

MONTANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION SECTION

JOB COMPLETION REPORT
INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

State of Montana

Project No. F-7-R-4

Job No. I-8

Title of Job: Inventory of the Project Area's Waters from the Standpoint of
Fish Response to Environment

Abstract:

Thirteen streams and four lakes in the project area were sampled for fish populations in 1954. Age-growth data on eleven streams and six lakes have been returned from the Department's Laboratory at Bozeman from data gathered from 1951 through 1953. All data have been recorded on lake and stream survey cards. Data collected thus far have been used in changing the fish planting program and fishing regulations for the better utilization of game fish.

Objectives:

There is little information on growth of fish in this area of the state and very little is known of the species composition. The purposes of this job was to gather data on the various kinds of fish in this area, together with their abundance and their growth.

Techniques Used:

Emphasis was again placed on the Kootenai River drainage above Pipe Creek. Scale samples of game fish were taken at every opportunity while in the field. The samples were sent to the Montana Fish and Game Laboratory at Bozeman for age-growth determinations. Species composition of the lakes were taken by gill nets and of the streams by the electric shock method.

Findings:

Thirteen streams and four lakes in the project area were sampled for fish populations in 1954. The species of fish found were cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden trout, whitefish, sculpins, squawfish, chubs and suckers. Age-growth data on eleven streams and six lakes have been returned from the Department's Fishery Laboratory at Bozeman from data collected from 1951 through 1953. These data have been recorded on the lake and stream survey cards. The actual data is too bulky and cumbersome to present in this report.

Recommendations:

A number of streams and lakes have been sampled for populations which has helped considerably in the state planting program, in making regulations for the best utilization of game fish.

It is recommended that this study be continued on the Kootenai River drainage and important fishing waters of the project area in order to manage the waters more wisely.

Summary:

Thirteen streams and four lakes in the project area were sampled for fish populations in 1934. Age-growth data on eleven streams and six lakes have been returned from the Department's Laboratory at Bozeman from data collected from 1931 through 1933. All data have been recorded on lake and stream survey cards. Data collected thus far have been used in changing the fish planting program and fishing regulations for the better utilization of game fish.

Data and Reports:

The original data and reports are with the project leader at Kalispell and duplicate reports are filed in the Helena office.

Prepared by Frank A. Stefanich Approved by _____

Date April 4, 1935