

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
FISHERIES DIVISION

## JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Montana TITLE: Northwestern Montana Reservoir  
Investigations

PROJECT NO: F-34-R-10 TITLE: Noxon Rapids-Cabinet Gorge  
Reservoirs Study

JOB NO: IA

PERIOD COVERED: 1 July 1975 through 30 June 1976

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this job were to determine trends in each reservoir's fish population, determine management needs for Triangle and Deep Ponds and reduce or eliminate drawdown of Noxon Rapids Reservoir for flood control Storage.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Triangle Pond was gill net sampled and found to contain a good population of fluvial westslope cutthroat trout (Salmo clarki subsp.). Internal examination of fish caught in spring 1976 indicated that the cutthroat planted in fall 1974 would likely attempt spawning for the first time in spring 1977. Efforts will be made at that time to artificially collect eggs for transplant into other northwestern Montana waters. Washington Water Power does not favor installation of a stand pipe in Deep Pond to sever it from Cabinet Gorge Reservoir. The Company and Department will examine other methods to fish-proof the culvert connecting the pond and reservoir.

Reduction or elimination of drawdown for flood control in Noxon Rapids Reservoir was proposed to the Company at an annual coordination meeting and to the Corps of Engineers flood control section at a meeting of the Advance Energy Task Force.

The Company and Department started a limnological survey and fish population sampling program in Noxon Rapids Reservoir in May, 1976. The program includes sampling to determine vertical and horizontal fish distribution, benthic insect production, plankton production and water quality. Sampling will be carried out from May, 1976 through May, 1977, weather and water conditions permitting. Results will be reported in Fiscal-Year 1977 report.

Prepared By: Joe E. Huston

Date: 1 September 1976

Waters Referred To:

Triangle Pond	05-9685
Cabinet Gorge Res.	05-8512