

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
FISHERIES DIVISION**

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

State:	<u>MONTANA</u>	Element 1:	<u>FISHERIES MANAGEMENT</u>
Project No:	<u>F-78-R-2</u>	Job No:	<u>35510</u>
Project	<u>STATEWIDE FISHERIES</u>	Job Title:	<u>CUSTER CUTTHROAT GENETICS - FS</u>
Title:	<u>MANAGEMENT PROGRAM</u>		

Project Period: July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996

OBJECTIVES AND DEGREE OF ATTAINMENT

Activity 1 - Survey and Inventory

Objective: To survey and monitor the characteristics and trends of fish populations, angler harvest and preferences, and to assess habitat conditions in selected waters.

This project was a 50:50 challenge cost share agreement with the Custer National Forest to collect and analyze samples toward identifying purestrain Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations. During the report period, samples from five populations were sent in for analysis. Three populations were confirmed as pure Yellowstone cutthroat, and two populations were hybridized to some degree.

Activity 2 - Fish Population Management

Objective: To implement fish stocking programs and/or fish eradication actions to maintain fish populations at levels consistent with habitat conditions and other limiting factors.

No actions completed or planned.

Activity 3 - Technical Guidance

Objective: To review projects by government agencies and private parties which have the potential to affect fisheries resources; provide technical advice or decisions to mitigate effects on these resources; and provide landowners and other private parties with technical advice and information to sustain and enhance fisheries resources.

We reviewed and commented upon several projects which had the potential to adversely impact identified pure cutthroat populations.

Activity 4 - Aquatic Education

Objective: To enhance the public's understanding, awareness and support of the state's fishery and aquatic resources and to assist young people to develop angling skills and to appreciate the aquatic environment.

We provided information for the media, sports clubs and the Fishing Log Newsletter concerning the need for more restrictive regulations intended to protect cutthroat trout. We also reported on the status of various cutthroat distribution surveys, and identification and enhancement projects.

SUMMARY

We progressed in all objectives except Fish Population Management which was not applicable to this job.

FINAL BUDGET STATUS

<u>Amount Budgeted</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u>	<u>Balance of Funds</u>
\$ 4,550.00	\$ 2,568.00	\$ 1,982.53

Regional Supervisor

R. Ellis

9/6/96