

Annual Progress Report

State: Montana

Project Title: Statewide Fisheries Investigations

Project No.: F-46-R-1

Study Title: Statewide Surveys and Inventories

Job No.: VI-C

Job Title: Assessing the Value and Quality of Fishing and Hunting in Montana

Project Period: July 1, 1987, through June 30, 1988

Objectives:

To develop economic values for sport fishing and hunting in Montana and assess the factors contributing to the quality of cold and warm water fishing and hunting (big game and birds). This information will be used in federal, state, and department level planning.

The following details the work that was scheduled to be completed during FY88. Any changes to the Work Plan for 1988 are detailed in the variance section.

1) Develop coldwater lake use and preference survey to estimate NEVs for these waters using the Contingent Valuation Method and assess the attitudes/preferences of lake fishermen.

2) Develop a use and preference survey of deer hunters.

The lake survey is in final draft form. The deer survey is being reviewed due to interest in assessing management questions concerning mule deer vs. white-tailed deer. See variance section.

Finalize and publish the initial results from the first surveys.

The results of the initial two-year study have been published in four (4) reports:

The Net Economic Value of Fishing in Montana
The Net Economic Value of Deer Hunting in Montana
The Net Economic Value of Elk Hunting in Montana
The Net Economic Value of Antelope Hunting in Montana

Conduct workshops for Federal agency personnel, DFWP administrators, supervisors, and field personnel presenting the results and explaining how this information can be utilized.

The results were presented to USFS, BLM, state agency personnel, and DFWP personnel April 6 and 7, 1988, at a workshop held in Bozeman.

Variances

The coldwater use and preference survey was scheduled to be conducted during the spring of 1988. Due to the fact the Fisheries Survey, a statewide pressure survey administered by the Information Services branch of the Fisheries Division, was cancelled, our user mailing list was two years old. To minimize bias, names and addresses are being collected during May through August on the targeted lakes to provide a current sample of users. The survey will be conducted in September 1988.

The deer use and preference will be administered immediately following the 1988 general hunting season. This survey was scheduled to be sent out during late March of 1988. Due to concerns about the management section as well as recall bias if it was conducted four months after the hunting season, the decision was made to move it forward.