

STATE Montana
PROJECT F-1-C-4
DATE September 7, 1954

COORDINATION PROGRESS REPORT

FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION ACT

MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Period: August 1, 1954 to August 31, 1954

1. Title of Project: Coordination
2. Supervisor: A. A. O'Claire, State Fish and Game Warden
3. Personnel: Walter M. Allen, Coordinator
Charles K. Phenicie, Assistant Coordinator

Report of Progress

F-1-C-4 Coordination

General:

Eleven days chargeable to Federal Aid Coordination were spent in the Helena office on routine office work which included assistance in the preparation of two development project documents, one for the Marias River drainage rehabilitation and one for Harpers Lake rehabilitation.

Meetings:

None.

Field Trips:

One day was taken this month to return from the Two Medicine River area from the field trip in that area which terminated last month. A twelve day trip was made with William L. Peck, Assistant Regional Supervisor, Federal Aid Branch, covering the federal aid projects of the state.

F-4-R-4 Statewide Creel Census

Inactive during this period.

F-5-R-4 Central Montana Fishery Study

The Marias River survey work was continued during August. Kipp Lake and other waters were surveyed. A meeting of the Assistant Federal Aid Supervisor, William Peck, Montana's Superintendent of Fisheries, Montana's Chief Fishery Management Biologist and field personnel was held at Two Medicine concerning the possible rehabilitation of the Marias River drainage above Fiber Dam. A Preliminary Project statement for this development project was prepared as well as P&S for the Kipp Lake-Cut Bank Creek segment.

F-7-R-4 Northwestern Montana Fishery Study

Nine stations were sampled in Pinkham Creek by the electric shock method as has been done in the past four years.

Most of the time was spent on the North Fork of the Flathead River and tributaries where stream fish populations were checked by the electric shock method. Twenty Dolly Varden and twenty-nine cutthroat trout were tagged. The Dolly Varden trout are appearing in the smaller stream on their spawning beds. The largest one tagged weighed twelve pounds. Some time was spent on Flathead River above the lake scouting for a proper location and placing the wire fyke net. Some time was spent placing a trap in Coal Creek in order to catch Dolly Varden trout but no fish were caught. The streams in the area were at their lowest for the season but began rising at the end of the month due to heavy rains.

This work was accomplished with the help of Don Black, John Echo, Gale Thompson and B. McGinly.

The project leader was on sick leave for four days.

F-8-R-4 Trout Disease and Nutrition Study

Two days of office correspondence and filing publications were spent on the trout disease and nutrition library and hatchery manual.

F-9-R-3 Southwestern Montana Fishery Study

Most of this month was spent on investigations. The major tributaries of the Gallatin River drainage were inventoried by the electrical census method. One shocking trip was made to the Western District where one section was shocked in the Wise River. Ling (*Lota lota maculosa*) were common in the upper reaches of the Wise River. Several days were spent in aerial survey of the contemplated Marias River rehabilitation program. Two mountain lakes were checked.

For the Utah chub study in Hebgen Lake, seining was done for chub fry in order to determine their distribution around the lake shore. They were found to be extensively distributed along protected shorelines. The heaviest concentrations were found to be in the upper arms on the lake where extensive shoal areas are present.

F-10-R-3 Classification of Public Lands

Public land classification was completed in Cascade and Meagher Counties during this period.

F-11-R-2 Northeastern Montana Fishery Study

Ponds in the southeastern part of the district were inspected during the first part of the month in the company of L. M. Moos, Soil Conservation Service Biologist and SCS personnel. Ponds were very low at this time as a result of extremely hot weather and no rainfall. (Rainfall and run-off during the latter

part of the month were reported to have helped considerably.)

One day was spent checking commercial fishing operations at the mouth of the Musselshell River on Fort Peck Reservoir.

Two full days were spent with William Peck and C. K. Phenicie in an inspection trip over the project area. A meeting of the fisheries personnel was attended at Two Medicine; rehabilitation of Marias drainage was discussed after a flight over the area.

A meeting on the reconstruction of Carrol Dam was attended in Plentywood and the dam-site was inspected. It has been requested that reconstruction of the reservoir as a fishing site be considered by the Department.

Ponds in the vicinity of Glendive were inspected. The reservoir at Lindsay has silted in some five feet during the past year.

F-12-R-1 Western Montana Fisheries Study

Survey work in the project area consisted of: mapping, sounding, and netting on Harper's Lake; creel census on lakes Placid, Alva and Inez; and stream survey on Upper Bear Creek, near Garnet. Two days were spent helping the F-13-R crew shock sections of the Flint Creek test area, and one day helping the F-10-R survey crew move their equipment to the Central District. A meeting of the management personnel was attended at Two Medicine, to consider the rehabilitation of the Marias drainage above Tiber Dam. In addition to routine office work, several days were spent writing a development project for the rehabilitation of Harper's Lake.

F-13-R-1 Test Stream Study

Installation of the lower fish barrier was completed and cable bridges are being added to all present barriers. Access paths and roads along the test stream were further improved to facilitate shocking activities.

The lower one-half mile of the test stream was shocked and all cut-throat and rainbow trout over 6.0 inches, total length, were jaw-tagged. Whitefish, eastern brook trout and other trout 6.0 inches or less in total length were removed from the stream and replaced by an equal poundage (158 pounds) of tagged rainbow trout from the Anaconda hatchery. Sample sections were shocked in both the upper and lower one-half mile sections following planting of hatchery fish.

Submitted by,

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MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

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