

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Fisheries Division
Job Progress Report

State: Montana Project Title: Statewide Fisheries Investigations
Project No: F-46-R-3 Study Title: Survey and Inventory of Cold Water Streams
Job No: I-C Job Title: Upper Clark Fork River Study
Project Period: July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990

1. Maintain instream flows at present conditions.

Progress on this objective was achieved through perusal of the Clark Fork Instream Flow Reservation.

2. Determine why trout numbers are low and why the juvenile segment is absent from the trout population.

Studies on reproductive sites and redd locations were carried out in fall, 1989. Spring work on fry emergence and downstream movement was done in spring, 1990. Results of these investigations are unavailable.

3. Use data collected in fish population studies and studies by other agencies to direct clean-up efforts for maximum benefits to the river fishery.

This objective was the focus of intensive efforts in 1989-90. Berming of tailings deposits from Warm Springs to Deer Lodge was completed early in 1990. This effort to reduce thunderstorm-washed metals from entering the river and causing fish kills was initiated by ARCO. No fish kills have been documented in 1990.

Accelerated cleanup of the Mill-Willow Bypass, a significant contributor to previous fish kills, began in July 1990 and is scheduled for completion in November, 1990. Complete renovation of the Warm Springs Ponds system is scheduled for 1991.

Treatment of tailings deposits adjacent to the river was begun along a 2-mile segment of the river in June, 1990. Funds for this project were provided by ARCO to the State of Montana and administered by the Governor's office. Completion is anticipated in September, 1990.

4. Work with other agencies to see that data are collected which will supplement fisheries data.

As in 1988-89 data collection with ARCO consultants has continued throughout the reporting period. In addition, planning for expanded USFWS involvement in Clark Fork studies was begun. USFWS studies are expected to begin in 1990. Expanded interaction with USEPA and MT Department of Health and Environmental Sciences was a prominent activity in 1989-90.

5. Develop citizen participation in river cleanup.

Formal paper presentations on Clark Fork fisheries topics were made at two scientific meetings. Speaking opportunities were fulfilled with schools, civic groups and sportsmen's clubs. Media attention and coverage of Clark Fork topics has been intensive during 1989-90.

Prepared by Wayne F. Hadley
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