

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

**JOB PROGRESS REPORT**

<b>State:</b>	<u>MONTANA</u>	<b>Element 1:</b>	<u>FISHERIES MANAGEMENT</u>
<b>Project No:</b>	<u>F-78-R-2</u>	<b>Job No:</b>	<u>35511</u>
<b>Project</b>	<u>STATEWIDE FISHERIES</u>	<b>Job Title:</b>	<u>MOUNTAIN LAKES SURVEY</u>
<b>Title:</b>	<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.

From July 18, 1995 to September 4, 1995 we collected creel and angler use information from anglers using East and West Rosebud and Emerald Lakes. This cooperative study between the USFS and FWP was conducted to determine whether DeSmet rainbow trout planted since 1990 were returning to the creel and to collect angler attitudes about the fishery. Another part of this study was to monitor Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness angler use at main trailheads into these two drainages.

Information was also gathered about differences in the invertebrate and plankton communities and water chemistry between two high elevation lakes with fish and one fishless lake.

**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.

We have stocked East and West Rosebud and Emerald Lakes annually for many years with a variety of trout species. This study was undertaken to help evaluate present management direction, return of stocked fish to the creel, and angler satisfaction with the fisheries.

**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.

No actions completed or planned.

**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.

Our creel clerk contacted many anglers answering questions about the area's fishing opportunities, fish resources, fishing regulations and current management.

**SUMMARY**

We progressed in all objectives except Technical Guidance which was not applicable to this job.

**FINAL BUDGET STATUS**

<b><u>Amount Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Spent</u></b>	<b><u>Balance of Funds</u></b>
\$ 4,081.00	\$ 3,433.48	\$ 647.52

Regional Supervisor

*R. Elmer*

*9/6/96*