

## MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION  
Job Progress Report

State: Montana Title: Reservoir Investigations  
Project No.: F-34-R-16 Title: Hungry Horse Reservoir Study  
Job No.: II-a  
Period Covered: 1 July 1981 - 30 June 1982

## ABSTRACT

Analysis of fisheries data collected from Hungry Horse Reservoir since 1958 was the only project work accomplished. These data will be presented in a final report expected to be published in late 1983.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of this job was to determine fish population trends and food habits of bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) in Hungry Horse Reservoir in 1982. This objective was not attained because funds and man-power were transferred to Federal Aid Project F-7-R-31 to assist in evaluation of micro-hydroelectric development proposals. This Federal Aid project was cancelled effective July 1, 1982 resulting in the cancellation of the remainder of calendar year 1982 Hungry Horse Reservoir sampling.

## WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Data about the Hungry Horse Reservoir fishery in the years of 1958 through 1966 were collected under State of Montana funded projects. Data collected from March 1, 1967 through June 30, 1982 was from a Dingell-Johnson funded project. Analysis and re-analysis of these data were the only work done in fiscal year 1982. It is estimated that compilation of the data and write-up of a final report will be completed in late 1983.



Information to be included in this report are:

1. Trends in the reservoir fish population as determined by gill net sampling.
2. Age structure of gamefish populations determined by age analysis correlated to gill net catches.
3. Growth rates of gamefish in tributary streams and in the reservoir.
4. Spawning populations of cutthroat trout in Hungry Horse Creek.
5. Angler harvest.
6. Review of the need for and success of barrier removal programs in tributary streams.
7. Movement patterns of cutthroat trout from Hungry Horse and Sullivan creeks in the reservoir.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will continue monitoring the Hungry Horse Reservoir fish population. Work to be done using state funding will include, at a minimum, a continuation of the biennial reservoir trend sampling starting in spring 1983 and periodic examination of upstream fish passage problems. The principle work program in calendar year 1983 will be writing of a report detailing work done since 1958 and reservoir trend sampling.

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