection and enhancement of Montana's native fish species.

- **GOAL: Conduct aquatic education and fisheries management training for FWP staff.**

Educate FWP staff to participate in public education programs and to maintain professional skills.

Helena staff conducts one aquatic education and fisheries management training for FWP field staff annually. Invite personnel from other divisions to accompany fisheries crew during sampling outings. Provide professional fisheries management training opportunities to fisheries field staff.

Statewide Programs & Coordination

Each of the seven administrative regions is responsible for management of the fisheries and aquatic resources within their geographic areas. The fisheries program is coordinated by the centralized staff in Helena, although some staff is based out of Bozeman and Kalispell. Centralized staff provides program support (budgeting, legislature, personnel, legal, etc.) to the regions and is responsible for managing a number of program initiatives directly.

Fisheries Program Staff:

Conservation Education Division: Ron Aasheim, Tom Palmer, Dave Hagengruber

Fisheries Division: Larry Peterman, Ron Aasheim, Chris Hunter, Tim Gallagher, Dorothy Lindsay, Karen Dimmitt, Janet Hess-Herbert

Enforcement Division: Beate Galda, Mark Earnhardt, John Ramsey

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Administration, budget management.
- Aquatic education coordination.

Conservation Education Division

- Aquatic education coordination.
- Assemble and disribute new aquatic education trunks addressing such issues as sauger, riverbank stabilization, fly-tying, etc.

Enforcement Division

- Provide programmatic support.

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Region One – Northwestern Montana

Region One covers 11,200 square miles of land that includes 2700 miles of fishable streams and 450 fishable lakes. Flathead Lake is the largest natural lake in the western United States, covering 125,000 acres. Streams range from small headwaters to several large river systems, including Flathead River, Kootenai River, and the lower end of the Clark Fork River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Dan Vincent

Conservation Education Division: John Fraley

Fisheries Division: Jim Vashro, Gary Anderson, Jon Cavigli, Mark Deleray, Jay DeShazer, Larry Garrow, Steve Glutting, Grant Grisak, Mike Hensler, Greg Hoffman, Rick Hunt, Laura Katzman, Rick Malta, Brian Marotz, Gary Michael, Clint Muhlfeld, Tom Ostrowski, Scott Rumsey, Pat Saffel, Scott Snelson, Tim Taylor, John Wachsmuth, Tom Weaver, **Hatcheries:** Stewart Kienow, Russ Macal, John Lord, Jim Schreiber, Brian Strohschein

Enforcement Division: Ed Kelly, Karl Brooks, Steve Andersen, Frank Bowen, Perry Brown, Mike Quinn, Chris Ralph, Jim Roberts, Rick Schoening, Mark Soderlind, Brian Sommers

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Manage the “Hooked on Fishing” program in local schools.
- Develop interpretive trail and fish viewing sites at Sekokini Springs.
- Develop native fish education and enforcement program for Lower Clark Fork.
- Maintain statewide illegal fish introduction database.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.

Region One – Northwestern Montana: Aquatic Education

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>
Libby Dam Mitigation	ongoing
Hungry Horse Dam Mitigation	ongoing
BPA Kootenai Focus Watershed	ongoing
AVISTA Hydro Projects, Genetic Testing	ongoing

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

Region Two – West Central Montana

Region Two is situated between the Idaho border and the Continental Divide. The area is dominated by 15 mountain ranges and relatively few narrow river valleys. It encompasses about 10,300 square miles of land, 1490 miles of trout streams, 170 public lakes, and numerous small reservoirs that support habitat for 17 species of sport fish. The Clark Fork River Basin is located largely within the region. Major tributaries include the ST. Regis River, Bitterroot River, Big Blackfoot River, Rock Creek, Little Blackfoot River and Warm Springs Creek. There are 55 fishing access sites and 13 Blackfoot River corridor sites in the region.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mack Long

Conservation Education Division: Bill Thomas

Fisheries Division: Fish manager – vacant, Biologists - Rod Berg, Chris Clancy, Wayne Hadley, Ladd Knotek, Ron Pierce, Dave Schmetterling

Enforcement Division: Jeff Darrah, Lloyd Acker, Terry Althaus, Dan Burns, Jeff Campbell, Dan Curtin, Doug Dryden, Ron Jendro, Doug Johnson, Bill Koppen, Derek Schott

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Develop programs to encourage kids/family fishing opportunities.
- Integrate aquatic education into school curricula
- Educate and communicate with local sporting, civic, and conservation groups.
- Develop a guide to local fishing opportunities for youth anglers.
- Lead field tours for the public and resource professionals to illustrate aquatic habitat problems and the benefits of various restoration activities.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Encouraging school participation in the 'Hooked On Fishing Not on Drugs' program and Project WET.
- Recruit and train volunteer fishing instructors.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.

Region Two – West Central Montana: Aquatic Education

<u>Proposed Activities:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>
(specify new vs. redirect and Division)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide professional presentations regarding regional fisheries issues and information to various interest groups.• Identify and develop kids/family fishing opportunities near urban areas.• Recruit and train volunteer fishing instructors.• Develop a guide for local fishing opportunities for youth anglers.• Encourage participation by schools in various aquatic education programs.	

Region Three – Southwest Montana

Region 3, in southwest Montana, includes approximately 25,000 square miles or 17.5% of the State of Montana. Within this region are six of the premier wild trout streams in the United States: Madison, Gallatin, Jefferson, Big Hole, Beaverhead, and Yellowstone rivers. In addition, it includes the upper portion of the Missouri River, the East Gallatin River, Ruby River, Shields River and many smaller salmonid streams. Approximately 55% of the region is in public ownership (headwaters streams and 200 mountain lakes) managed primarily by the U.S. Forest Service with other federal land managed by Yellowstone National Park or Bureau of Land Management. Also included within the region are approximately 20 lowland lakes and five major reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Pat Flowers

Conservation Education: Bernie Kuntz

Fisheries Division: Regional Fish Mgr: Bruce Rich, Area Fish Biologists: Dick Oswald, Ron Spoon, Pat Byorth, Joel Tohtz, Project Biologists: Pat Clancey, Jim Magee

Enforcement Division: Jim Kropp, Mark Anderson, Mike Ottman, Coy Kline, Mike Barnett, Mick Chesterfield, Jim DeBoer, Hank Fabich, Marc Glines, Jim Heck, Pete Johnson, Mike Mehn, Jim Miller, Chad Murphy, Matt Murphy, Chris Anderson, Marty Vook, Randy Wuertz

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

****Both State and LCA PROJECTS perform program activities.**

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Enhance opportunities/availability of traditional river/stream and lake/reservoir fishery resources for family fishing.
- Expand the “Get Hooked on Fishing (not drugs)” program in the public schools.
- Participate in Kids Fishing Day programs and provide aquatic educational programs to school classes, teacher and/or outdoor workshops, and as opportunities arise.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.

Regions Three – Southwest Montana: Aquatic Education

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase involvement in Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs Program in one or more school districts in the region. Fisheries, redirect.			

Region Four – North Central Montana

Region Four encompasses about 29,000 square miles in 12 counties. The region has 3700 miles of rivers and streams, including much of the Missouri River drainage. Major sub-drainages include the Dearborn, Sun, Marias, and Judith rivers, and part of the Musselshell River drainage. Public fisheries are managed in over 130 lakes/reservoirs and ponds. The region supports a large share of angling in the state, with an average of 400,000 to 500,000 angler-days logged annually.

Approximately 150,000 people (nearly 20% of the states' population) reside in Region 4. There is one conservation education specialist who also has responsibilities in the Wildlife and Parks programs. Regional fisheries staff, enforcement staff, and the angler education coordinator (from Helena) assist when possible, but the availability of regional personnel for aquatic education tasks is limited by the demands of other fisheries program activities.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Mike Aderhold

Conservation Education Division: Bruce Auchly.

Fisheries Division: Regional Manager: Steve Leathe; Fisheries Biologists: Steve Dalbey (Helena), Bill Gardner (Lewistown), Bill Hill (Choteau), George Liknes (Great Falls), Anne Tews (Lewistown); Fisheries Technicians: Paul Hamlin (Great Falls), Troy Humphrey (Helena), Randy Rodencal (Lewistown), Kelly Smith (Choteau), and other seasonal and temporary technicians.

Enforcement Division: Warden Captain: Terry Hill; Warden Sergeant: Gary Benson; Game Wardens: Bob Barber (Lewistown); Chuck Bartos (Great Falls); Jim Conner (Lewistown); Larry Davis (Augusta); Rod Duty (Conrad); Tom Flowers (Choteau); Bob Hammer (Stanford); Wendy Kamm (Fort Benton); Bruce Knutson (Cascade); John Lesofski (White Sulphur Springs); Brian Richards (Great Falls); Steve Vinnedge (Great Falls).

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Implement the "Hooked on Fishing" program in local schools.
- Coordinate expansion of urban fishing opportunities. Investigate ways to enhance urban fishing opportunities in the Great Falls area (Wadsworth Pond & Missouri River); Lewistown area (Old Folks ponds); Fort Benton (Missouri River), Shelby (Lake Shel-oole), and other areas as opportunities arise.
- Continue to work with Aquatic Education Coordinator, schools, sporting groups, and civic organizations to conduct youth fishing workshops, recruit and train fishing and aquatic science instructors, and recruit schools for Hooked on Fishing program.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Emphasize educational efforts to prevent illegal fish introductions.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Focus on illegal activities (over limits, safety violations, trespass, no wake violations, illegal camping, illegal bait, outfitting and guiding) at Holter Reservoir and downstream.

Region Four – North Central Montana: Aquatic Education

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply all R4 area offices with “loaner” fishing tackle. • Assemble an educational fly-tying trunk with assistance from Missouri River Flyfishers Club. • Update/renovate fisheries and enforcement displays at the Great Falls headquarters building and construct similar displays at R4 Area offices if space and funding allows. 			

Region Five – South Central Montana

Region 5 boundaries encircle approximately 5,500 miles of perennially flowing streams and more than 300 public lakes and reservoirs containing 19 species of sport fish which support 370,000 angler days per year. Access to public waters is provided by 43 state access sites in those areas not within federal lands. Major streams include the Yellowstone River, Boulder River, Stillwater River, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, Bighorn River, and Musselshell River.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Harvey Nyberg

Conservation Education Division: Bill Pryor

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Jim Darling, Biologists - Ken Frazer, Mike Poore, Fieldworkers - Mike Vaughn, Dave Hergenrider

Enforcement Division: Dennis Hagenston, Kevin Schaal, Brandon Carpenter, Regan Dean, Bryan Golie, Kevin Holland, Kevin Nichols, Adam Ramlow, Jeff Scott, Kerry Wahl, Tom Watkins

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Work with the YMCA at their youth fishing day at Lake Josephine, and with the Billings Gazette at their Lake Elmo event.
- Invite groups to participate in fish sampling at Lake Elmo, Butcher Creek, etc. Supporting redd counts on the Bighorn River by local high schools.
- Maintain databases on mountain lake and local pond fisheries.
- Implement the "Hooked on Fishing" program in local schools.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Continue educational tours of the headquarters and Lake Elmo facilities, including promoting the May Club.
- Promote using loaner rods and reels at the headquarters and area schools.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.

Region Five – South Central Montana: Aquatic Education

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	Schedule (year/s)	Proposed FTE	Proposed Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help YRPA develop an outdoor aquatic education complex near Riverfront Park - Redirect	2000-2006		

Region Six – Northeast Montana

Region 6 covers approximately 22,000 square miles in northeastern Montana. The major river drainage is the Missouri River. Tributaries include the Milk River, Poplar River, and Redwater River. Fort Peck Reservoir is the largest water body in Montana, with a surface area of 240,000 acres and 1,500 miles of shoreline at full pool. Approximately 50 different fish species occupy the reservoir. Approximately 16 fish species have been introduced, mostly game fish, to enhance fishing opportunities. Other important reservoirs include Fresno and Nelson.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Jim Satterfield

Conservation Education: Todd Glaser

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Bill Wiedenheft, Biologists - Kent Gilge, Mike Ruggles, Bruce McMorris

Enforcement Division: Sam Shepard, Mike Herman, Kelly Friede, Steve Jones, Jon Obst, Shane Reno, Chris Wright

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Provide information to local media on status of Missouri River paddlefish and pallid sturgeon populations.
- Conduct kids' fishing clinics near Havre, Malta, Glasgow and other Highline communities.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Work with Fisheries Division to conduct kid's fishing clinics near Havre, Malta, Glasgow, and other Highline communities.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Field wardens will conduct or assist with kids fishing clinics.

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed</u> FTE	<u>Proposed</u> Budget

Region Seven – Southeast Montana

Region 7 includes 12 southeastern counties with approximately 30,000 square miles of land. The region is bisected by 280 miles of the Yellowstone River. Major tributaries include the Tongue River (209 miles in R-7) and Powder River (217 miles in R-7). The Tongue River Reservoir is the only large acreage water body in the Region, comprising 3,500 acres, although there are numerous small reservoirs.

Fisheries Program Staff: Regional Supervisor – Don Hyypa

Fisheries Division: Fisheries Manager - Brad Schmitz, Fieldworker - Vic Riggs

Enforcement Division: Bryce Christensen, Mike Moore, Randy Arnold, Jack Austin, Lennie Buhmann, Josh Doniak, Steve Marx

Fisheries Program Element: Aquatic Education

Date: 11/1/00

Program Activities

Fisheries Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Implement the “Hooked on Fishing” program in local schools.
- Participate as available in promoting kids fishing days.

Conservation Education Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.
- Work with the R6/7 Information Officer to promote fisheries issues in southeastern Montana. Focus attention on management of Yellowstone River fisheries such as paddlefish, native species recovery, habitat degradation and environmental awareness.
- Dave Hagengruber will assist with kids fishing clinics.

Enforcement Division

- Implement Fisheries Program activities. Pages 74-76.

<u>LCA Projects:</u>	<u>Schedule (year/s)</u>

<u>Proposed Activities:</u> (specify new vs. redirect and Division)	<u>Schedule</u> (year/s)	<u>Proposed FTE</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>

