

STATE: MONTANA
GRANT TITLE: Montana Fisheries Program
GRANT NUMBER: F - 113 – R7 (SFY2007)

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

II. OBJECTIVE

To preserve, maintain, and enhance all aquatic species and their ecosystems to meet the public's demand for recreational opportunities and stewardship of aquatic wildlife.

III. EXPECTED BENEFITS

See expected benefit details included with each project listed under the APPROACH section.

IV. APPROACH

PROJECT 1. SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES

A survey and inventory program evaluation for activities conducted from 2000 through 2005 is provided as *Appendix A*. This evaluation identifies all water bodies inventoried. This comprehensive list of waters is also applicable to surveys and inventories that will be conducted during the period 2007-2012. These activities are categorically excluded under NEPA.

ACTIVITY 1: REGION SURVEY ACTIVITIES

Surveys and inventories are needed to provide information that will be used for managing the fisheries program on an annual basis. Three types of surveys are conducted: population surveys/inventories, habitat surveys/inventories, and harvest/angler pressure surveys. The information is used for:

- evaluating the effectiveness of fishing regulations, habitat improvements, and fish stocking programs;
- developing and supporting recommendations on fishing regulations and seasons;
- evaluating conflicting management or resource development proposals; and
- developing strategies for maintaining and managing fisheries habitat and populations.

Goals

- A. To survey and monitor the characteristics, status and trends of fish populations and angler use and harvest in selected streams and lakes.
- B. To annually assess and monitor habitat conditions in selected waters.
- C. To identify opportunities to improve aquatic habitats along with native and sport fish production.

S&I Summary Report

Include:

- Whether the stated objectives have been met or how the work is progressing toward accomplishment of the objectives. Explain any deviations.
- A summary of the work completed as identified in the Project Statement of Grant Agreement.
- Location of the work performed.
- The costs incurred.

Table 1. Estimated Frequency of Survey and Inventory Activities by Region – FY07

Region, Project Manager	Region 1 Jim Vashro		Region 2 Saffel		Pat	Region 3 Bruce Rich		Region 4 Vacant		Region 5 Jim Darling		Region 6 Bill Wiedenheft		Region 7 Brad Schmitz		Total	
	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	
# of Population Estimates, Inventories and Surveys																	
Rivers	5		5		9		8		8		2		3		40		
Streams	12		60		38		20		20		4		20		169		
Lakes/Reservoirs/Ponds	15		10		17		35		50		35		30		192		
# of Spawning Surveys																	
Streams/Lakes/Reservoirs	20		15		18		15		20		3		2		83		
Streams (fry survival and/or recruitment)	25		3		8		2		0		1		1		40		
Habitat Monitoring																	
Limnology	8		5		1		20		1		0		0		35		
Stream bank habitat	3		10		0		2		1		1		0		17		
Substrate	10		5		0		0		0		0		0		15		
Stream flow	3		10		8		5		1		3		5		35		
Angler Data Collection																	
Creel surveys/Contests	1		1		2		10		1		2		2		19		
Mail surveys, Angler logs, Phone surveys	1		1		2		2		0		1		1		8		

ACTIVITY 2. STATEWIDE ANGLER SURVEYS

Fisheries are a renewable and publicly owned natural resource. Fish populations are dynamic, responding continually to the environment and human factors. Reliable estimates of the demand for, availability, and utilization of fishery resources are necessary for proper management. An accurate statistical assessment of data, proper design of studies and surveys, and a valid measurement of fish populations is essential in setting seasons and properly managing Montana's fishery resource.

Goals

- A. To monitor angler use and distribution, annual harvest rates, and angler opinions.
- B. To develop and manage fisheries data systems for the Fisheries Division, and conduct surveys of angler use, angler preference, and economic valuation of Montana's fisheries resources.

PROJECT 2. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

Technical guidance activities are categorically exempt under NEPA (See *APPENDIX D*).

ACTIVITY 1. REGION ACTIVITIES

Technical guidance is required to ensure that aquatic resources including fisheries habitat and fish populations are given appropriate consideration in land management decisions. Technical guidance is provided for:

- development and planning of other agency programs;
- landowners and other agencies to inform them of methods and procedures that can be implemented to protect and enhance aquatic resources;
- other agencies and landowners to assist them in recognizing the importance and role of all aquatic species in sustaining quality aquatic resources;
- public education of the importance of habitat protection and habitat improvement activities in maintaining quality aquatic resources;
- statewide coordination and consultation to ensure consistency in fisheries management decisions and recommendations.

Goals

- A. Review projects by government agencies that have the potential to affect fisheries resources, and provide technical advice and decisions to mitigate effects on these resources.
- B. Provide landowners and other private parties with technical advice and information to sustain and enhance fisheries resources.

ACTIVITY 2. HABITAT PROTECTION COORDINATION

Protection of aquatic habitats is one of the highest priorities of the state's fisheries program. Protection of aquatic habitats is necessary to sustain the state's wild trout program, maintain high-quality fish populations, and sustain the integrity and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems.

There is a need to provide centralized statewide coordination of activities that address these needs.

Goal

- A. To coordinate the habitat protection program and assure effective implementation of applicable state and federal laws in order to minimize development impacts on aquatic resources statewide.

Technical Guidance Summary Report

Include:

- A description of the progress made toward accomplishing the stated objectives and explain any deviations from the stated objectives.
- A summary of TG efforts including the numbers of projects reviewed, numbers of contacts made, recipients of the guidance, and where known, the results or benefits to fish.

Table 2. Estimated Frequency of Technical Guidance Activities by Region – FY07

Region, Manager	Project	Region 1		Region 2		Pat	Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6		Region 7		Total	
		Jim Vashro		Saffel			Bruce Rich		Vacant		Jim Darling		Bill Wiedenheft		Brad Schmitz			
		Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	
Reviews, Comments and Recommendations for Other Agency Projects																		
Stream Protection Act project reviews:																		
Region reviews	100		70		30		45		20		20		20			305		
Helena-based reviews (Activity 2)																100		
"310" project reviews	275		350		350		150		175		40		30			1,370		
Review other agency projects (NEPA, MEPA, timber sales, subdivisions, etc.)	160		50		20		20		70		20		15			355		
Review private pond permit applications and prepare associated documents for approval/denial	80		40		30		30		30		15		15			240		
Technical Advice to Private Parties and Landowners																		
Habitat, aquaculture, private ponds, etc.	185		80		80		150		60		30		35			620		
Technical Assistance for Youth and/or Public Education Programs																		
Kids Fishing Days, school programs, clubs, news releases, workshops, etc.	80		80		80		80		30		50		35			435		

PROJECT 3. FISH POPULATION MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY 1. REGION ACTIVITIES

Fish population management is needed to:

- provide an opportunity to restore and enhance native fish populations in selected waters;
- establish viable sport fishing opportunities in waters where natural reproduction is limited or nonexistent; and
- provide diverse and abundant angling opportunities.

Goal

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

Population Management Summary Report

Report must include:

- A comparison of accomplishments to the Project Statement. Explain the reason for any differences.
- A summary of work completed, including species, numbers and locations of fish translocated.
- The costs incurred.

Table 3. Estimated Frequency of Fish Population Management Activities by Region – FY07

Region, Project Manager	Region 1 Jim Vashro		Region 2 Pat Saffel		Region 3 Bruce Rich		Region 4 Vacant		Region 5 Darling		Jim Wiedenheft		Bill Brad Schmitz		Region 7 Total	
	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual	Est.	Actual
Fish Stocking																
Cold water lakes and reservoirs	160		55		45		85		30		52		55		482	
Warm water lakes and reservoirs	0		1		1		20		5		20		25		72	
Streams	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
Fish Transferred																
Fish relocations to new waterbody	2		1		1		2		1		5		5		17	
Fish Eradicated and Restocked *																
Lakes, ponds or reservoirs where fish are removed and/or restocked under this grant	1		0		0		2		1		1		2		7	
* Note: This grant covers chemical eradication of fish in lakes, ponds and reservoirs only. Funding for chemical treatment of streams is not included.																