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Report of Angling Use in Montana for the Past 10 Years

Fisheries Information Services Unit

Bob McFarland, Deanna Meredith, Reed Simonson, and G. Wayne Black

Angler Numbers

Resident Angler Numbers from 1961 through 2001 license year

The following tables list the number of anglers by license type (and cost) from 1961 through 2001. The ability of seniors (62 years of age and older) and youth (12 to 14 years of age) to fish on a conservation license was estimated for some of the years. The rest of the time counts were made from the conservation licenses that were keyed in Bozeman and then were adjusted by a factor of the total conservation licenses sold divided by the number of conservation licenses keyed. The other counts were based upon license sales reports from the Helena office.

Nonresident Angler Numbers from 1961 through 2001 license year

The following tables list the number of anglers by license type (and cost) from 1961 through 2001. Nonresident 2-day anglers were estimated by sampling those license holders during the statewide angling use survey and asking how many 2-day permits were purchased. Then, the number of 2-day permits sold was divided by the average number of permits purchased for that year. The dollar amounts shown for the big game combo and deer combo licenses are for the drawing and do not reflect the unlimited price.

Statewide Angling Use Estimates From 1991 Through 2001

Angling use estimates are given in angler days. An angler day is one angler fishing one body of water on one day. It is considered two angler days if an angler fishes two different waters on the same day (i.e. one angler day for each water fished).

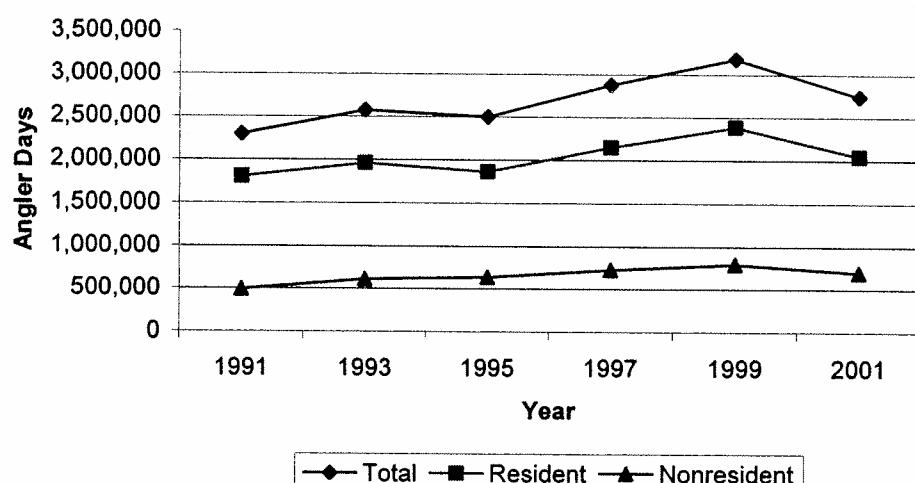
Undesignated waters are those waters that cannot be assigned to salmonid or nonsalmonid categories. These are usually waters where the angler fished a stream or lake somewhere in Montana, but didn't know the name.

These estimates reflect only the licensed angler use and do not include the fishing of unlicensed (youth) or illegal anglers. Only partial angling use on the Indian Reservations is included and is from anglers that purchased both tribal and state permits.

Resident angling use is estimated from those anglers that purchased a resident fishing license. This includes, season license holders (including the sportsman license holders), people 62 years of age or older that can fish on their conservation license, youth between the ages of 12 to 14 that fish on their conservation license, disabled conservation license holders, and blind lifetime fishing license holders.

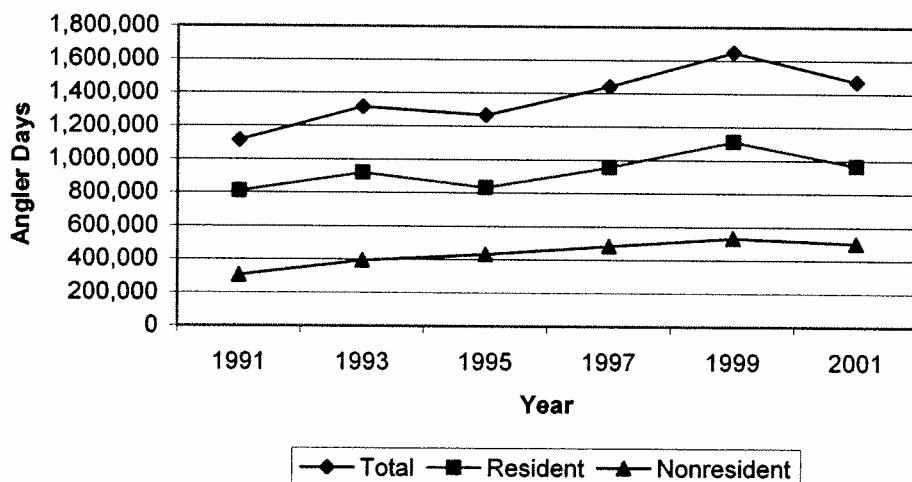
Nonresident angling use is from licensed anglers that include the regular season license holders and two-day permit holders. Gaffney (1982) sampled the 17,000 nonresident big game license holders in 1980 and found that 29.6% had fished while in Montana. They averaged 3.9 days of fishing per person, which would account for nearly 20,000 angler days of use. This is less than 1% of the total pressure in the state. Due to budgetary constraints and the small amount of pressure, the big game combo and deer combo license holders were not sampled for these estimates.

All Waters

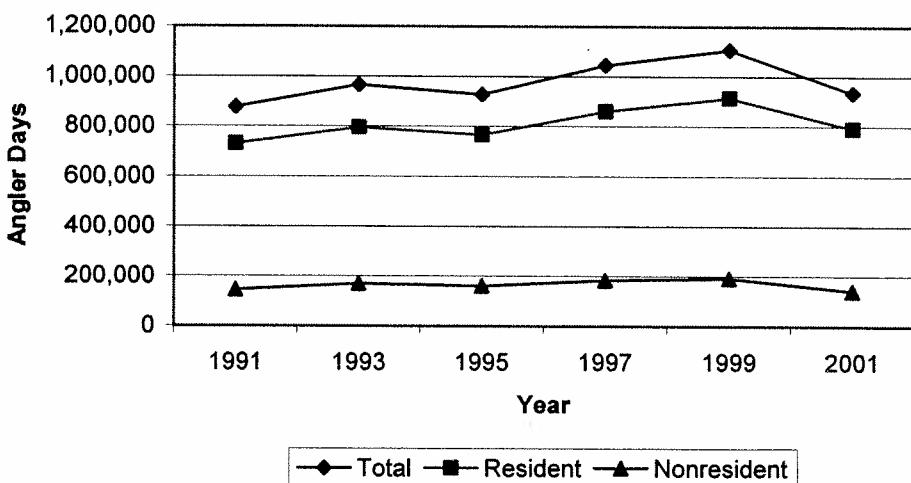


Angler Days/Year	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
Total	2,300,880	2,578,495	2,504,855	2,880,925	3,183,106	2,748,106
Resident	1,807,448	1,964,464	1,865,646	2,153,008	2,390,595	2,048,733
Nonresident	493,432	614,031	639,209	727,917	792,511	699,373

Salmonid Stream

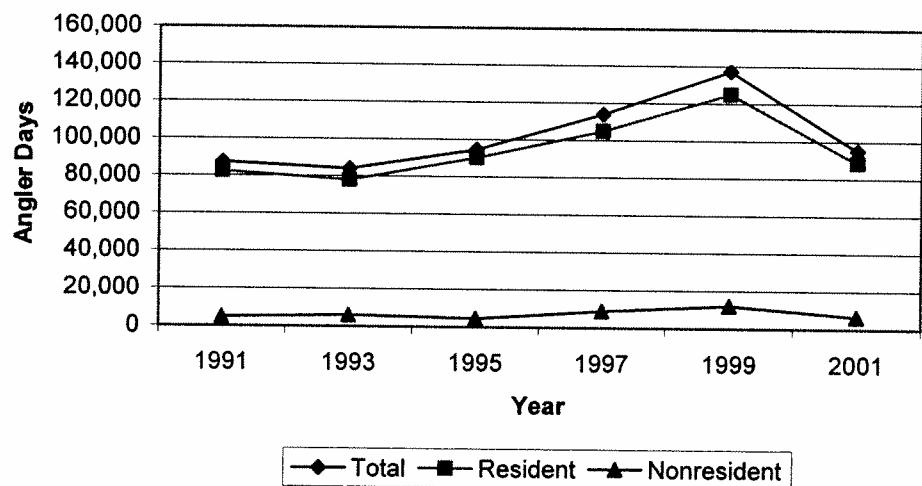


Salmonid Lake



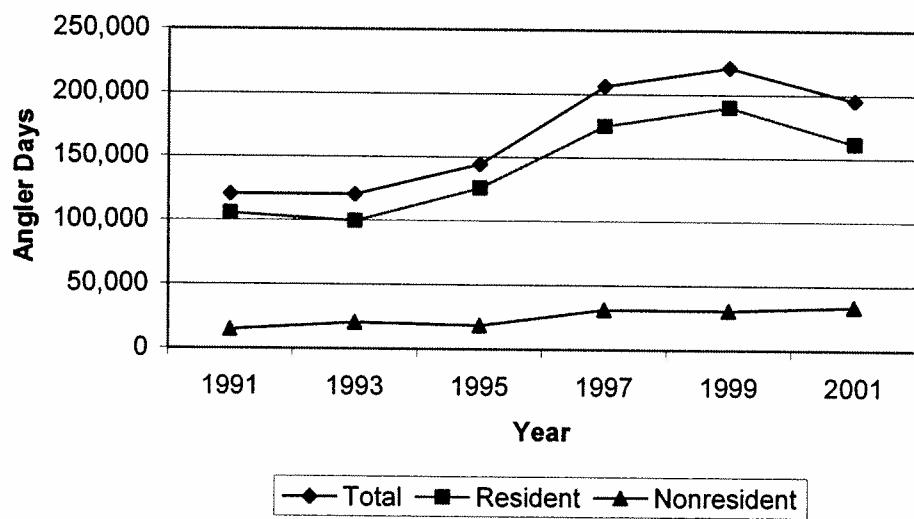
Angler Days\Year	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
Total	1,117,602	1,317,286	1,268,970	1,443,031	1,648,335	1,472,922
Resident	810,722	922,485	834,906	959,042	1,113,853	968,795
Nonresident	306,880	394,801	434,064	483,989	534,482	504,127

Nonsalmonid Stream



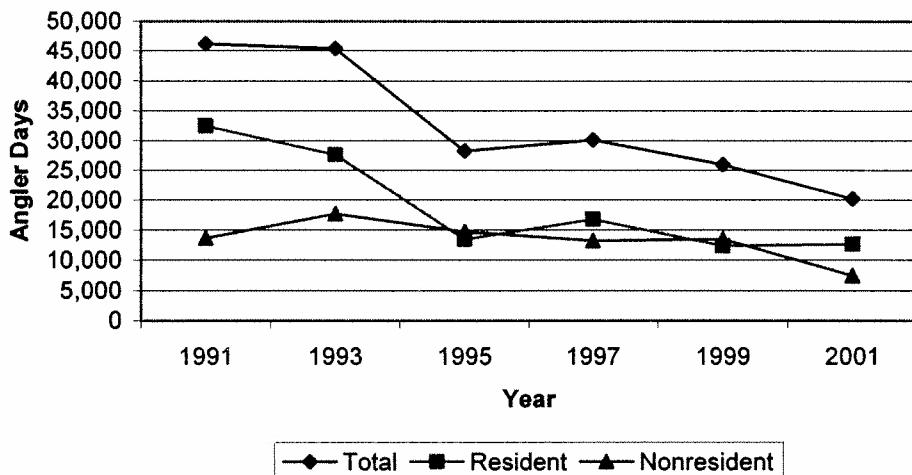
Angler Days\Year	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
Total	87,612	84,112	94,892	114,217	137,425	95,436
Resident	82,712	78,024	90,366	105,193	125,226	88,807
Nonresident	4,900	6,088	4,526	9,024	12,199	6,629

Nonsalmonid Lake



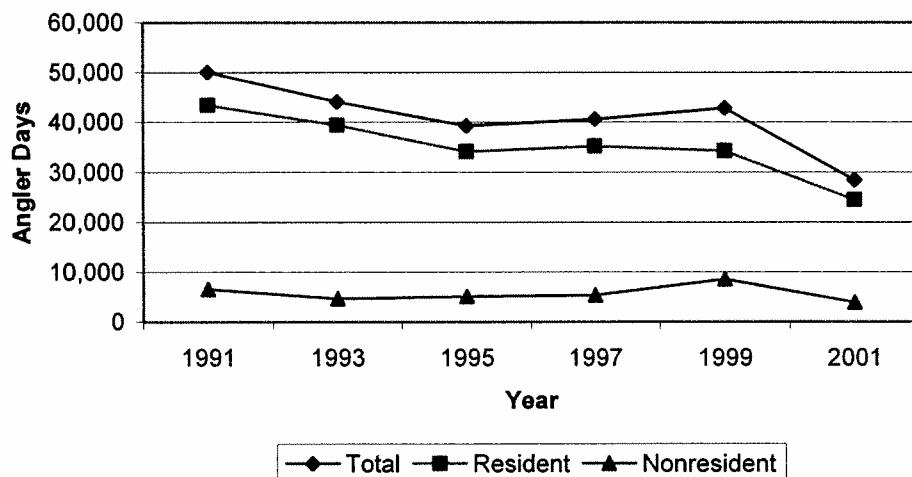
Angler Days\Year	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
Total	120,738	120,553	144,544	206,483	221,108	195,797
Resident	105,740	99,801	125,973	175,082	190,256	161,616
Nonresident	14,998	20,752	18,751	31,401	30,852	34,181

Undesignated Stream



Angler Days\Year	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
Total	46,255	45,462	28,305	30,155	26,056	20,273
Resident	32,516	27,680	13,517	16,846	12,472	12,722
Nonresident	13,739	17,782	14,788	13,309	13,584	7,551

Undesignated Lake



Angler Days\Year	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001
Total	50,066	44,143	39,320	40,667	42,906	28,505
Resident	43,448	39,421	34,139	35,273	34,300	24,582
Nonresident	6,618	4,722	5,181	5,394	8,606	3,923

BEAVERHEAD RIVER	BEAVERHEAD/MADISON	3	010500	01	15093	7444	7649	20736	10241	10455
BIG HOLE RIVER SEC 01	BEAVERHEAD/MADISON/S BOW	3	020425	01	27549	19729	7820	35283	23544	11739
BIG HOLE RIVER SEC 02	BEAVERHEAD/MADISON/S BOW	3	020450	01	22328	15077	7251	27964	18462	9502
BIG HOLE RIVER SEC 03	BEAVERHEAD	3	020475	01	1326	1172	154			
BIGHORN RIVER SEC 01	BIG HORN	5	220490	01	4778	3188	1590	13285	7253	6032
BIGHORN RIVER SEC 02	BIG HORN	5	220495	01	13054	8867	4187	11752	7928	3824
BIGHORN RIVER SEC 03	BIG HORN	5	220496	01	49463	22999	26514	49047	20905	28142
BITTERROOT RIVER SEC 01	MISSOULA/RAVALLI	2	030415	01	22011	19424	2587	26905	22942	3963
BITTERROOT RIVER SEC 02	RAVALLI	2	030500	01	30765	20863	9902	48383	36422	11961
BLACKFOOT RIVER SEC 01	MISSOULA	2	040600	01	11028	9789	1239	17400	14006	3394
BLACKFOOT RIVER SEC 02	MISSOULA/POWELL	2	040630	01	4375	3720	655	11209	7951	3258
BLACKFOOT RIVER SEC 03	POWELL/LEWIS & CLARK	2	040645	01	4640	4186	454	5570	4744	826
BLACKFOOT RIVER SEC 04	Powell	2	040660	01						
CLARK FORK RIVER SEC 01	SANDERS	1	051440	01	15981	11900	4081	18118	13956	4162
CLARK FORK RIVER SEC 02	SANDERS/MINERAL/MISSOULA	2	051456	01	44887	32345	12542	57673	42893	14780
CLARK FORK RIVER SEC 03	MISSOULA/GRAINITE/POWELL	2	061121	01	16120	13706	2414	14611	12667	1944
CLARK FORK RIVER SEC 04	POWELL/DEER LODGE/S BOW	2	061140	01	5765	4993	772	7394	5392	2002
FLATHEAD RIVER SEC 01	SANDERS/LAKE	1	071540	01	7647	6398	1249	11256	10240	10116
FLATHEAD RIVER SEC 02	FLATHEAD	1	071560	01	18576	16070	2506	20281	16195	4086
MADISON RIVER SEC 01	GALLATIN/MADISON	3	133400	01	30103	21858	8245	41576	27467	14109
MADISON RIVER SEC 02	MADISON	3	133440	01	68623	19659	48964	81684	20736	60948
MADISON RIVER SEC 03	GALLATIN	3	133520	01	15243	4189	11054	22856	4019	18837
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 01	RICHLAND/ROOS/VAIL/MCCONE	6	162420	02	3636	3587	49	4022	3972	50
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 05	VALLEY/MCCONE	6	162500	01	2330	2193	137	5081	4657	424
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 06A	PHILLIPS/FERGUS/BLAINE	6	162521	02	9726	8895	831	10767	8775	1992
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 06B	CHOUTEAU	4	162522	02	4513	4340	173	2859	2696	163
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 07	CHOUTEAU/CASCADE	4	174864	02	5215	5067	148	5557	5202	355
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 08	CASCADE	4	174880	01	15419	14276	1143	15356	13955	1401
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 09	CASCADE/LEWIS & CLARK	4	174896	01	65526	55606	9920	62179	50172	12007
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 10A	LEWIS & CLARK	4	174913	01	25311	22661	2650	19036	16848	2188
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 11	BROADWATER	3	174928	01	7839	7150	689	4315	4190	125
MISSOURI RIVER SEC 12	BROADWATER/GALLATIN	3	174944	01	3308	2787	521	1055	780	275
ROCK CREEK SEC 01	MISSOULA/GRANITE	2	065263	01	14661	10280	4381	16898	12951	3947
ROCK CREEK SEC 02	GRANITE	2	065282	01	9302	6563	2739	10507	4588	5919

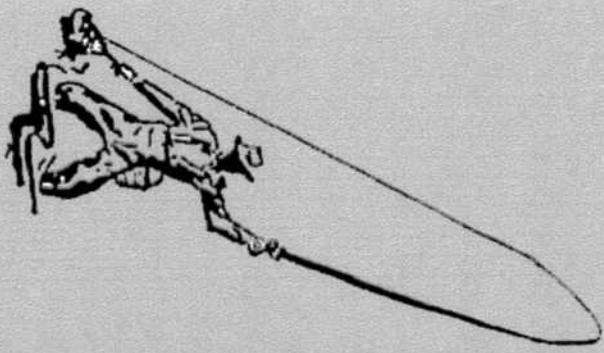
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 01	RICHLAND/DAWSON/PRAIRIE	7	211350	02		19172	17753	1419	18065	16753	1312
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 02	PRAIRIE/CUSTER/REUD/TREA	7	211400	02		15132	14465	663	12265	11791	474
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 03	YELLOWSTONE	5	227001	02		10760	10142	618	11831	11386	445
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 04	YELLOWSTONE/STILLWATER	5	227015	01		11664	11190	474	11513	10914	599
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 05	STILLWATER	5	227028	01		15607	14560	1047	13935	12994	941
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 06	STILLWATER/SWEET GRASS	5	227043	01		10400	9314	1086	11453	9939	1514
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 07A	SWEET GRASS/PARK	5	227057	01		4904	4181	723	4640	3456	1184
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 07B	PARK	3	227058	01		5712	5270	442	15423	11636	3787
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 08	PARK	3	227071	01		25693	18016	7677	37617	27655	9962
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 09	PARK	3	227072	01		4135	2537	1598	11006	6282	4724
YELLOWSTONE RIVER SEC 10	PARK	3	227084	01		13252	9457	3795	11032	7386	3646
GALLATIN RIVER SEC 01	GALLATIN	3	092090	01		6559	5313	1246	8224	7551	673
GALLATIN RIVER SEC 02	GALLATIN	3	096878	01		34613	24893	9720	41138	29132	12006
GALLATIN RIVER SEC 03	GALLATIN	3	096916	01		14759	5504	9255	21767	8253	13514

17449	6890	10559	39726	14824	24902	39622	18361	21261	14574	5515	9059
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6957	4371	2586	6559	4665	1894	9314	4930	4384	6123	3310	2813
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13917	10022	3895	11918	8938	2980	16081	10399	5682	12940	8546	4394
5790	3972	1818	8318	5128	3190	7539	5183	2356	4939	3080	1859
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16710	13698	3012	26039	22550	3489	31223	23655	7568	23804	18514	5290
31268	20303	10965	38199	25977	12222	55871	38175	17696	46432	29064	17368
65127	14414	50713	60808	15339	45469	69370	21900	47470	86932	25733	61199
16612	5009	11603	14434	3643	10791	20304	7719	12585	22946	4786	18160
2363	2342	21	5337	5202	135	5529	5529	0	2017	1774	243
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6693	5937	756	7818	7347	471	11491	9558	1933	6896	6213	683
6606	6202	404	11568	10795	773	16861	15599	1262	16686	15706	980
12964	11377	1587	17919	15286	2633	26447	23857	2590	24681	22032	2649
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2485	2352	133	956	754	202	2005	1853	152	3837	3589	248
29047	15023	14024	22390	11524	10866	27129	13445	13684	27516	15108	12408
12770	6280	6490	8117	4238	3879	12979	5325	7654	12631	9055	3576

1	17165	16685	480	19027	15975	3052	20759	16626	4133	14327	12542	1785
	13894	13472	422	10701	10187	514	16267	15437	830	13350	12650	700
8116	7588	528	9372	8468	904	16310	15332	978	8618	7831	787	
15426	14743	683	14435	14004	431	15778	14847	931	18207	17608	599	
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11922	9458	2464	9764	8356	1408	18582	17192	1390	18640	16058	2582	
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7271	5238	2033	7494	6039	1455	9813	8663	1150	5195	3607	1588	
36357	22700	13657	39719	27379	12340	42603	31452	11151	38377	28930	9447	
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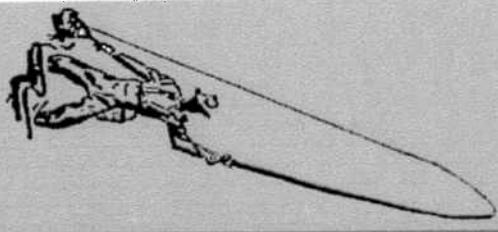


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Montana's Statewide Angling Use Survey

Background of Mail Survey

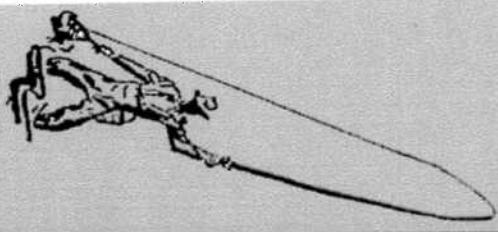


- ◆ Mail Survey
- ◆ Random monthly sample of resident and nonresident season holding licensed anglers
- ◆ 2-day Nonresident sampled at end of year
- ◆ Sample approximately 10,000 per month in "summer" months
- ◆ Sample approximately 5,000 per month in "winter" months



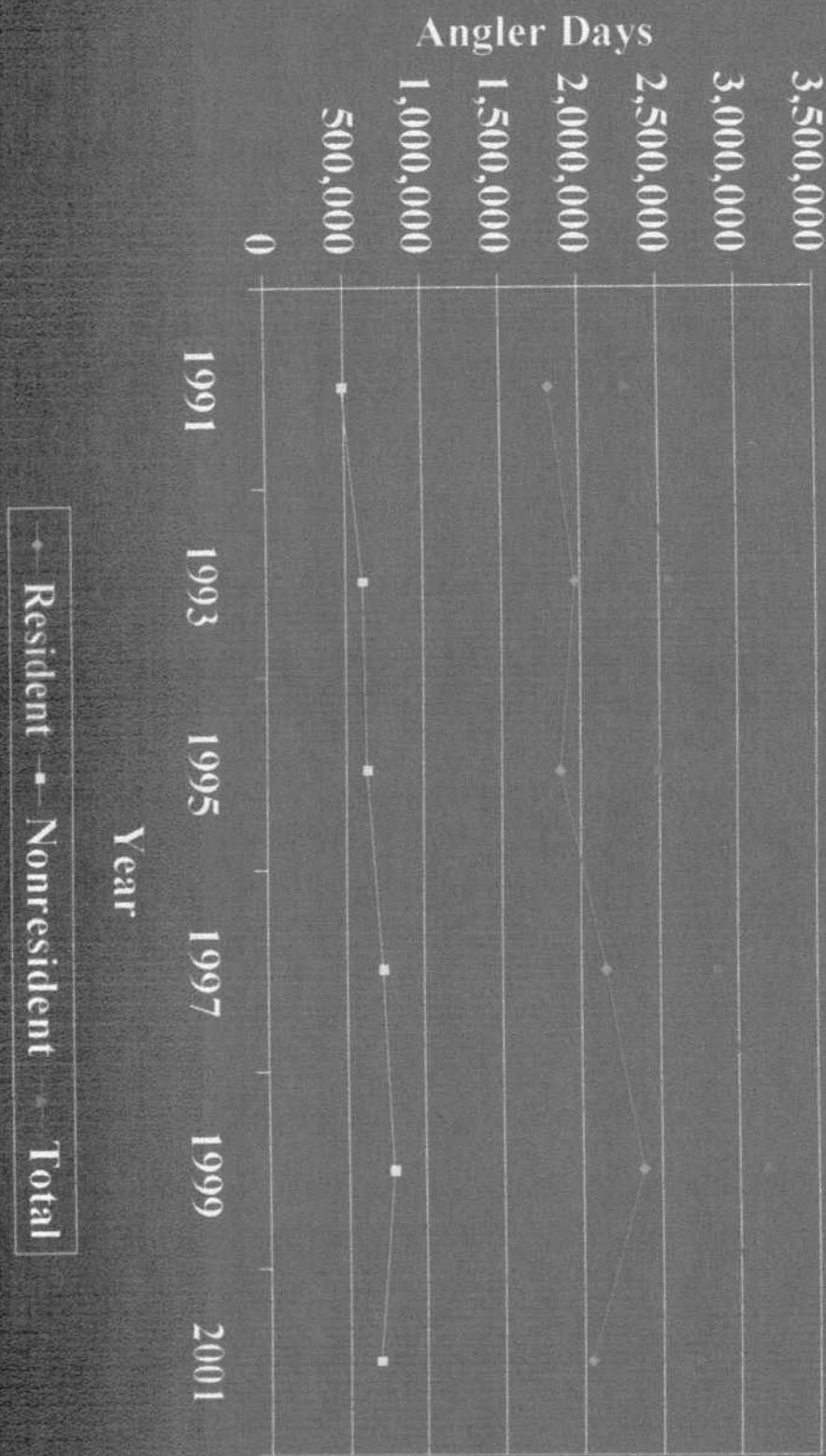
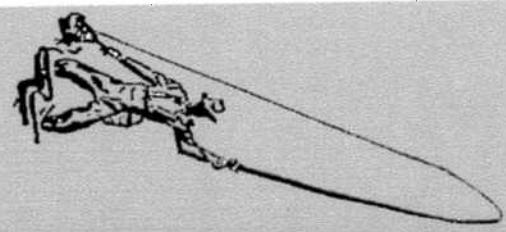
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Background of Mail Survey



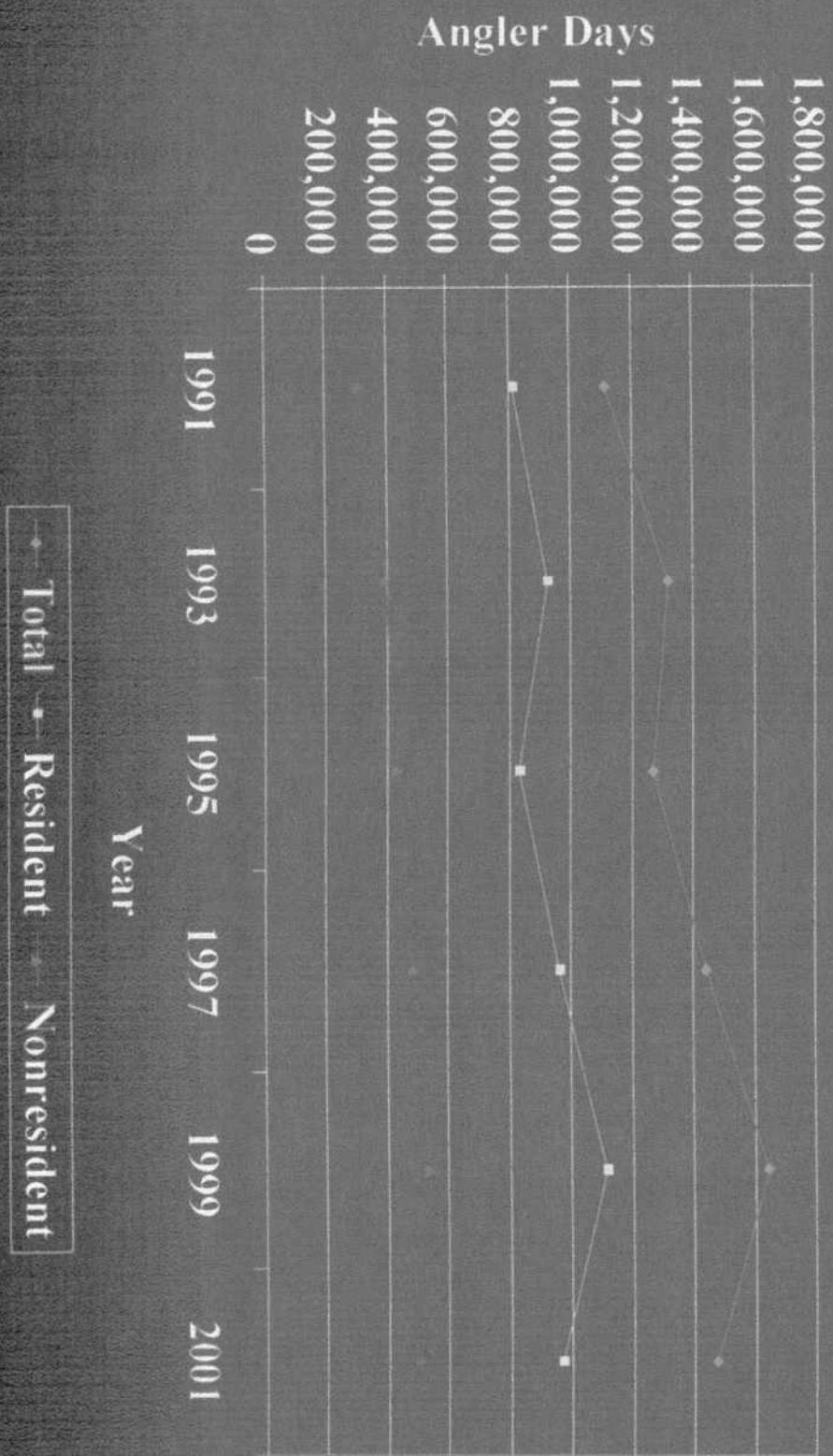
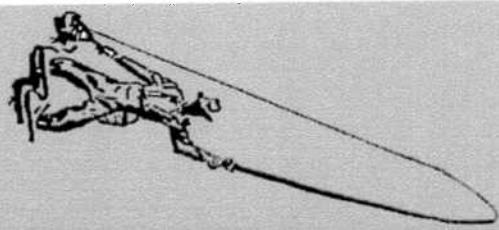
- ♦ Angler satisfaction estimated from 1997 to 2001
- ♦ Angler crowding estimated in 2001

Total Angling Use 1991 - 2001

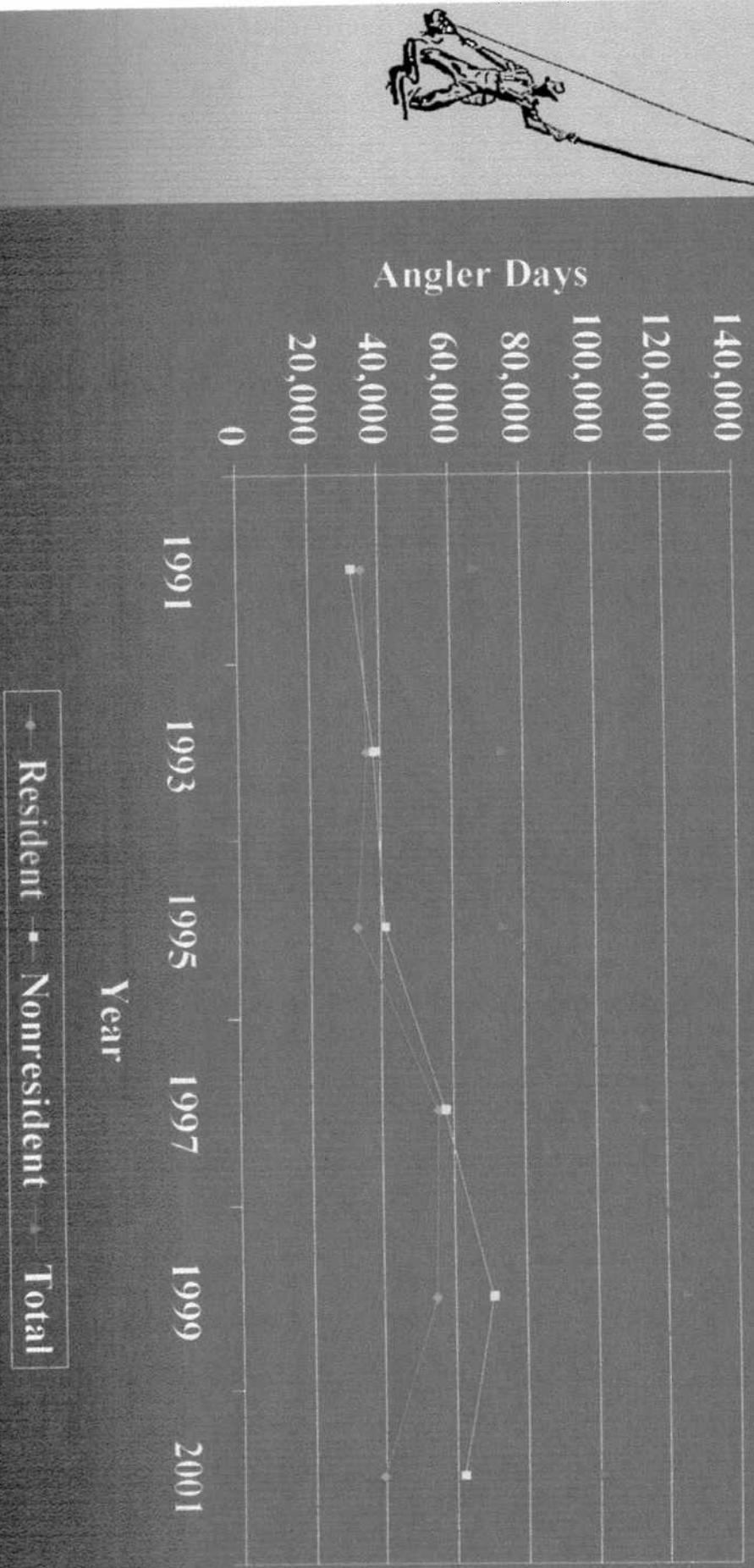


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Salmonid Stream Angling Use 1991 - 2001

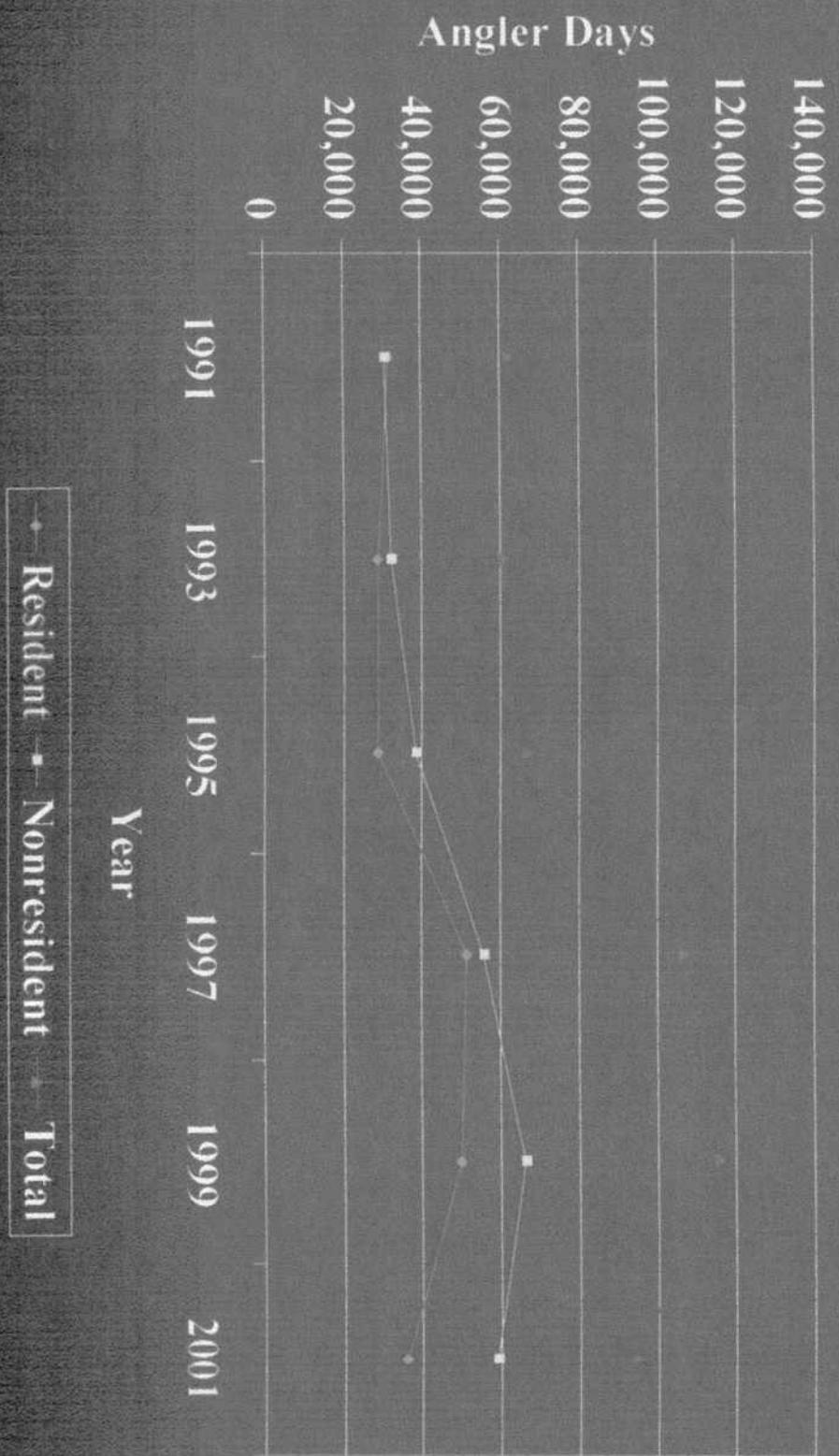
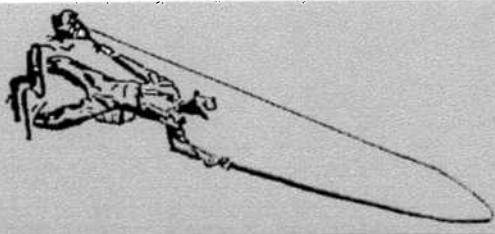


Big Horn River Angling Use 1991 - 2001



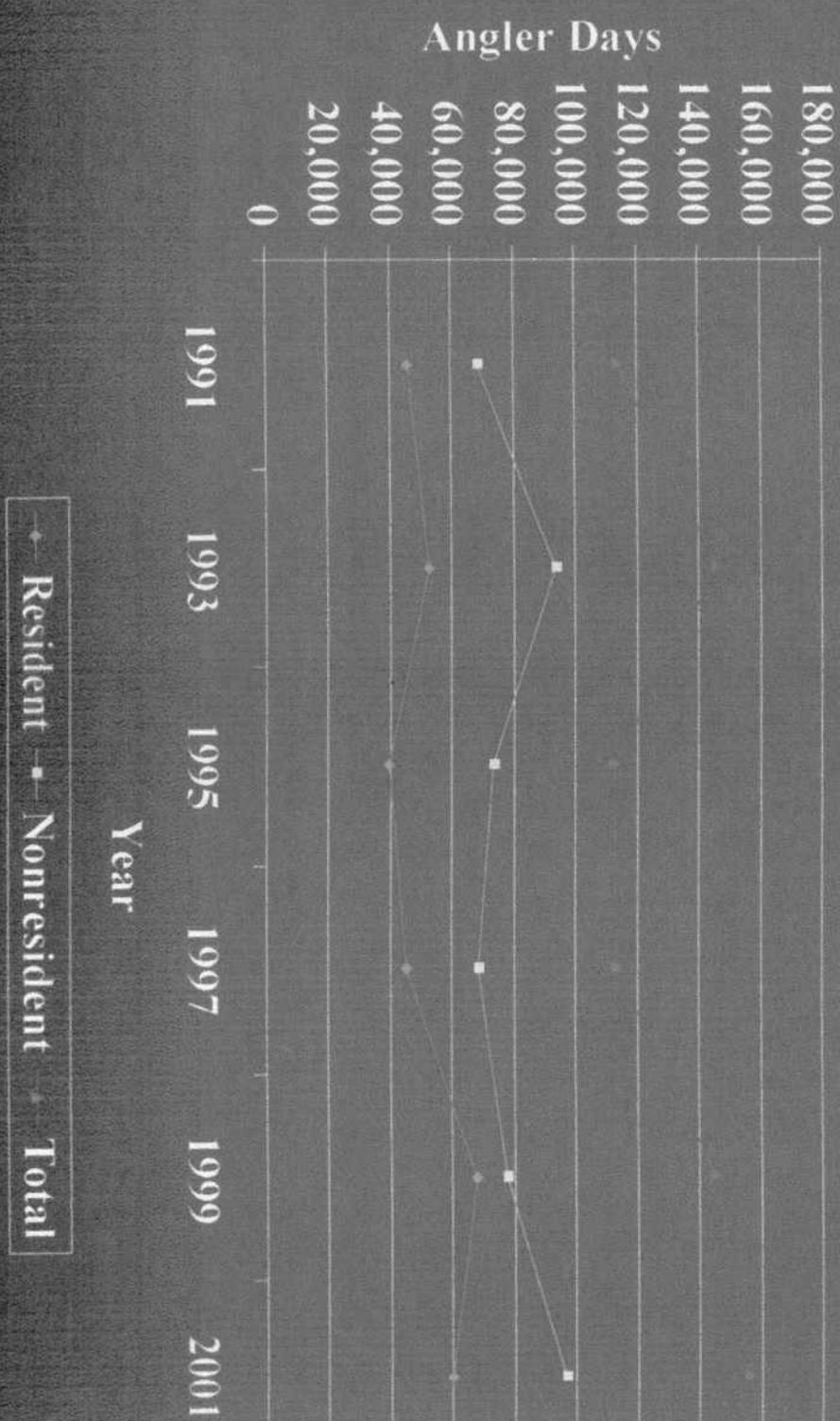
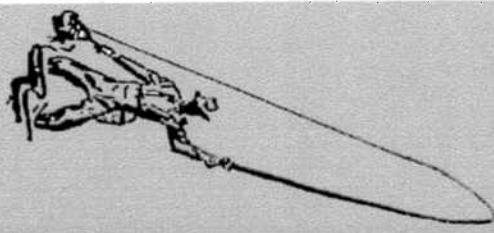
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Upper Big Horn River Angling Use 1991 - 2001

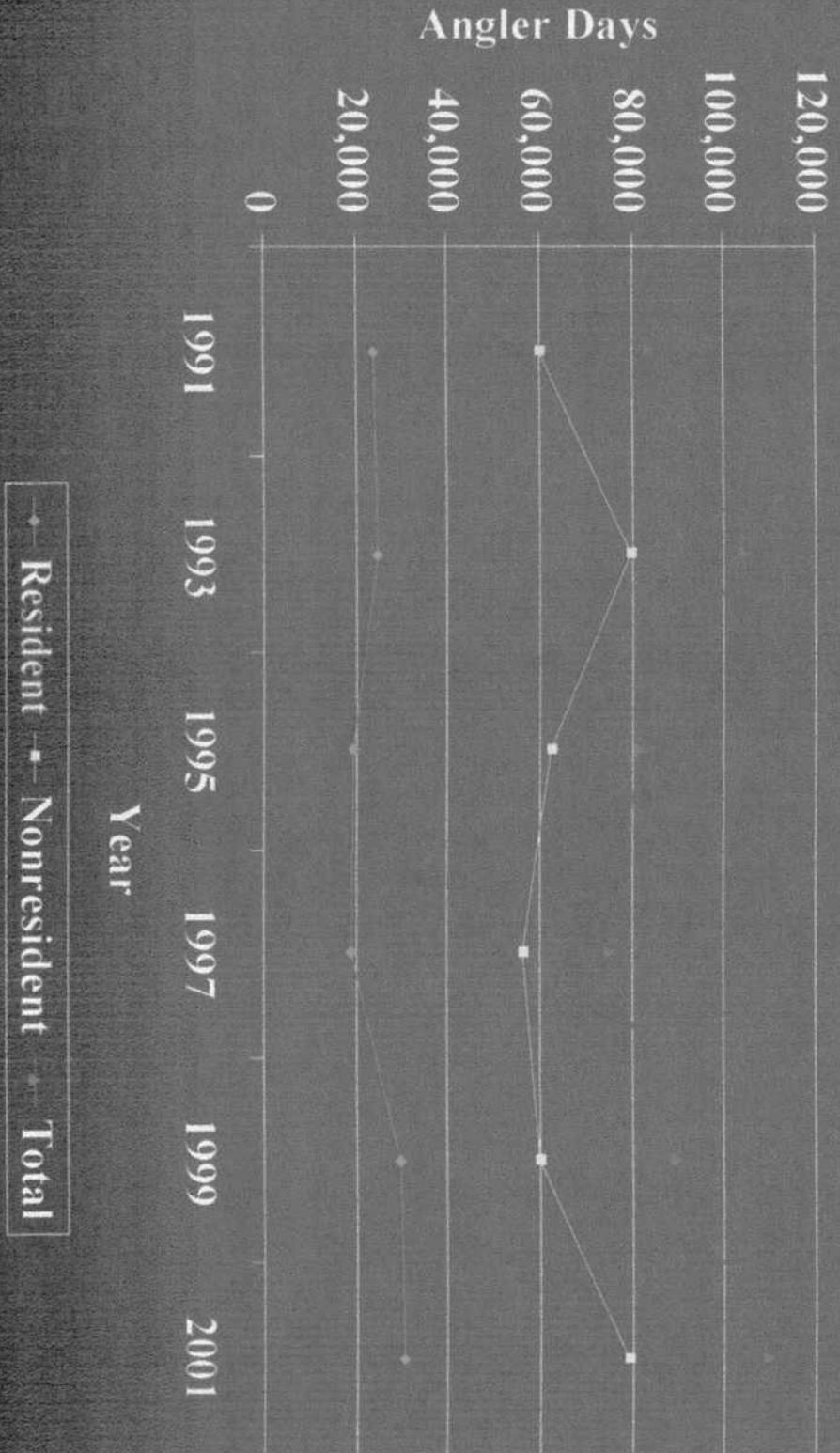
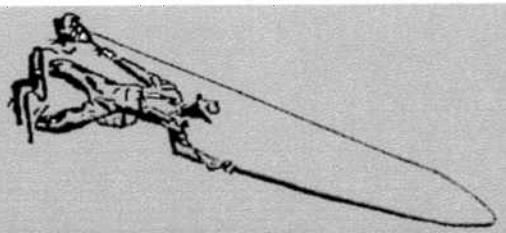


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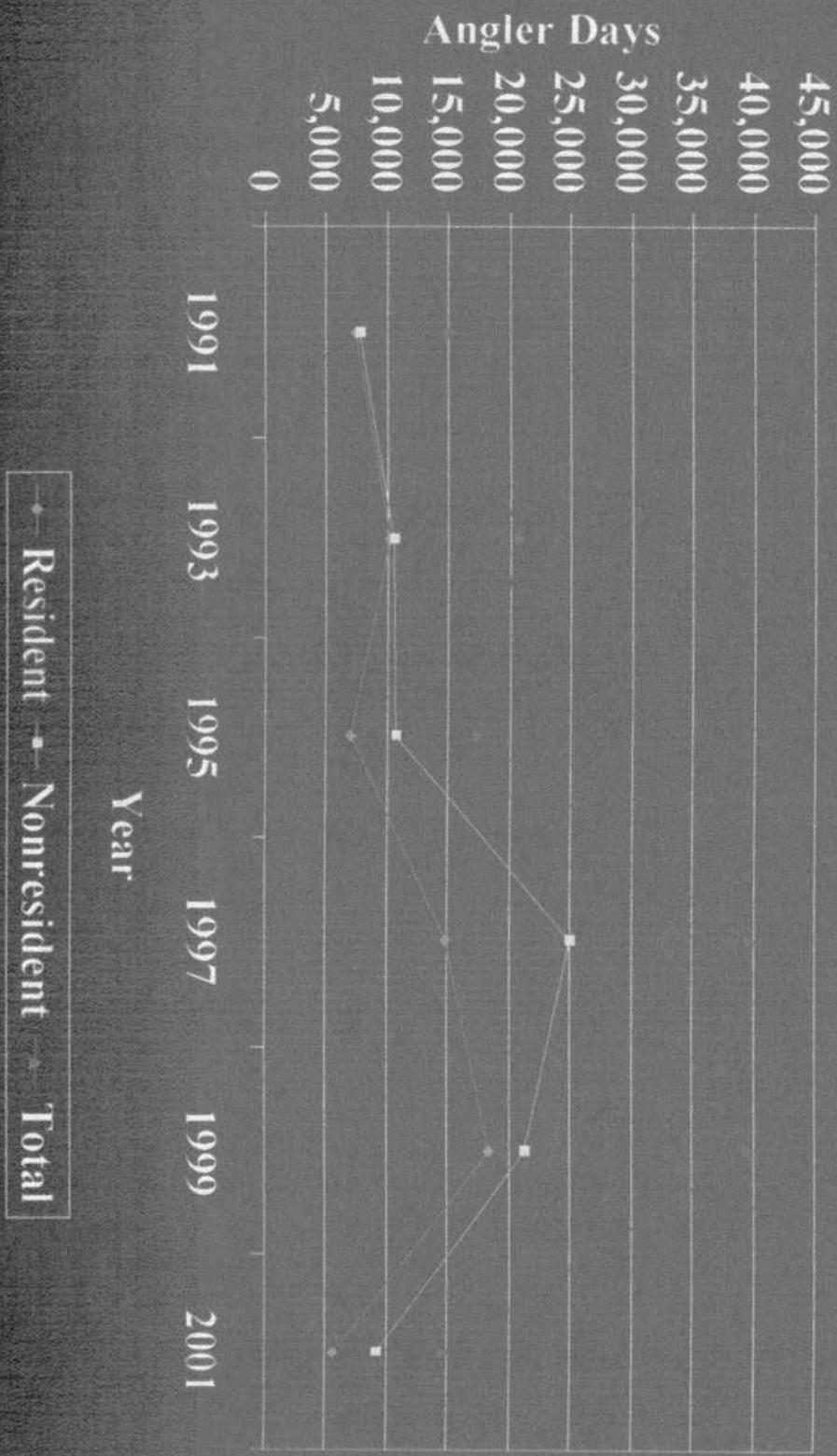
Madison River Angling Use 1991 - 2001



Upper Madison River Angling Use 1991 - 2001

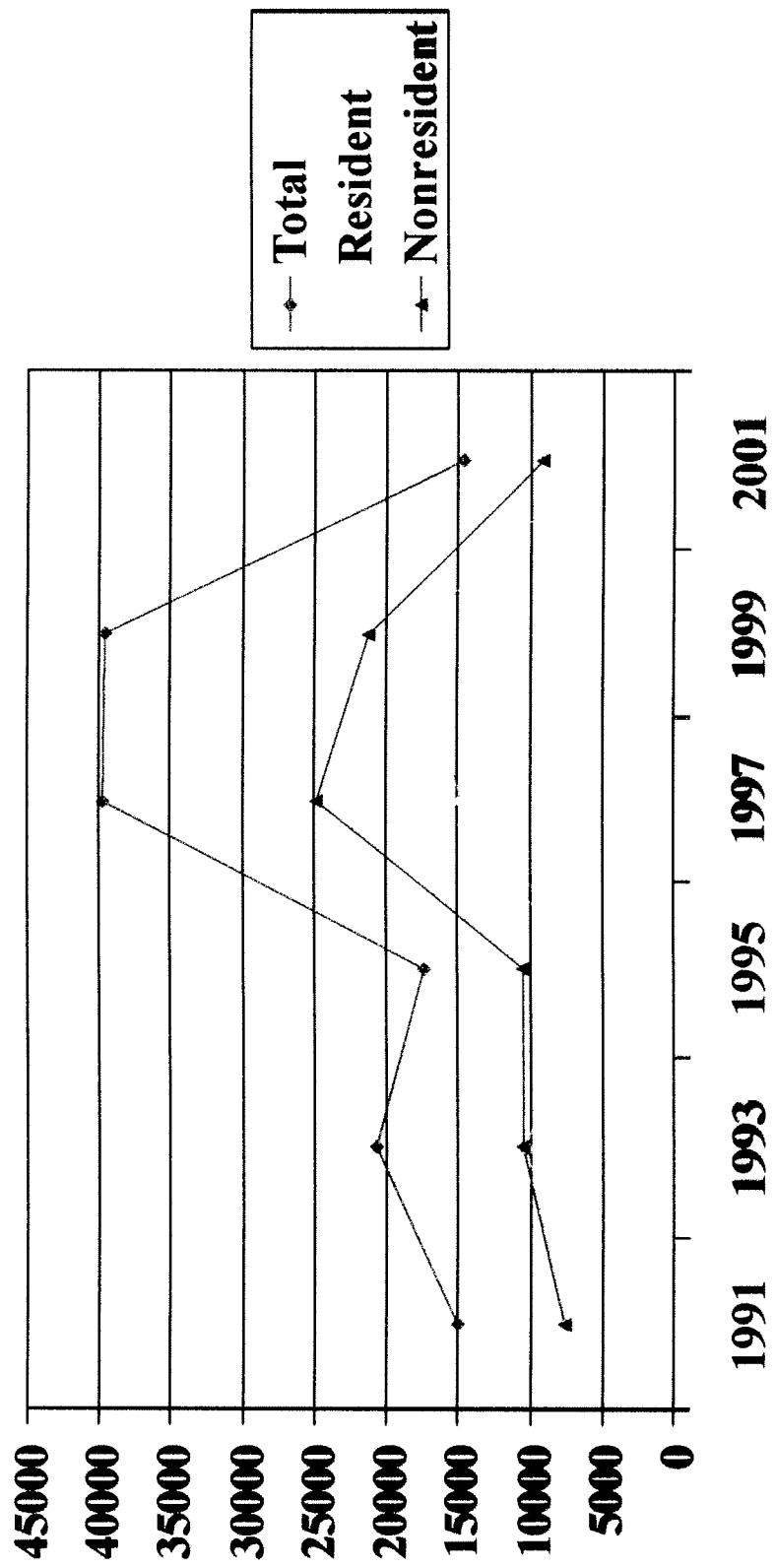


Beaverhead River Angling Use 1991 - 2001

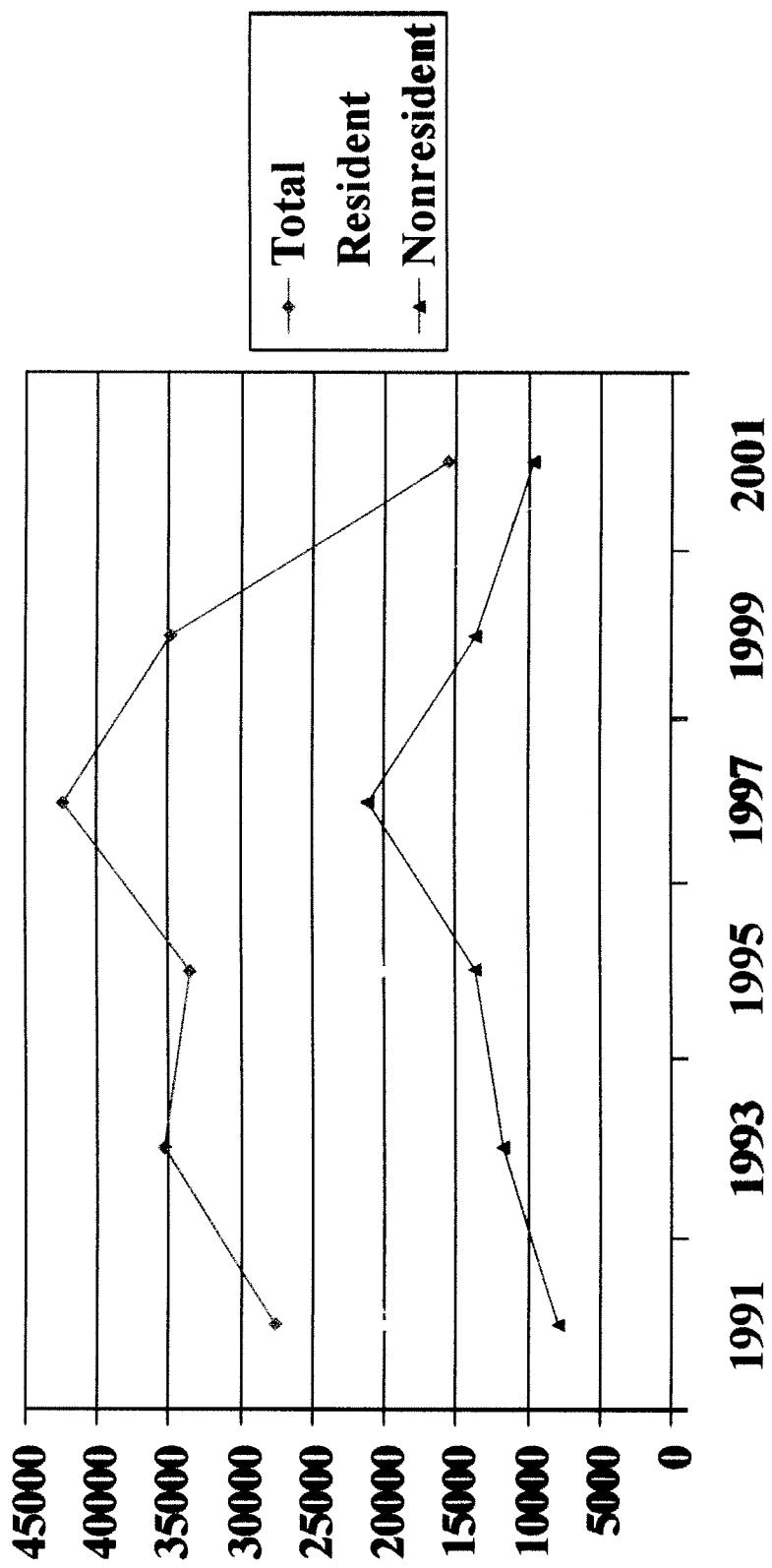


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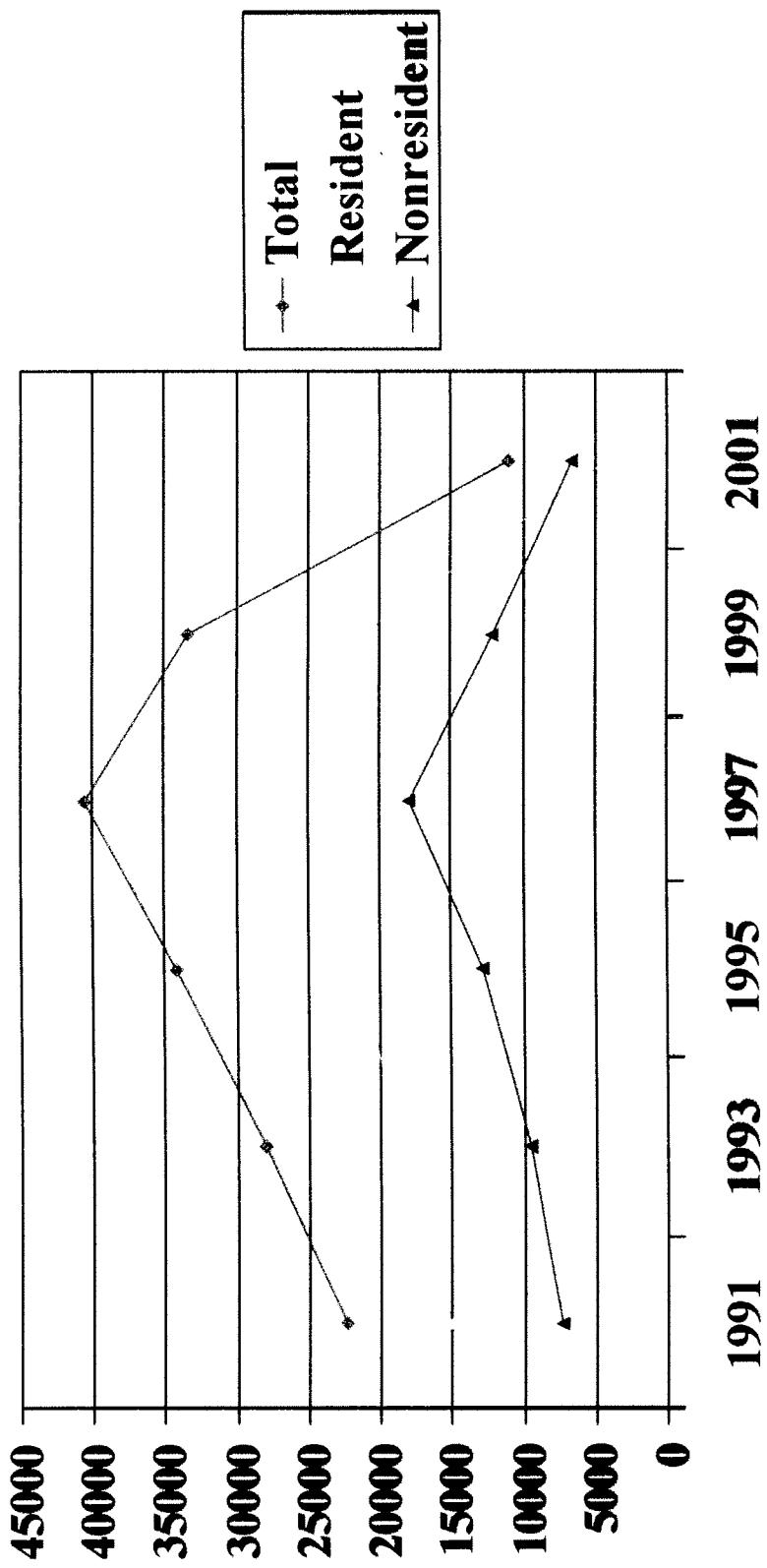
Beaverhead River



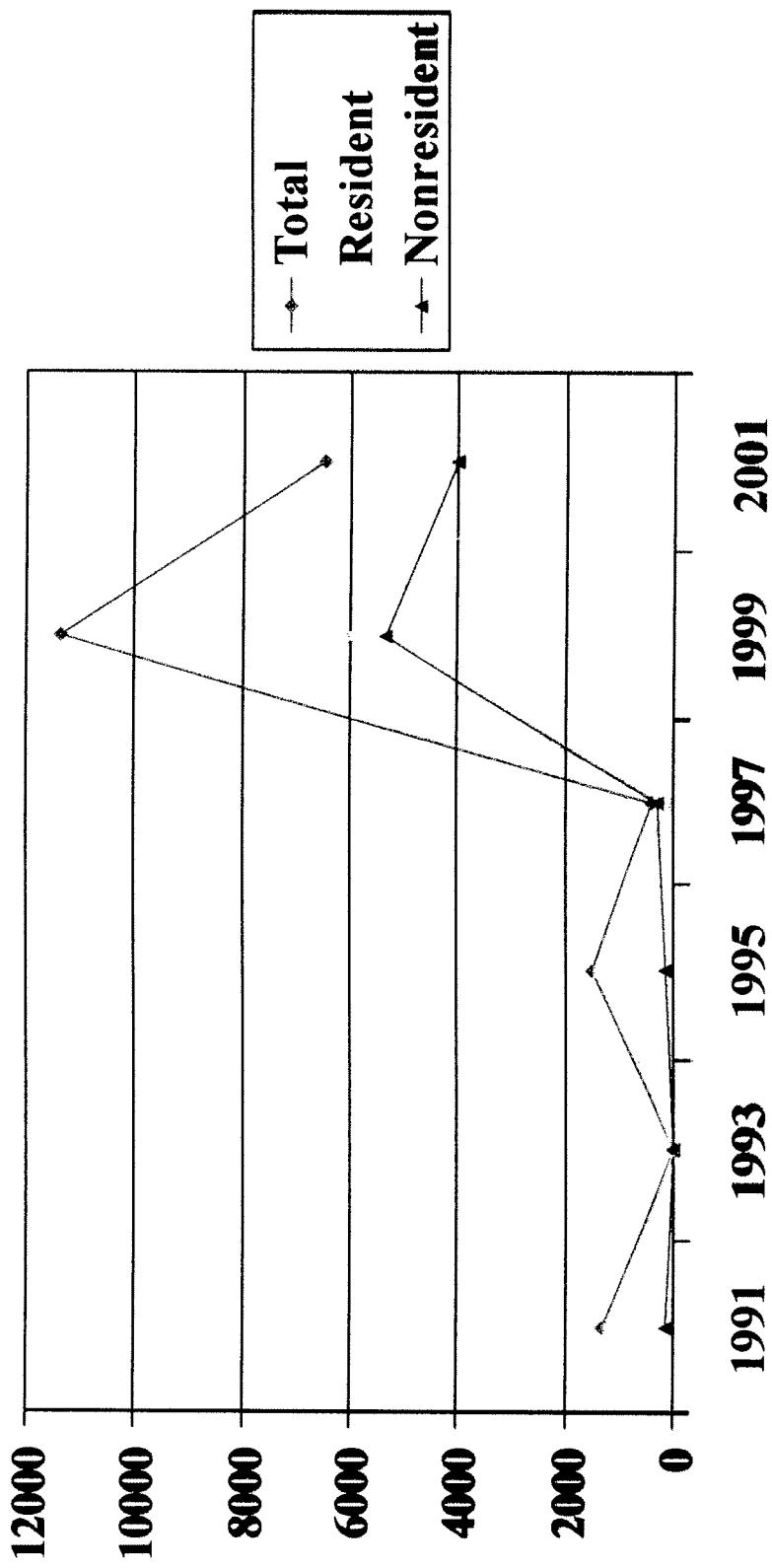
Big Hole River Sec 01



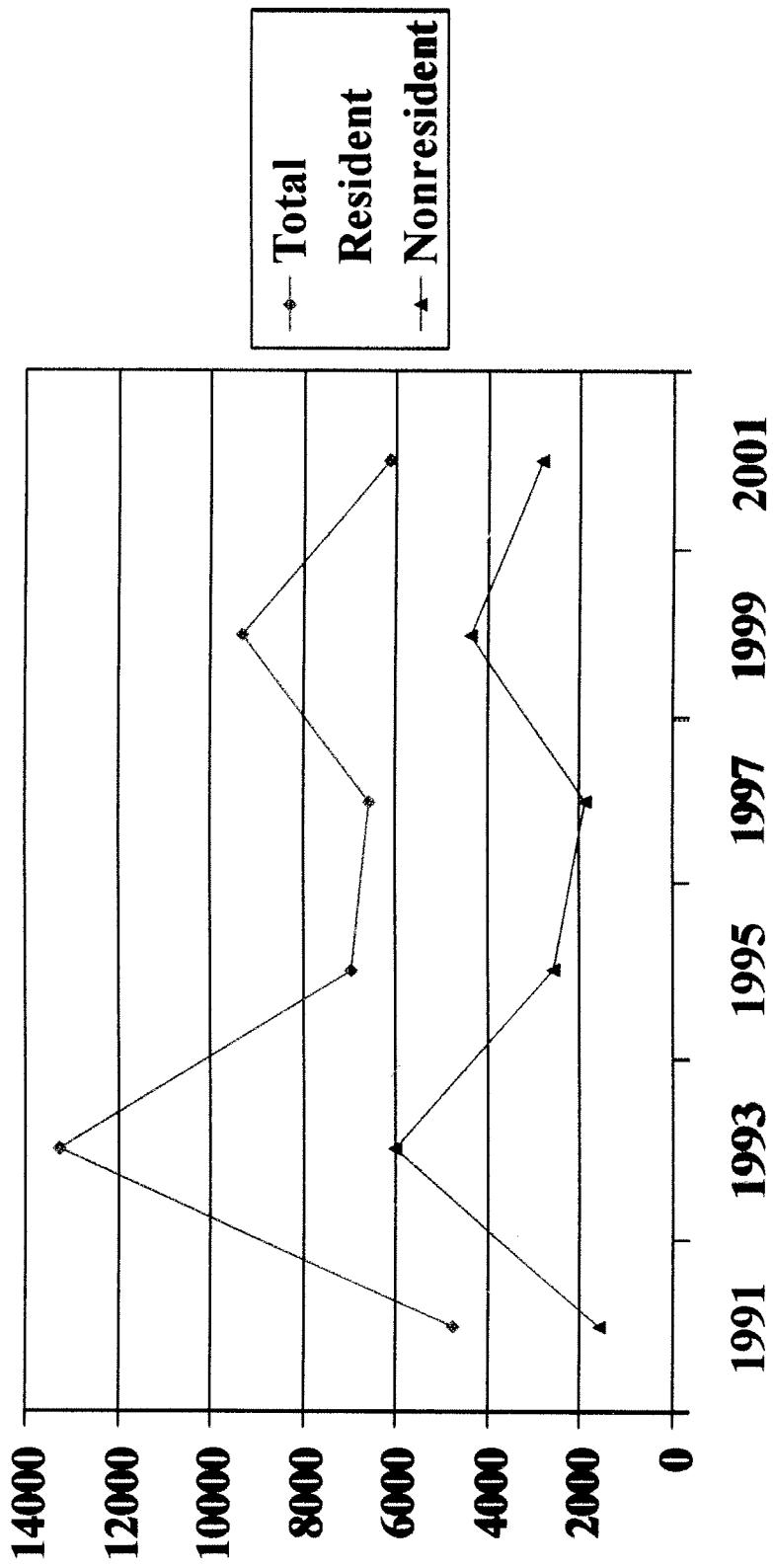
Big Hole River Sec 02



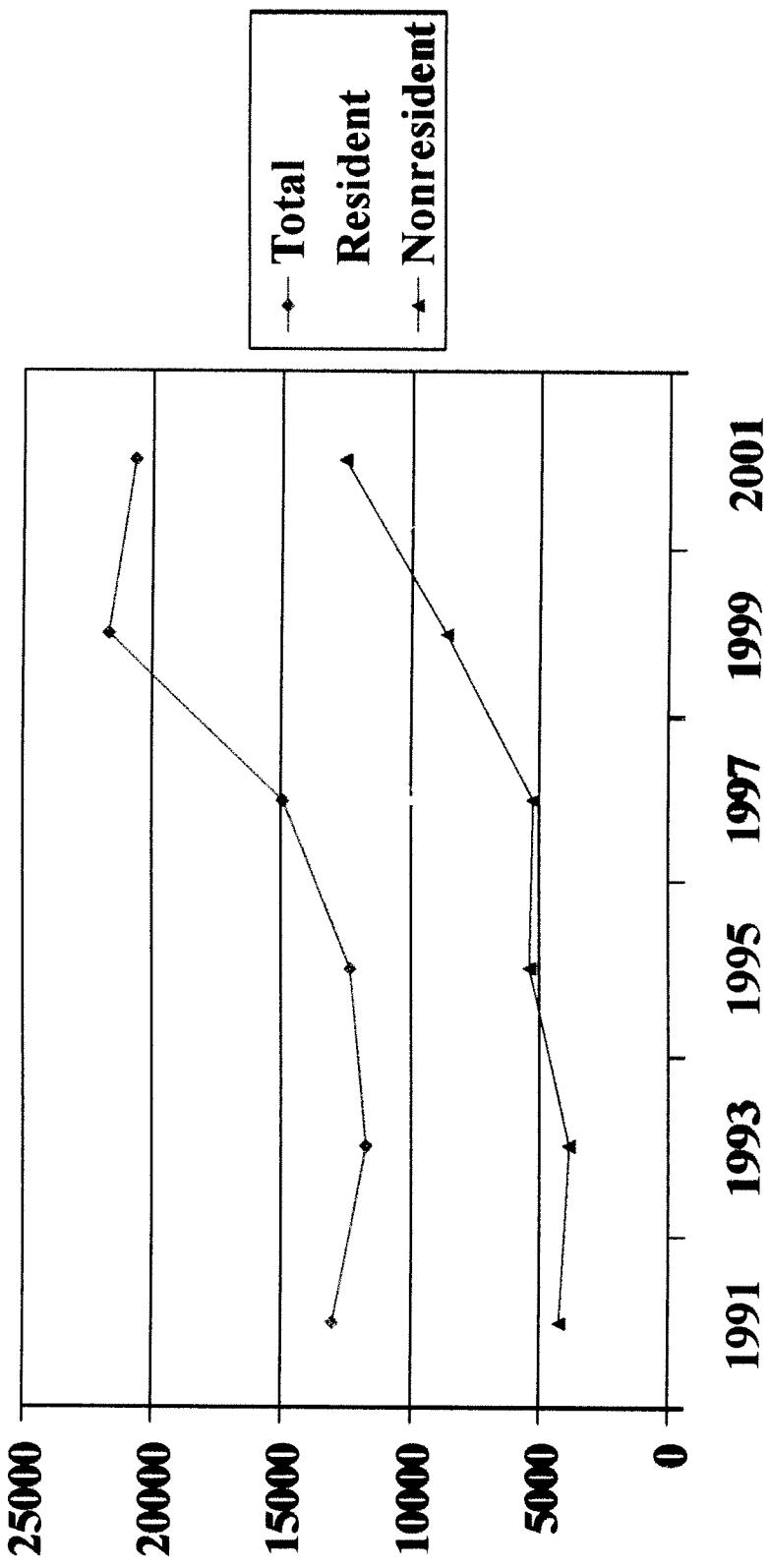
Big Hole River Sec 03



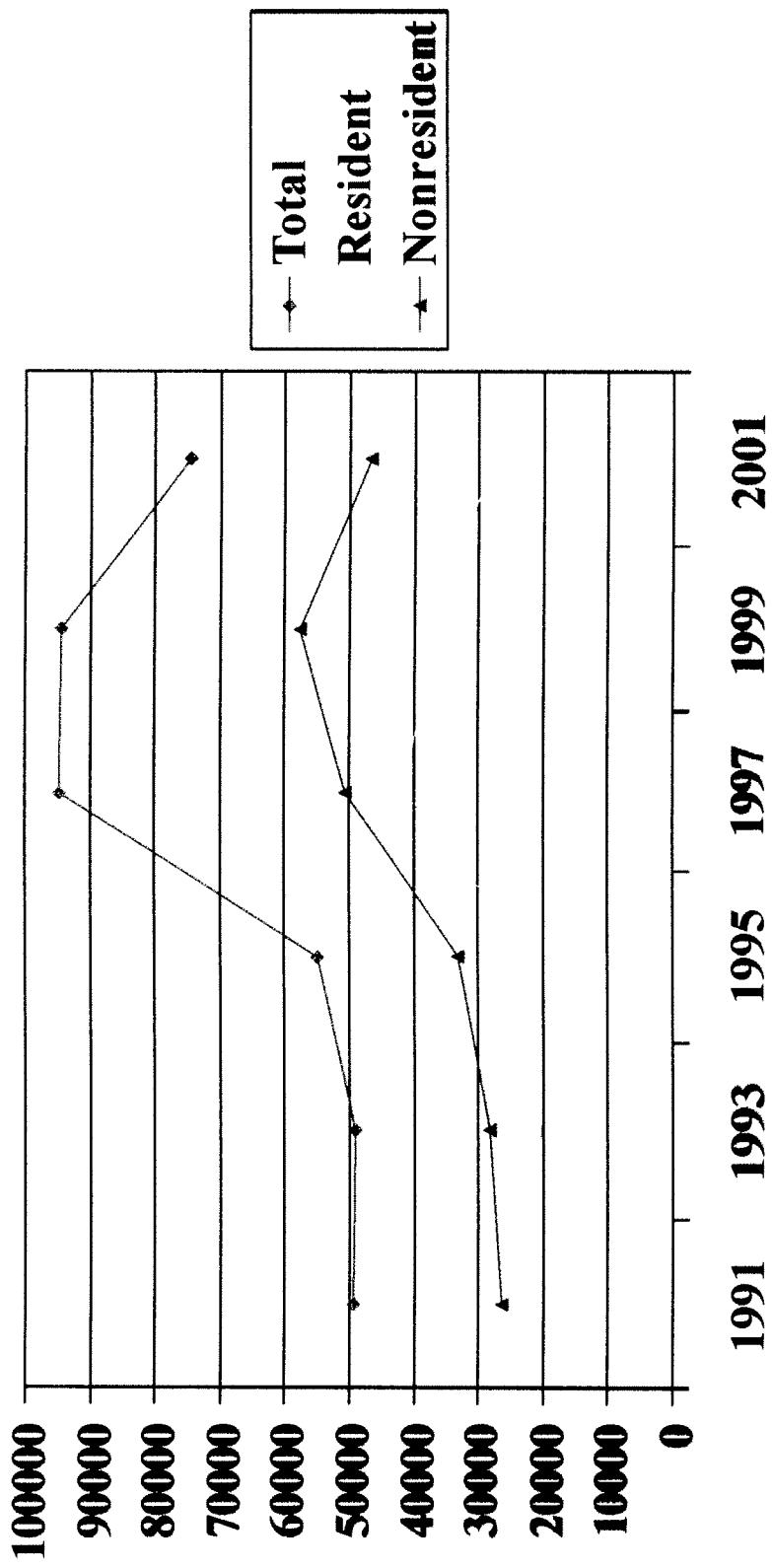
Bighorn River Sec 01



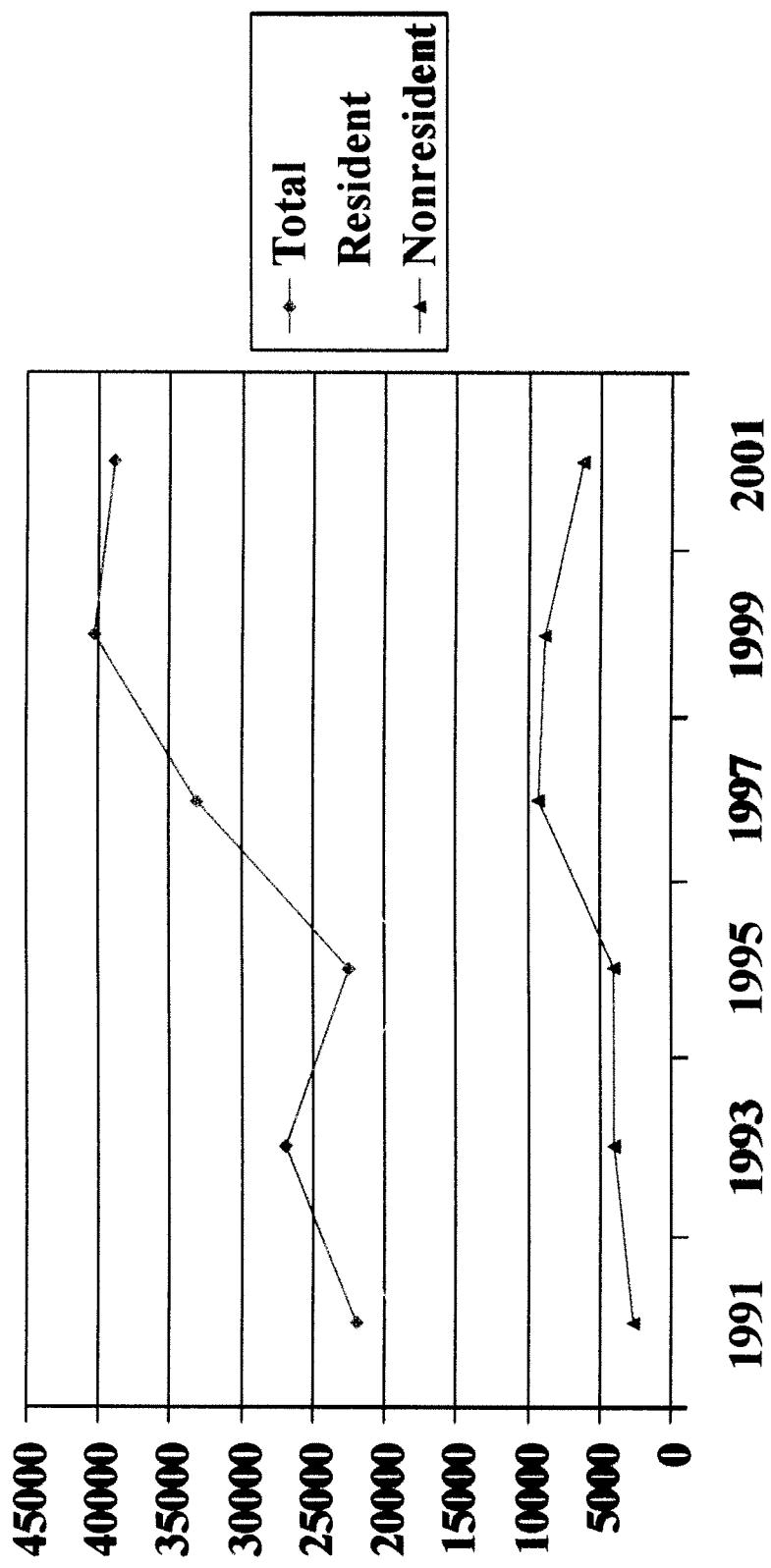
Bighorn River Sec 02



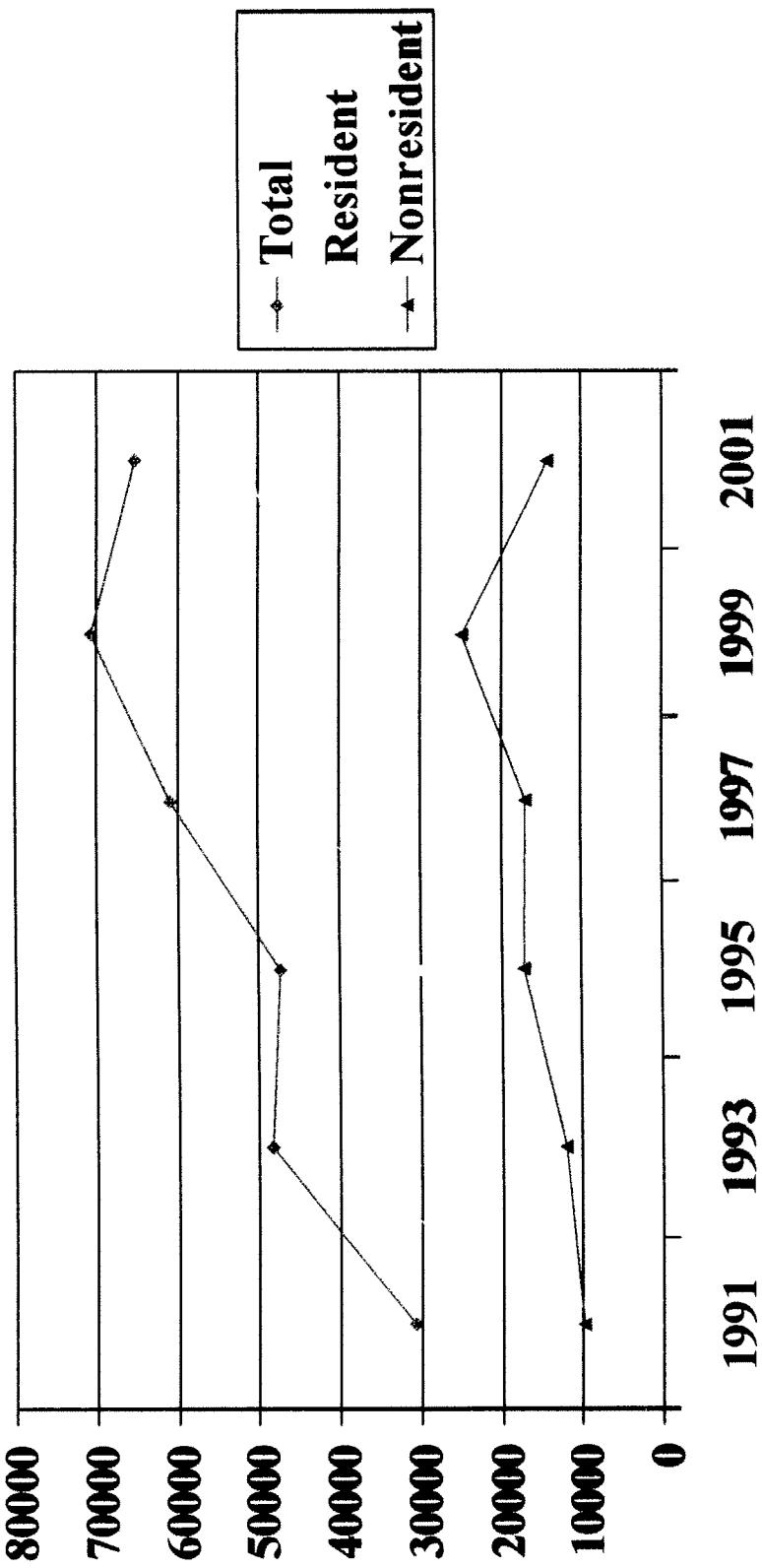
Bighorn River Sec 03



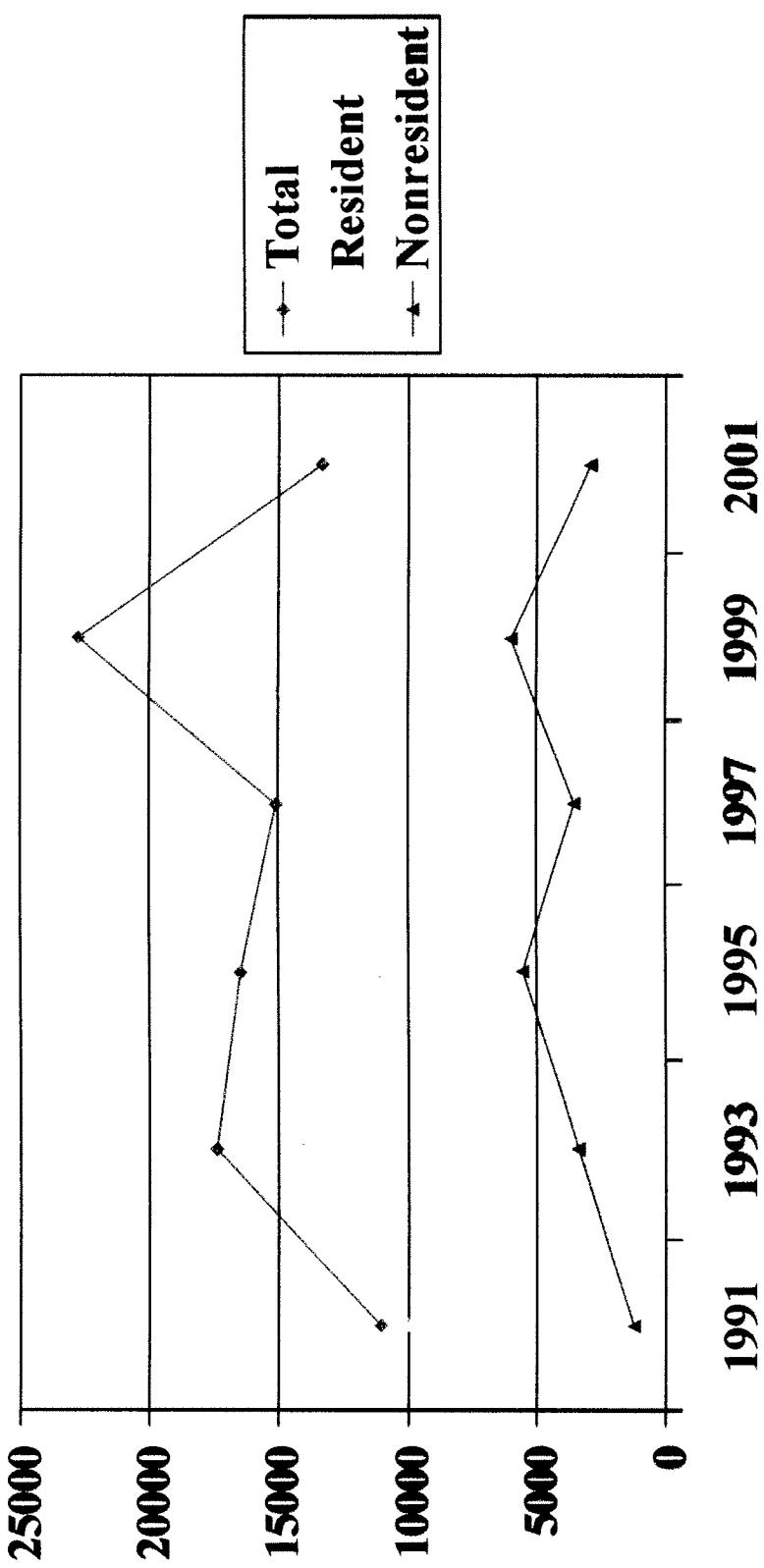
Bitterroot River Sec 01



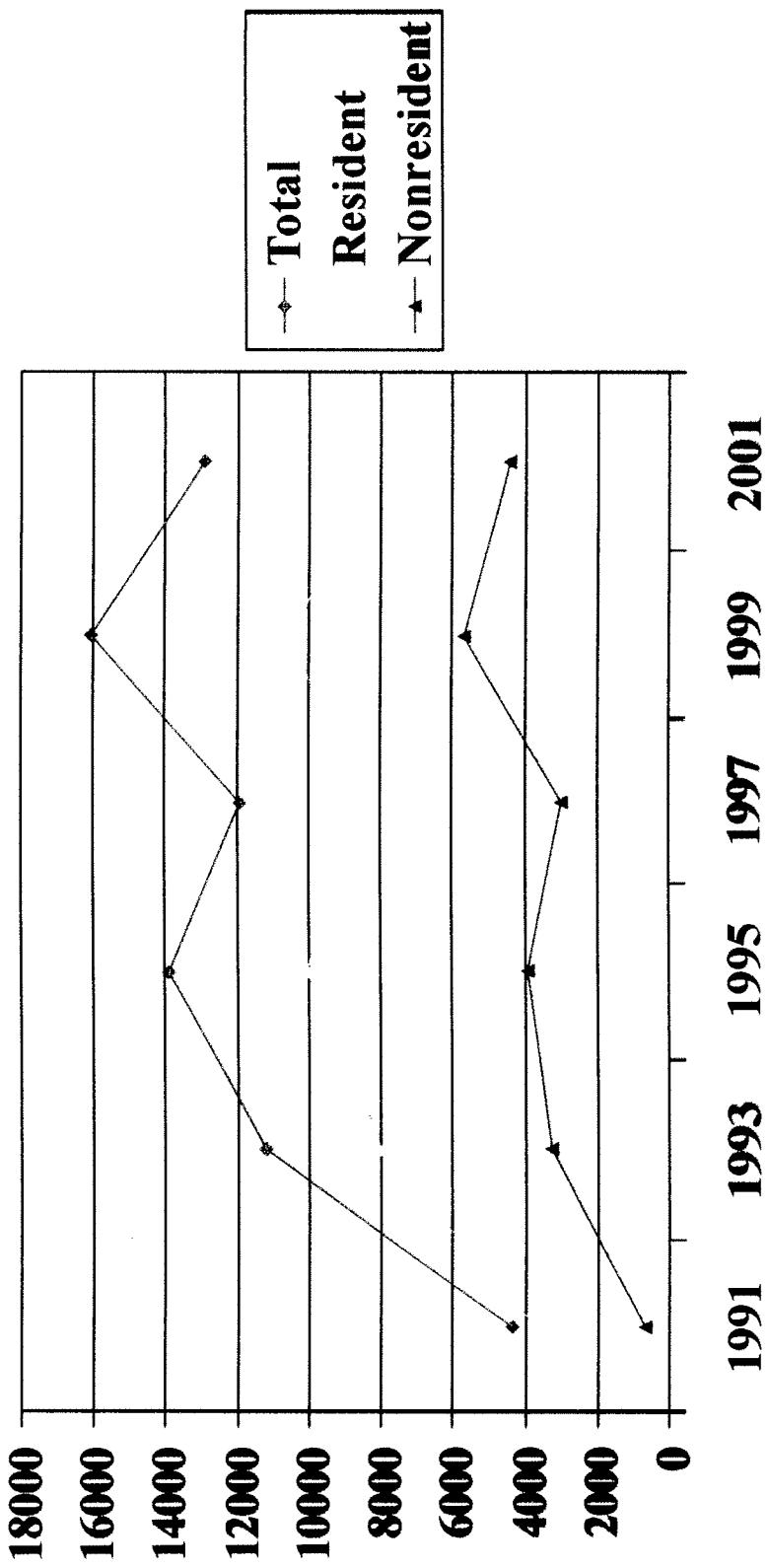
Bitterroot River Sec 02



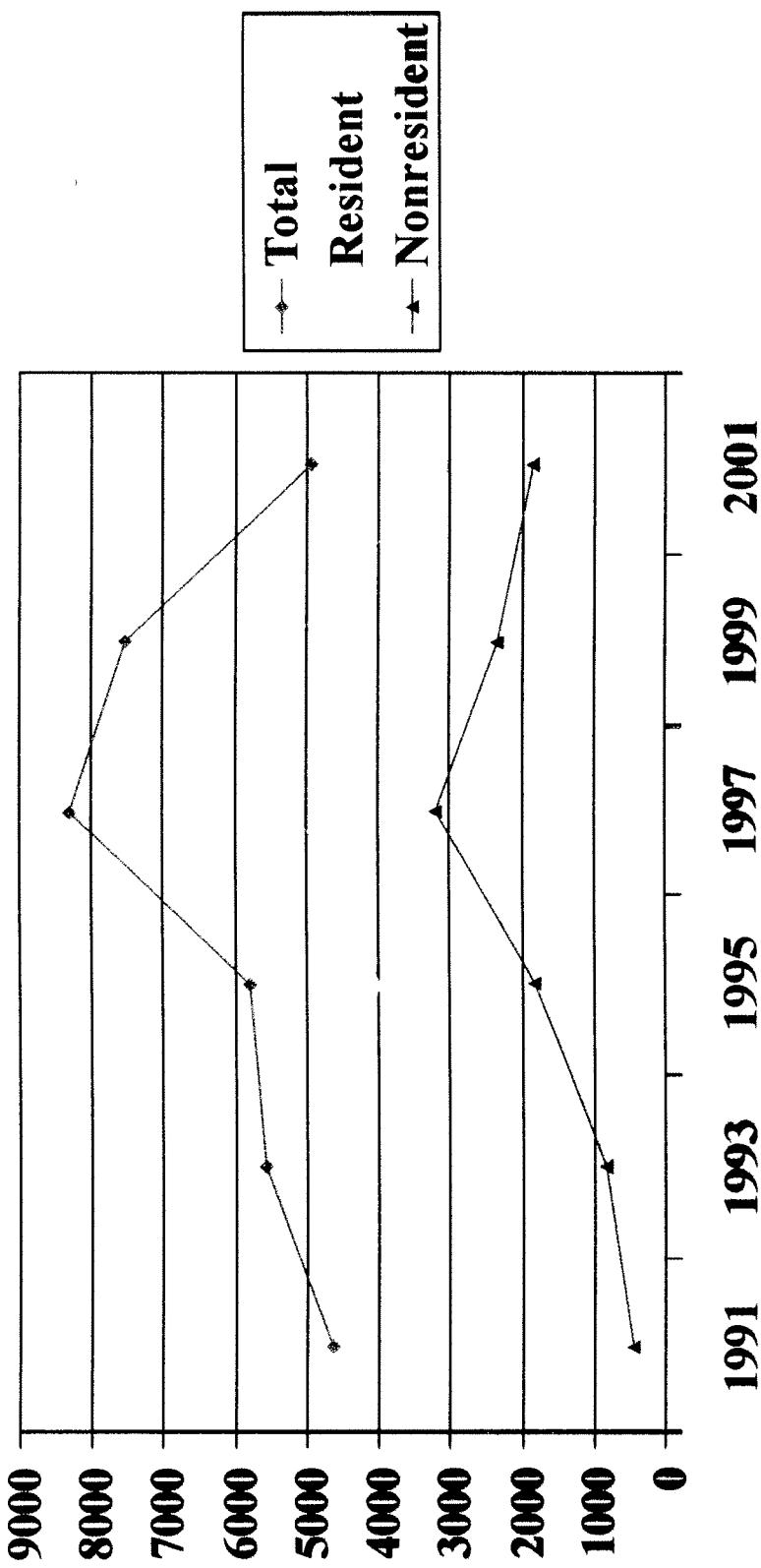
Blackfoot River Sec 01



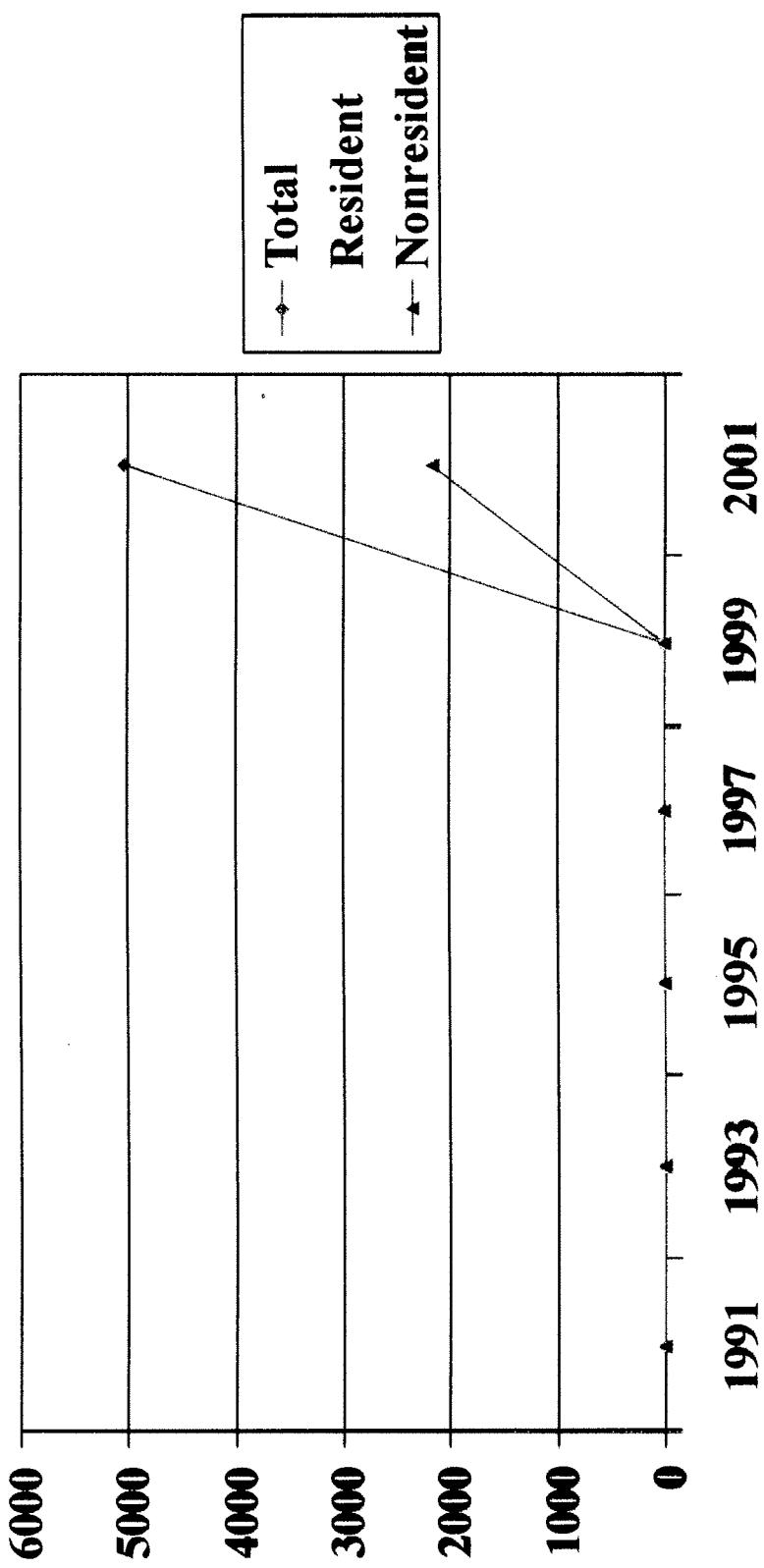
Blackfoot River Sec 02



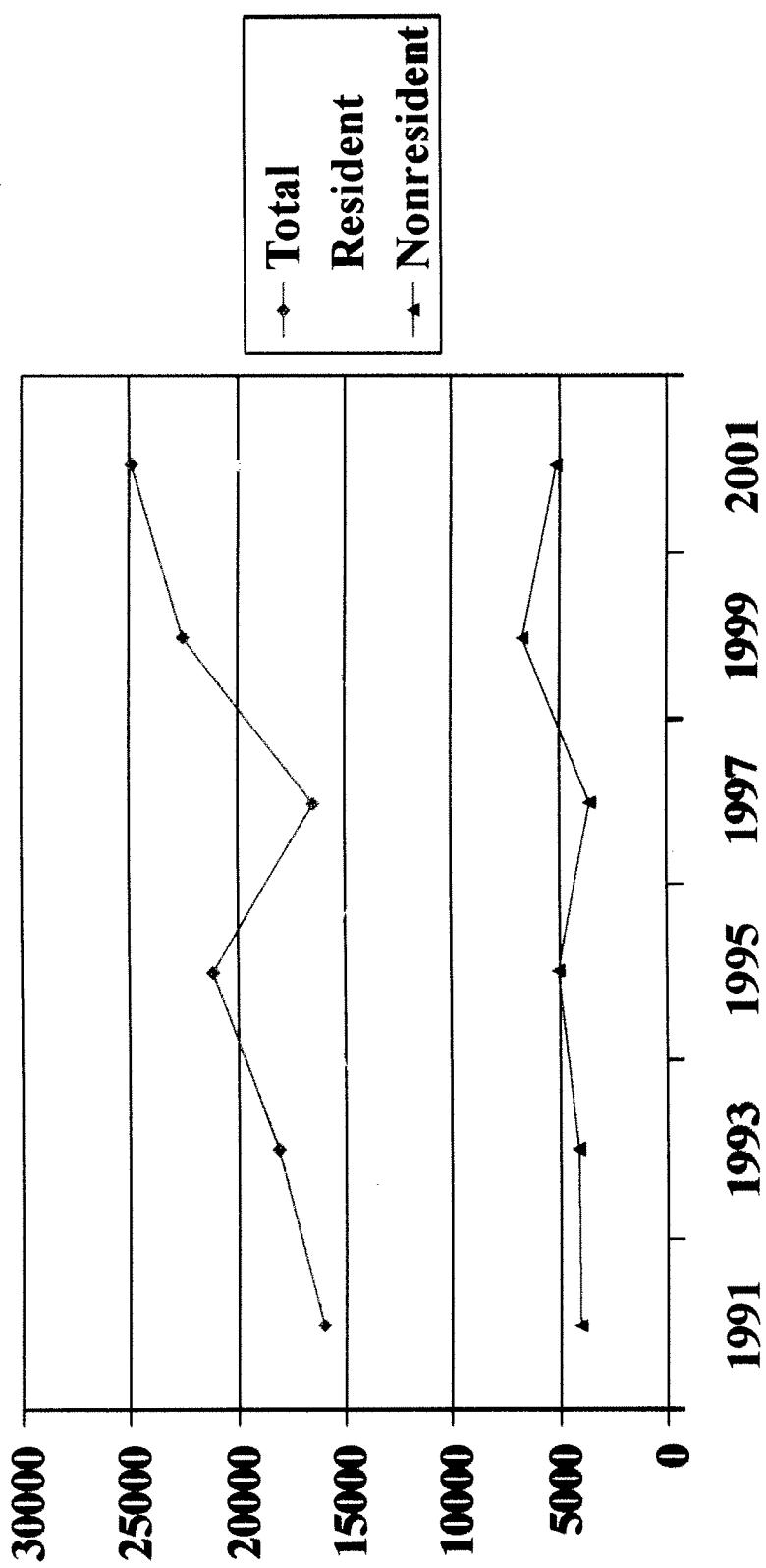
Blackfoot River Sec 03



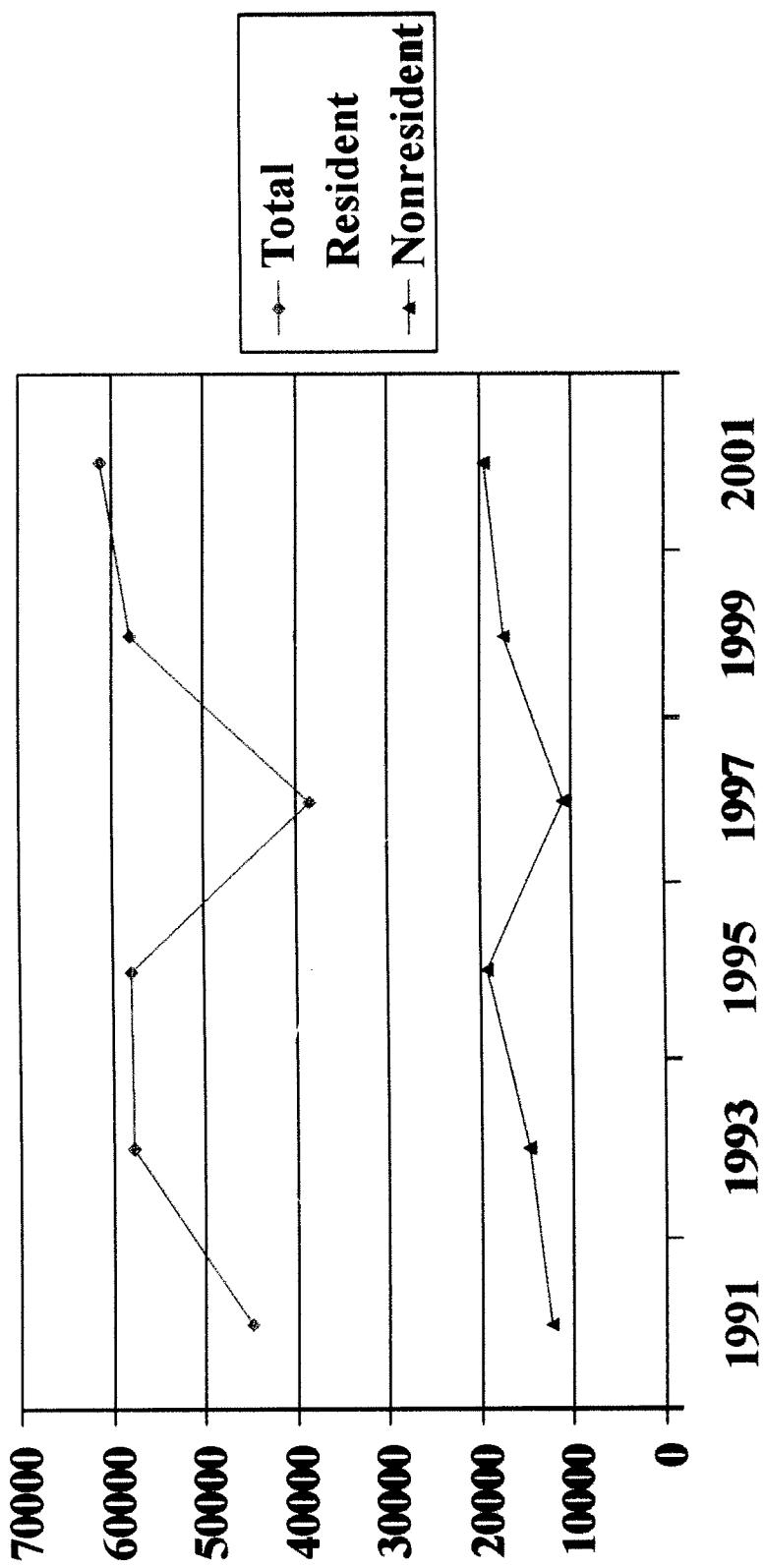
Blackfoot River Sec 04



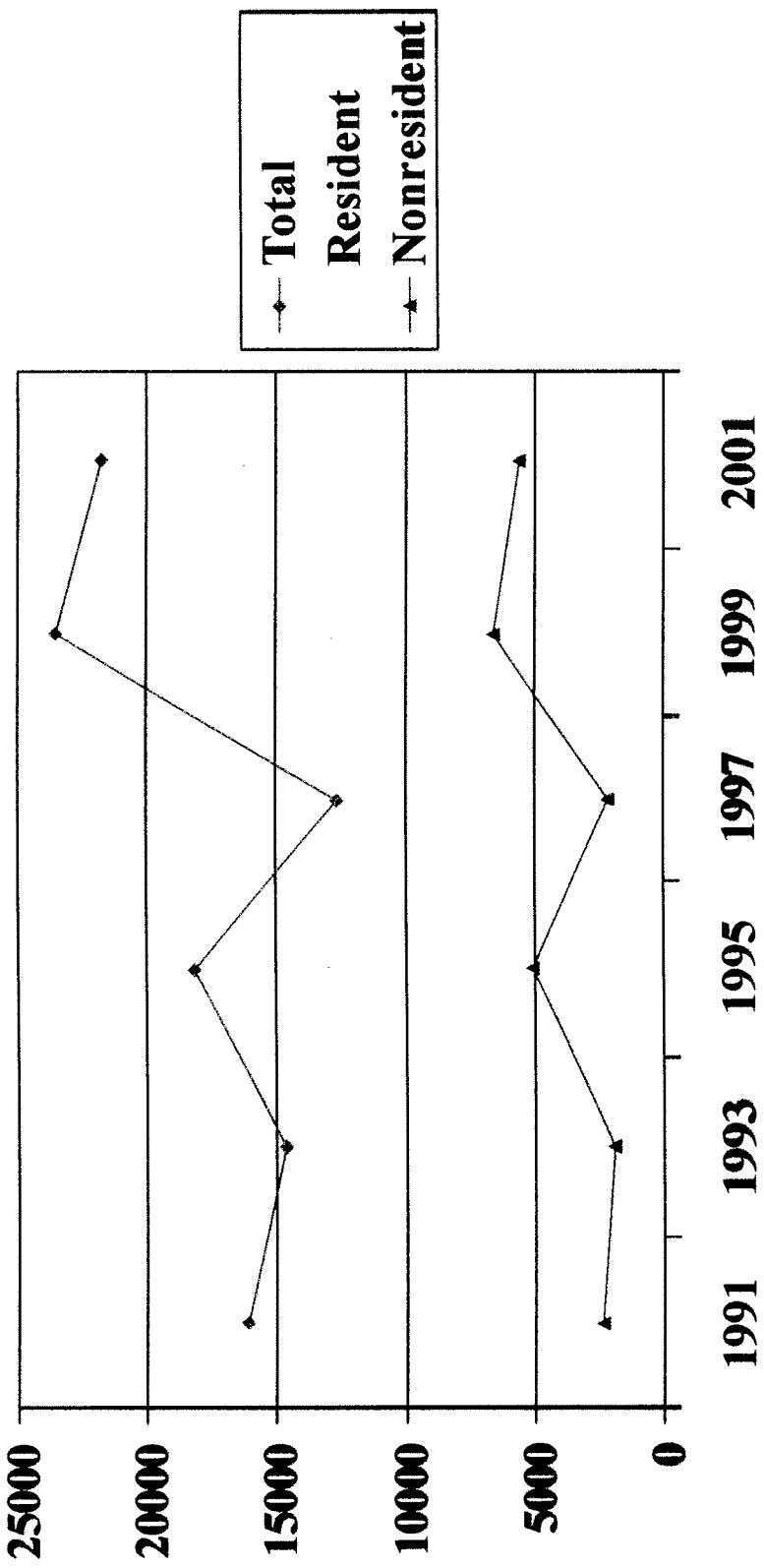
Clark Fork River Sec 01



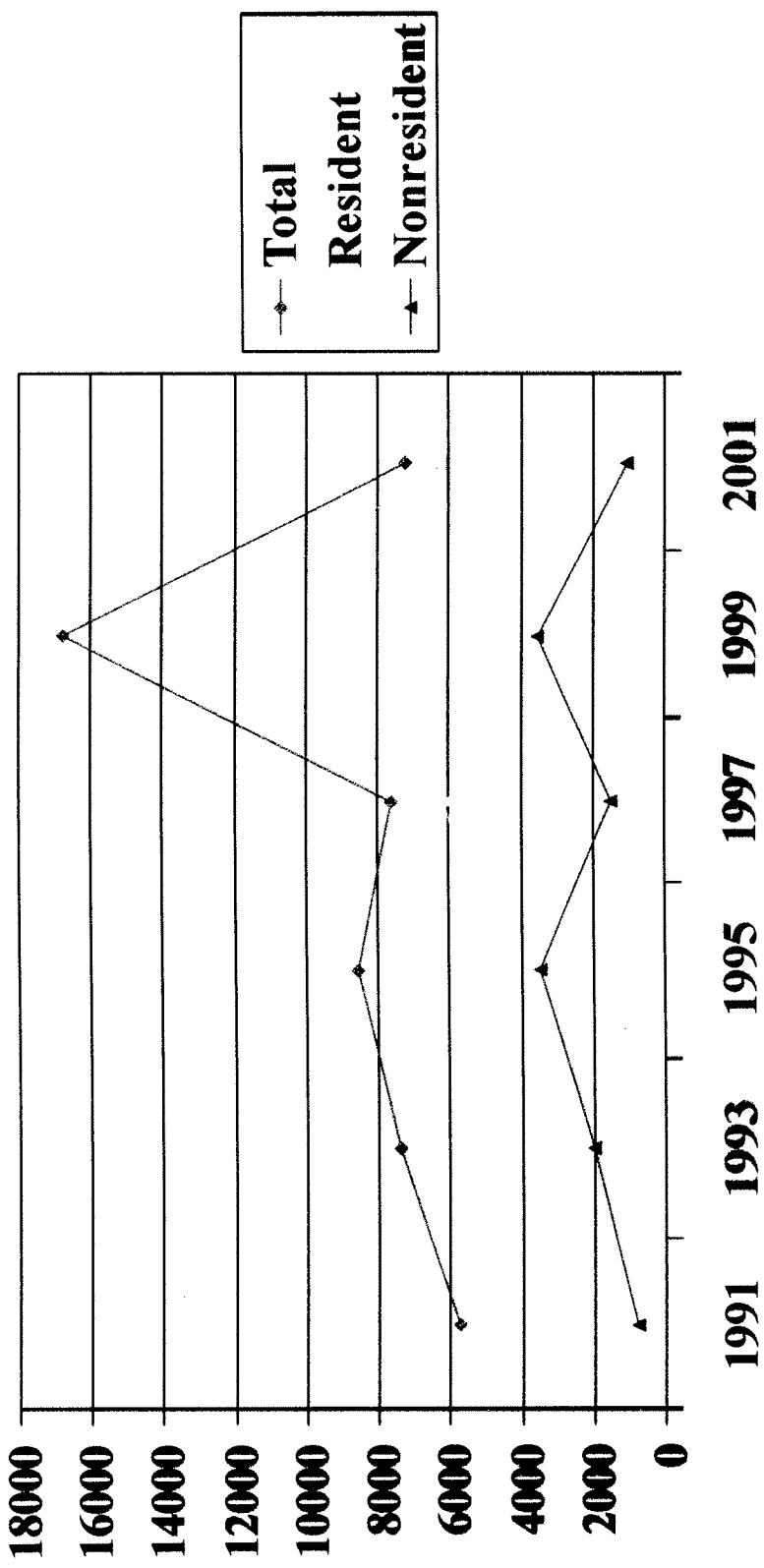
Clark Fork River Sec 02



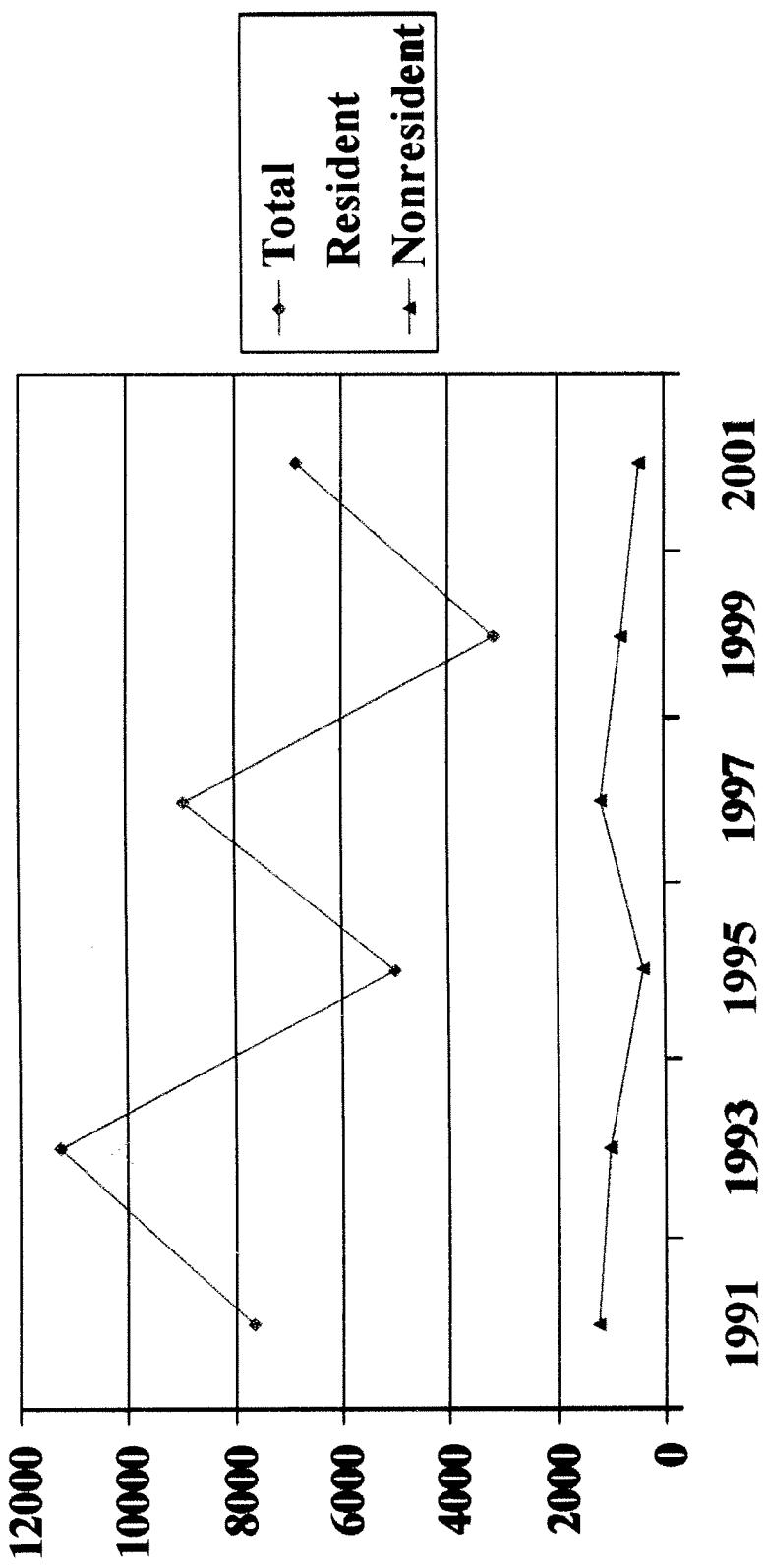
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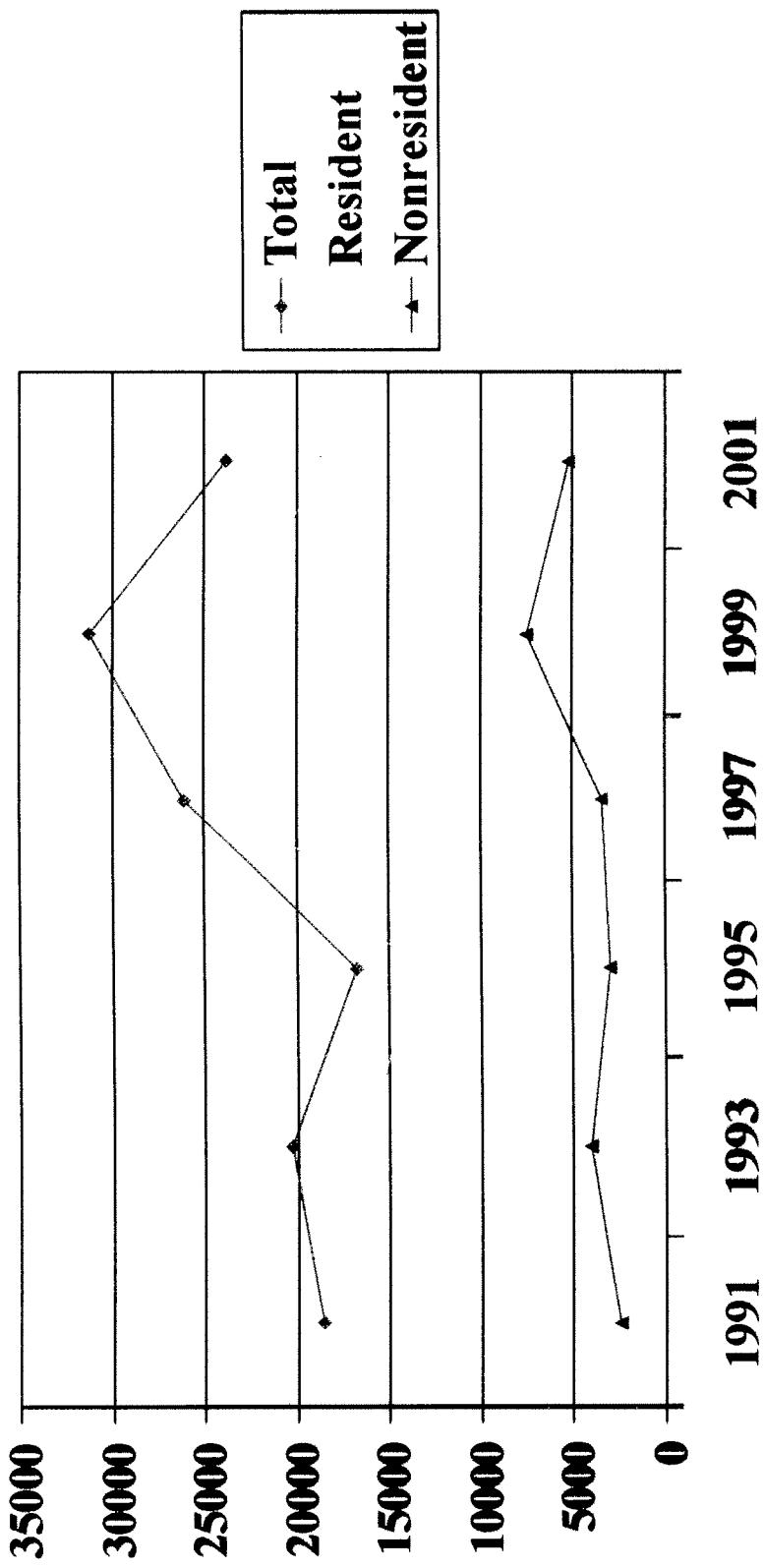
Clark Fork River Sec 04



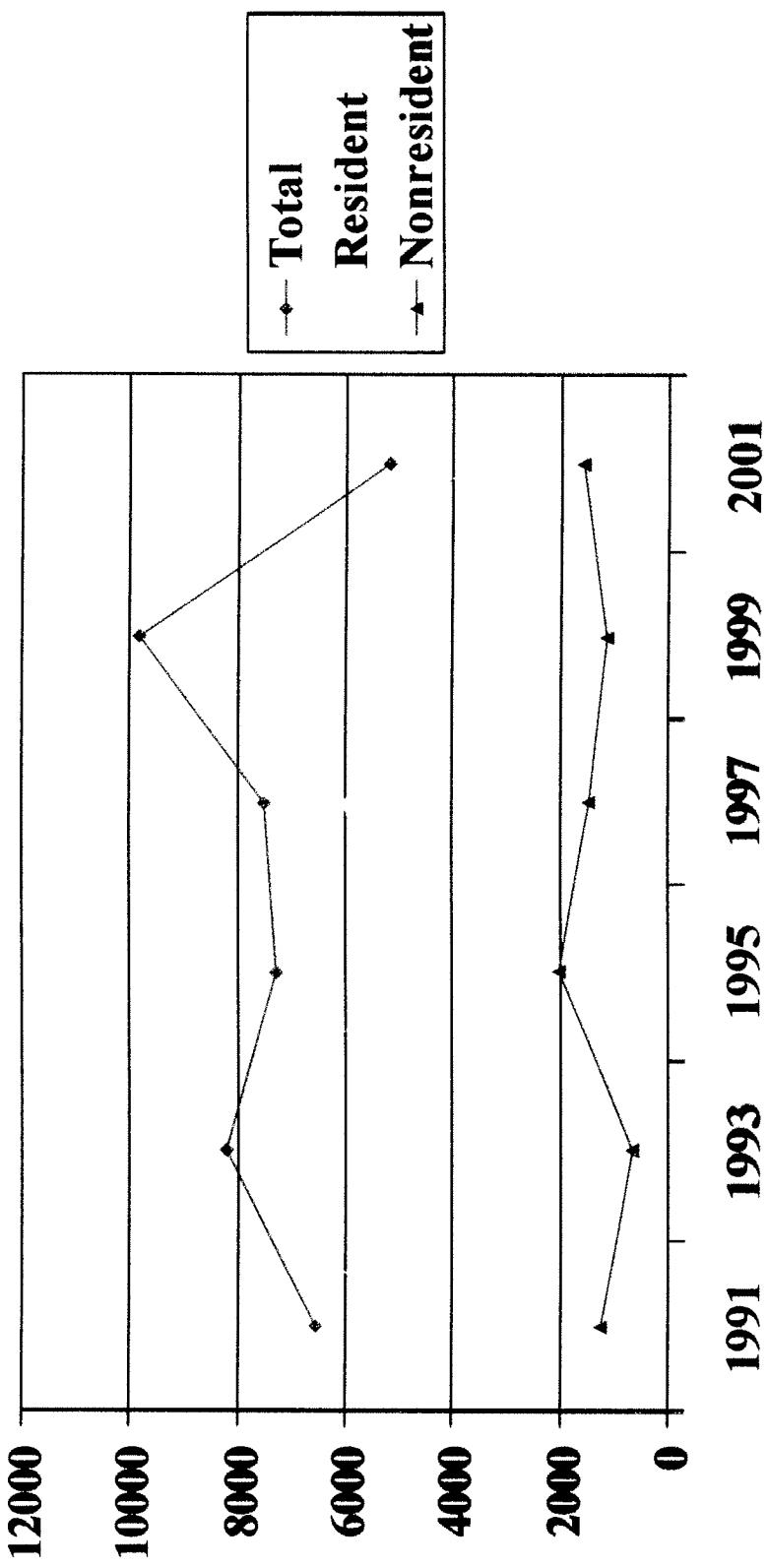
Flathead River Sec 01



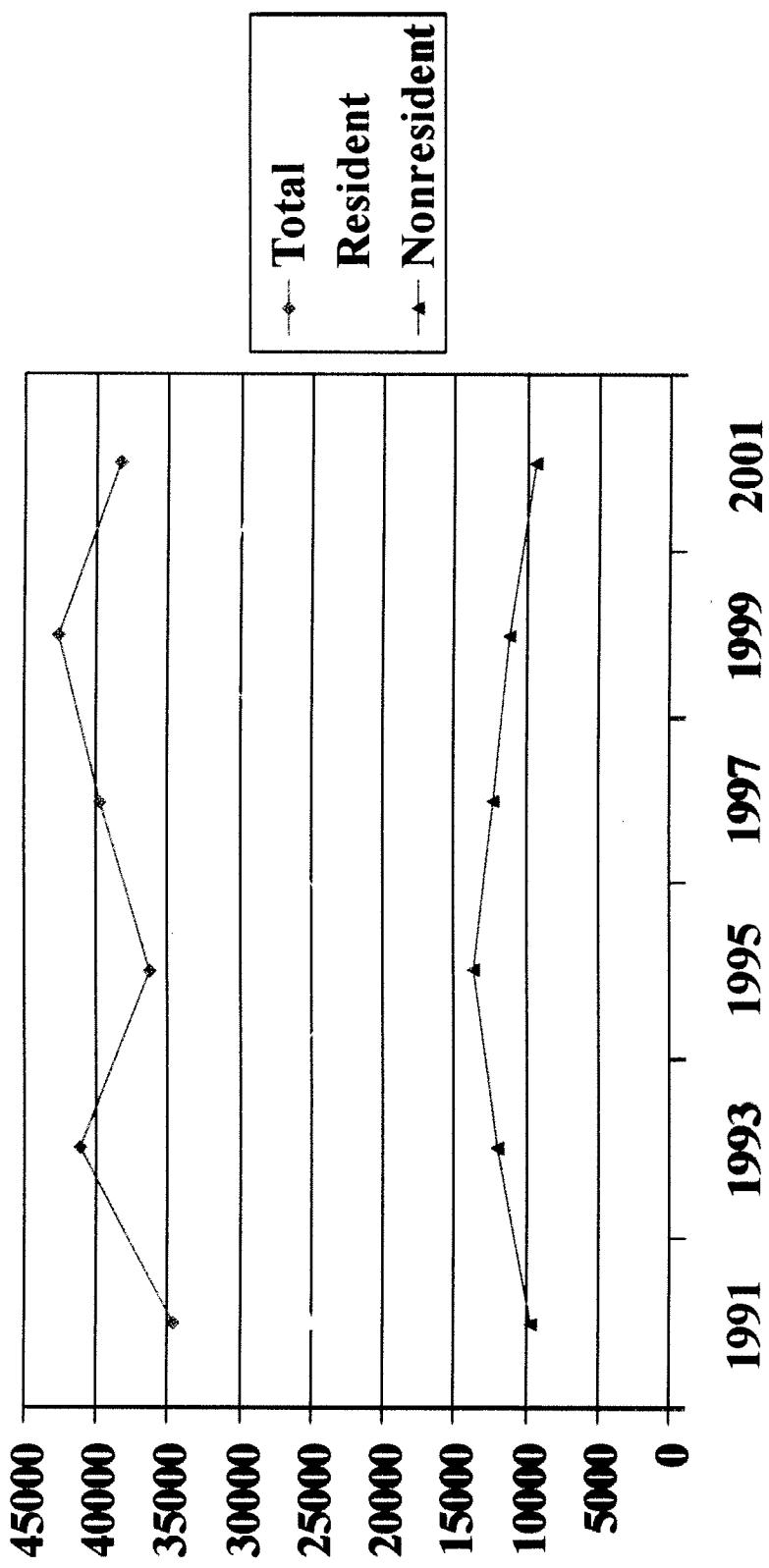
Flathead River Sec 02



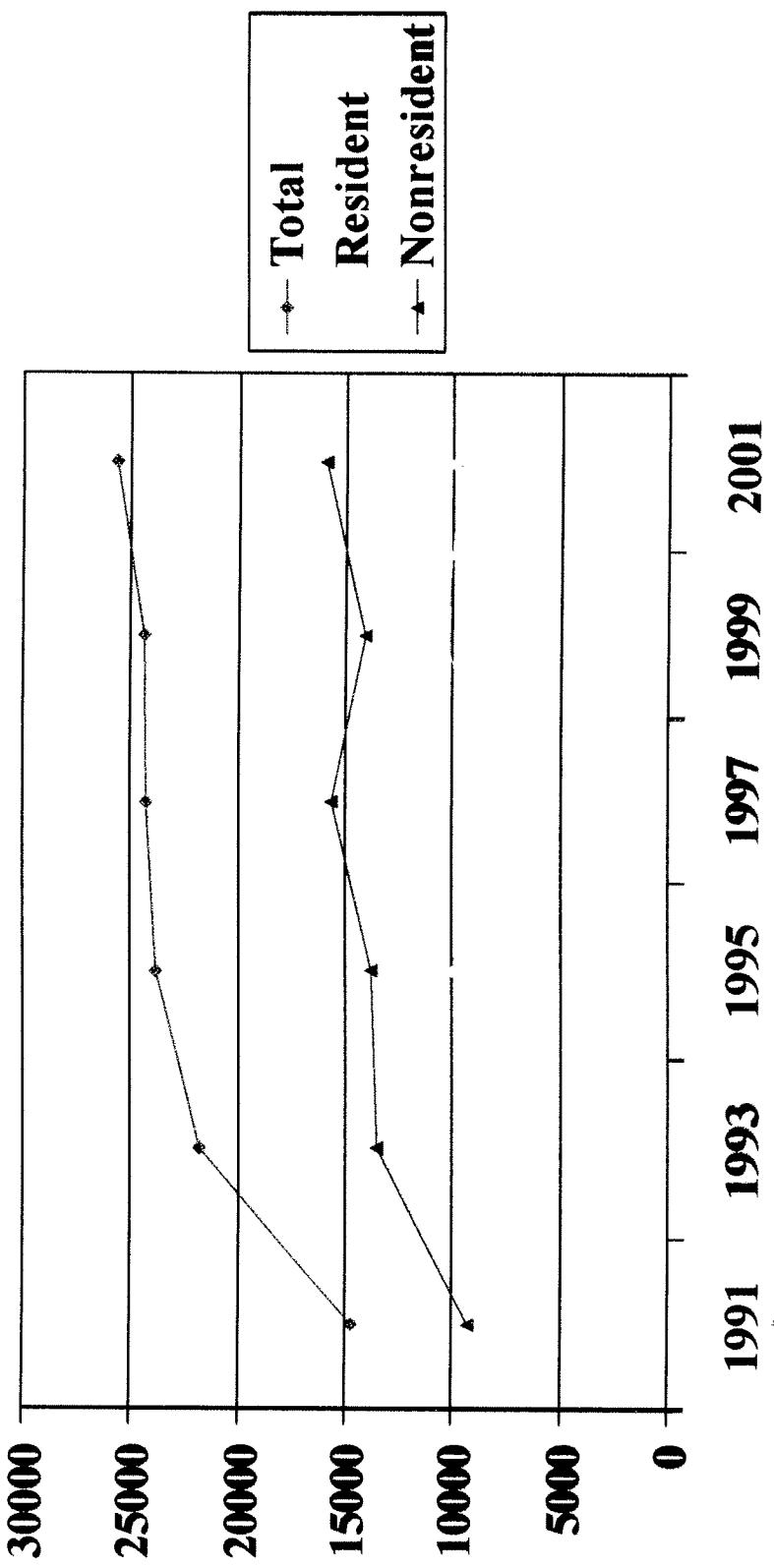
Gallatin River Sec 01



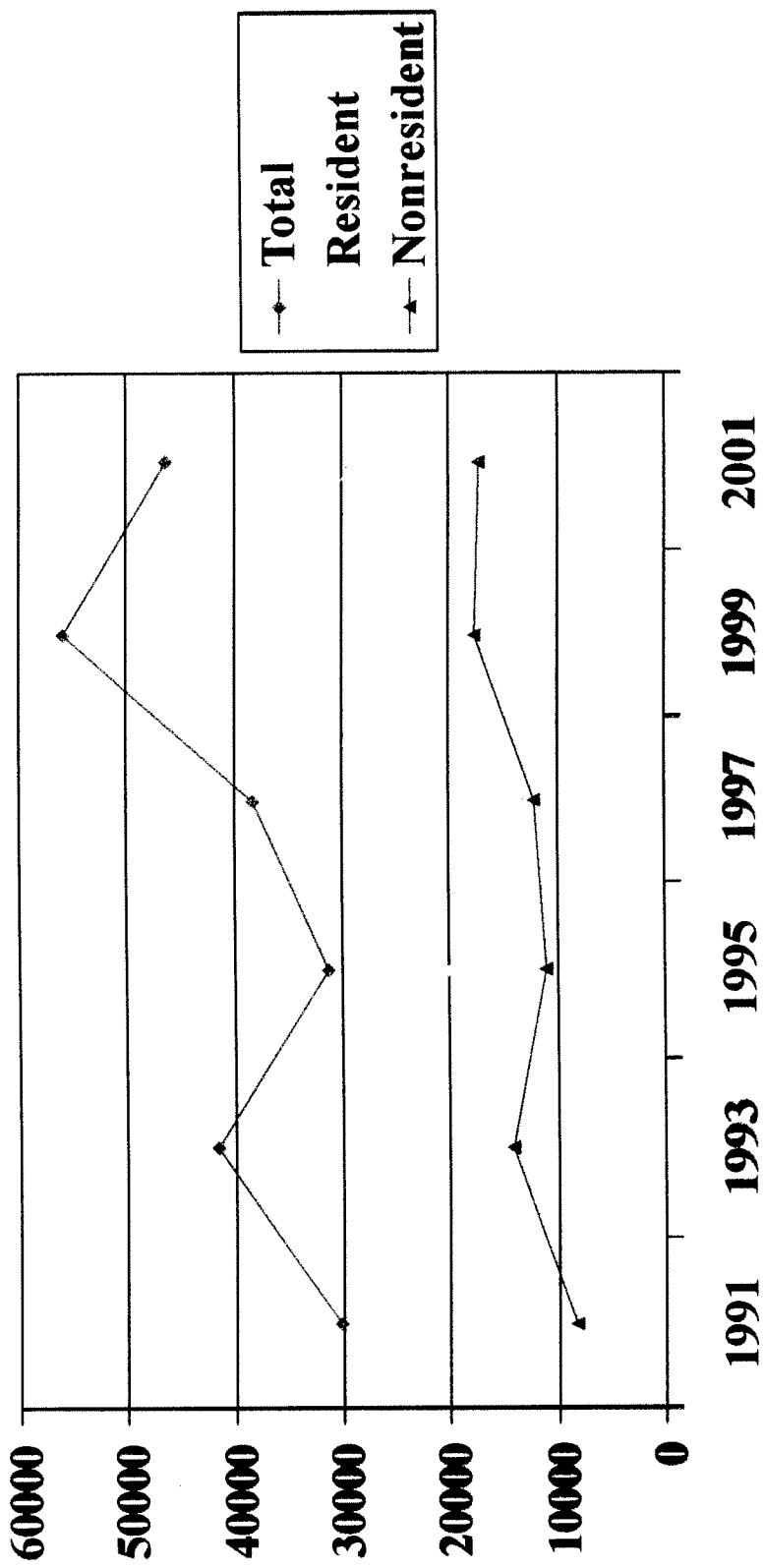
Gallatin River Sec 02



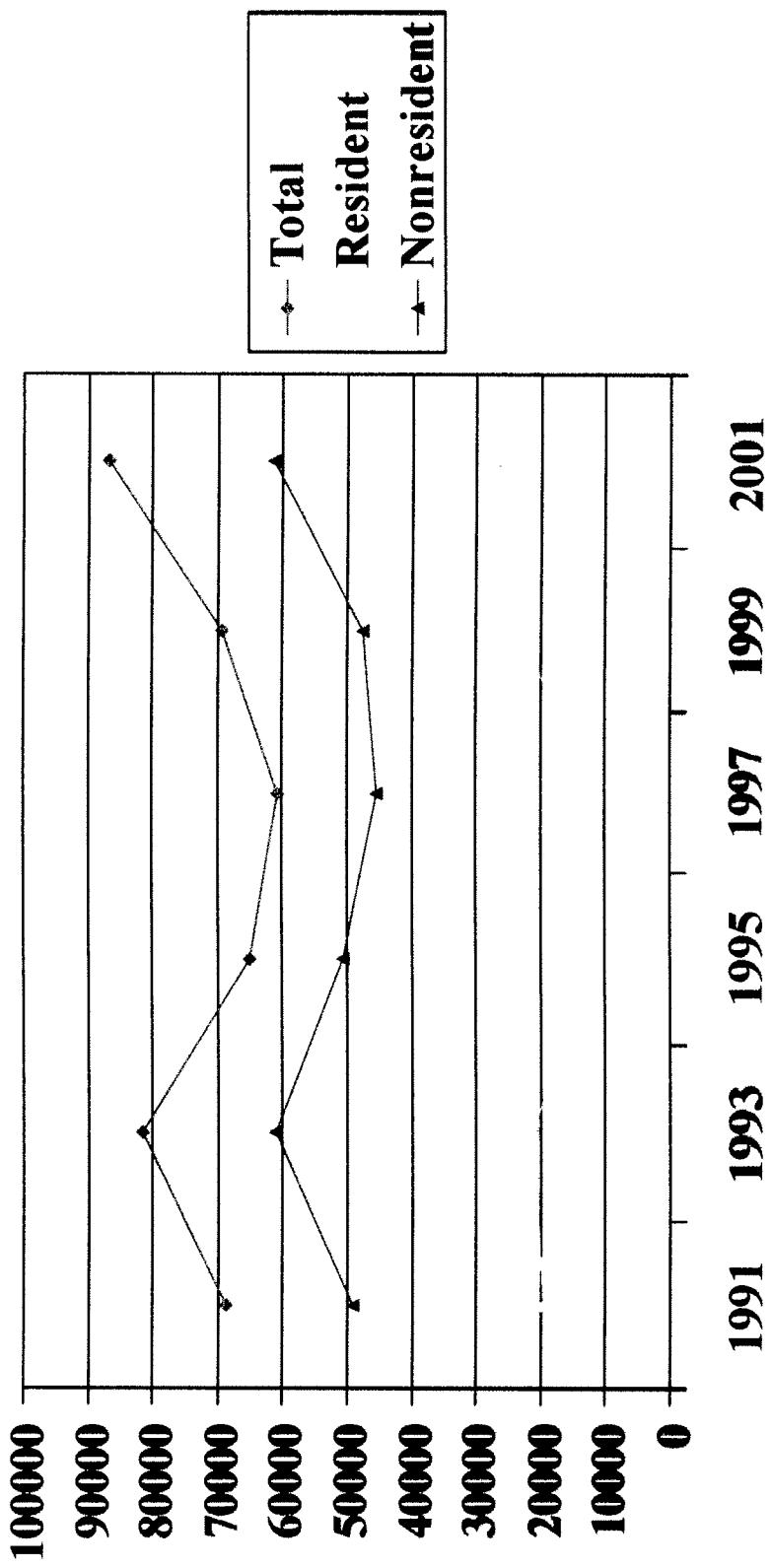
Gallatin River Sec 03



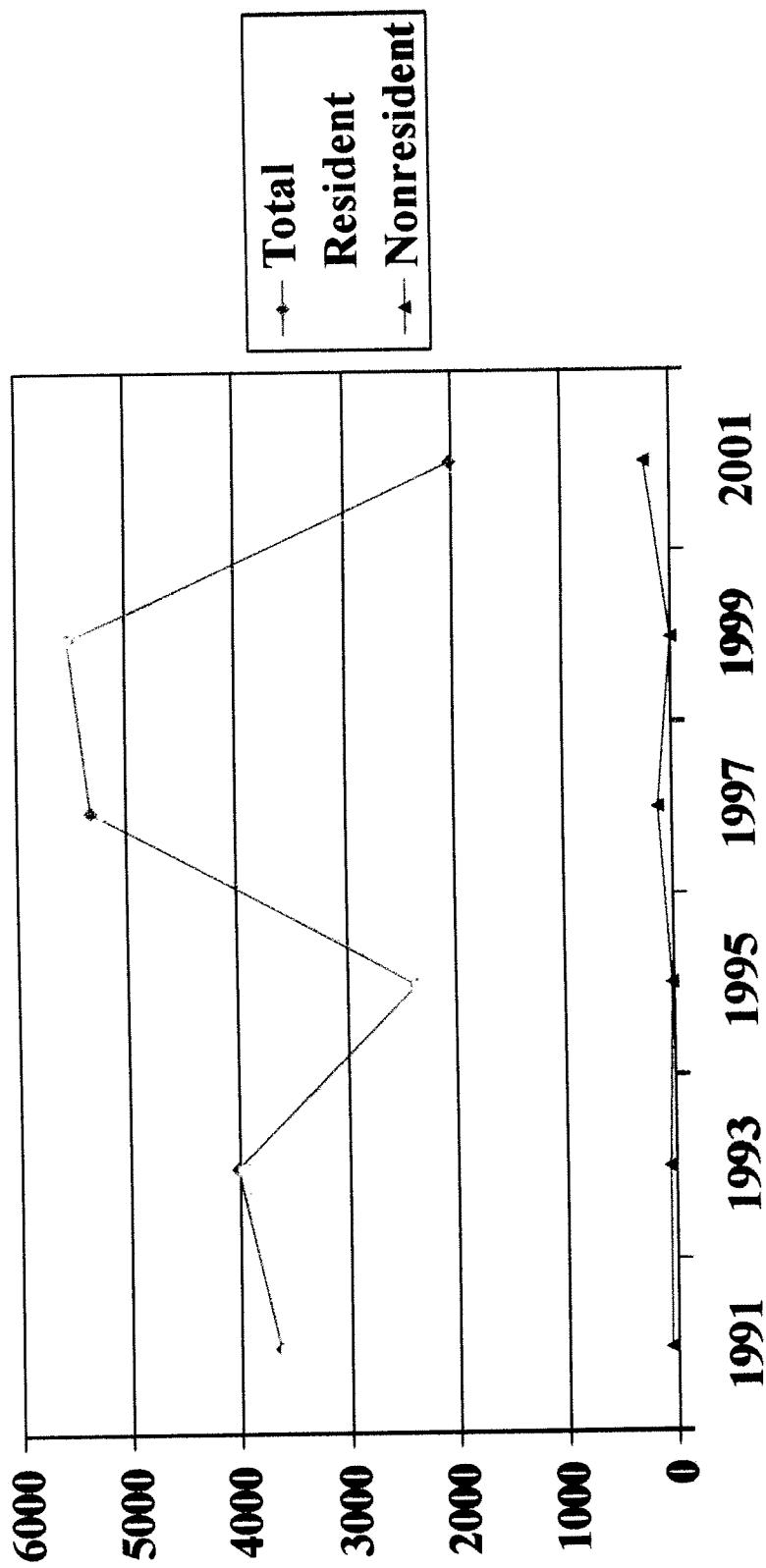
Madison River Sec 01



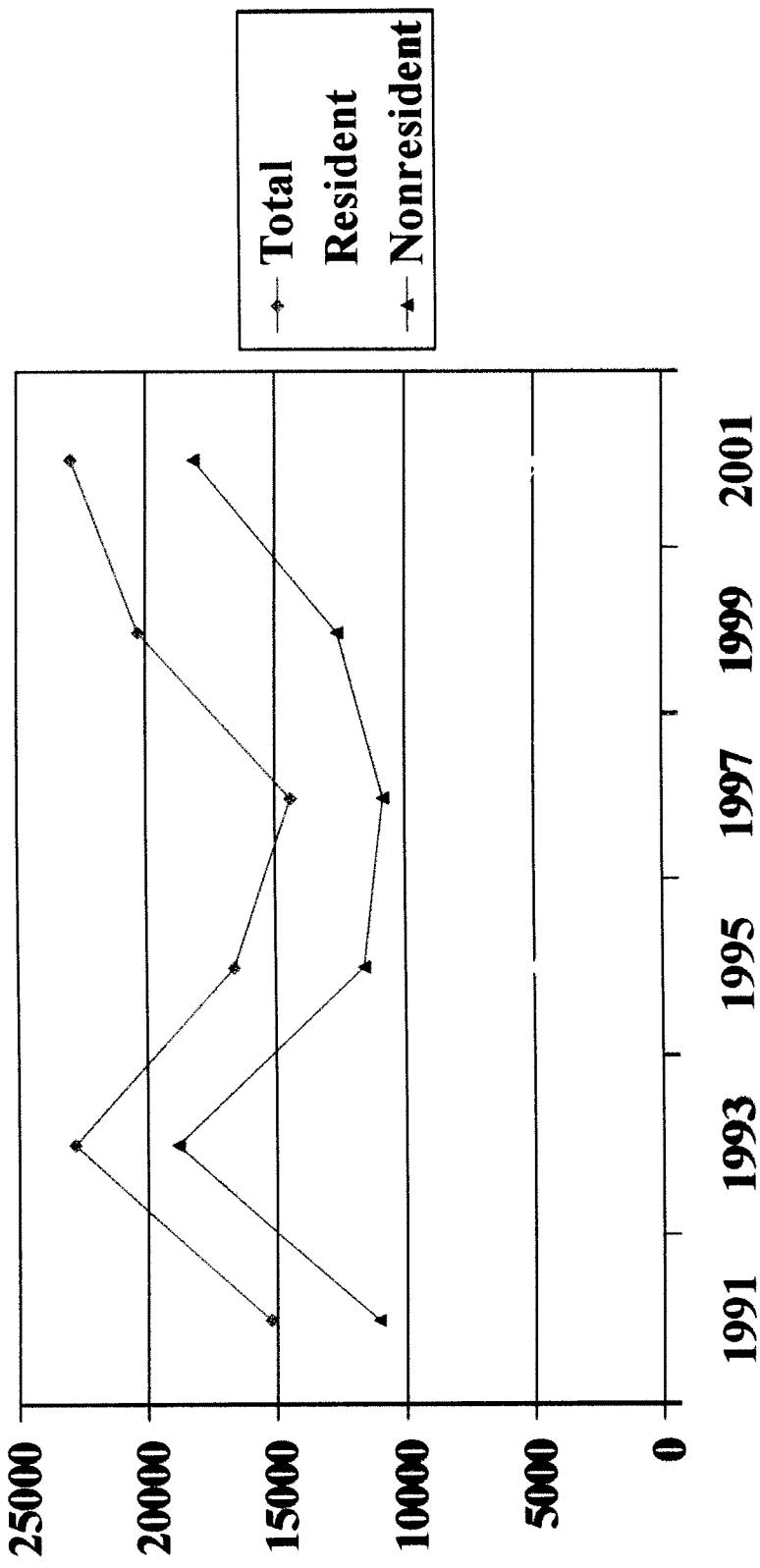
Madison River Sec 02



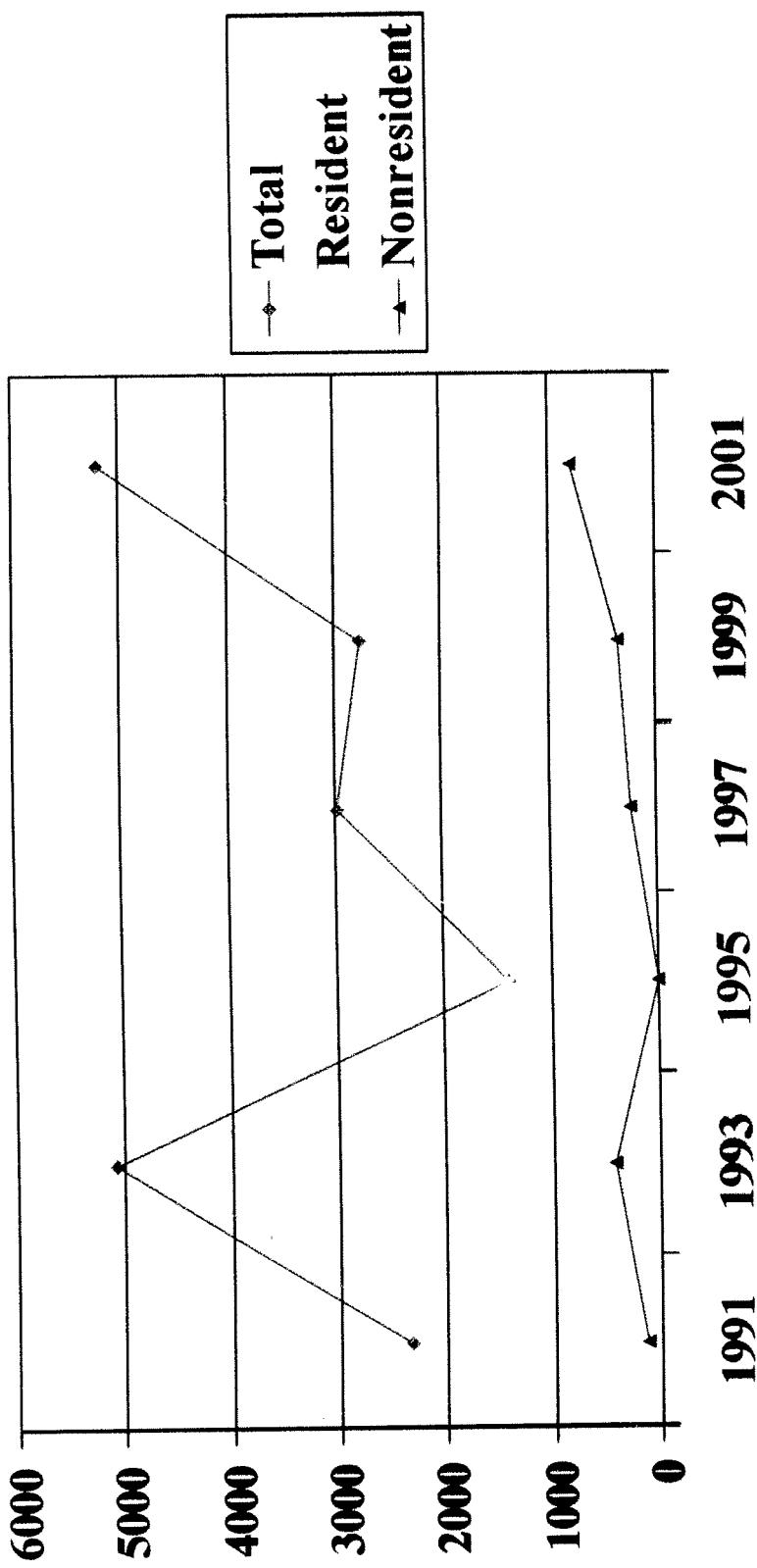
Missouri River Sec 01



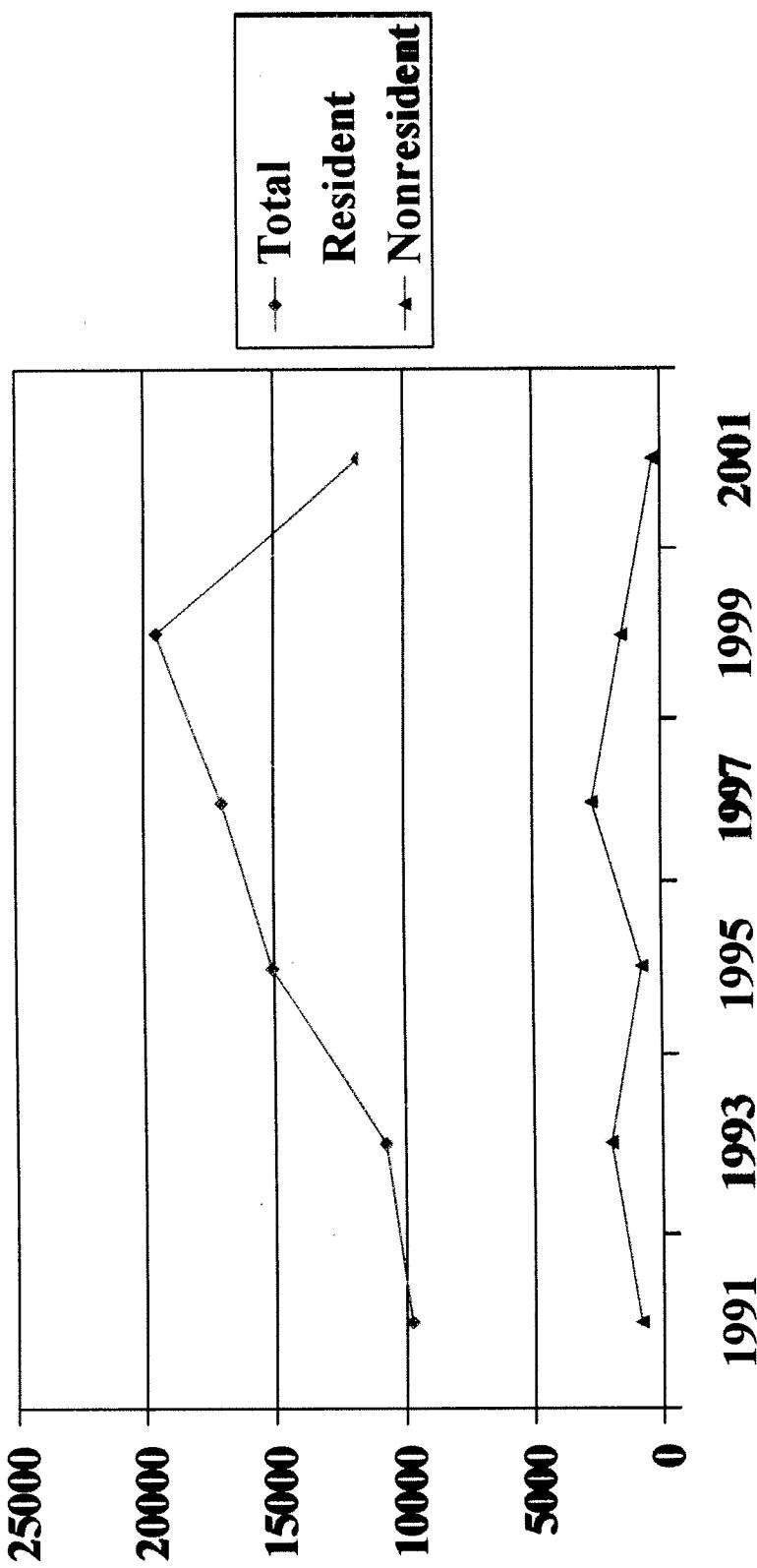
Madison River Sec 03



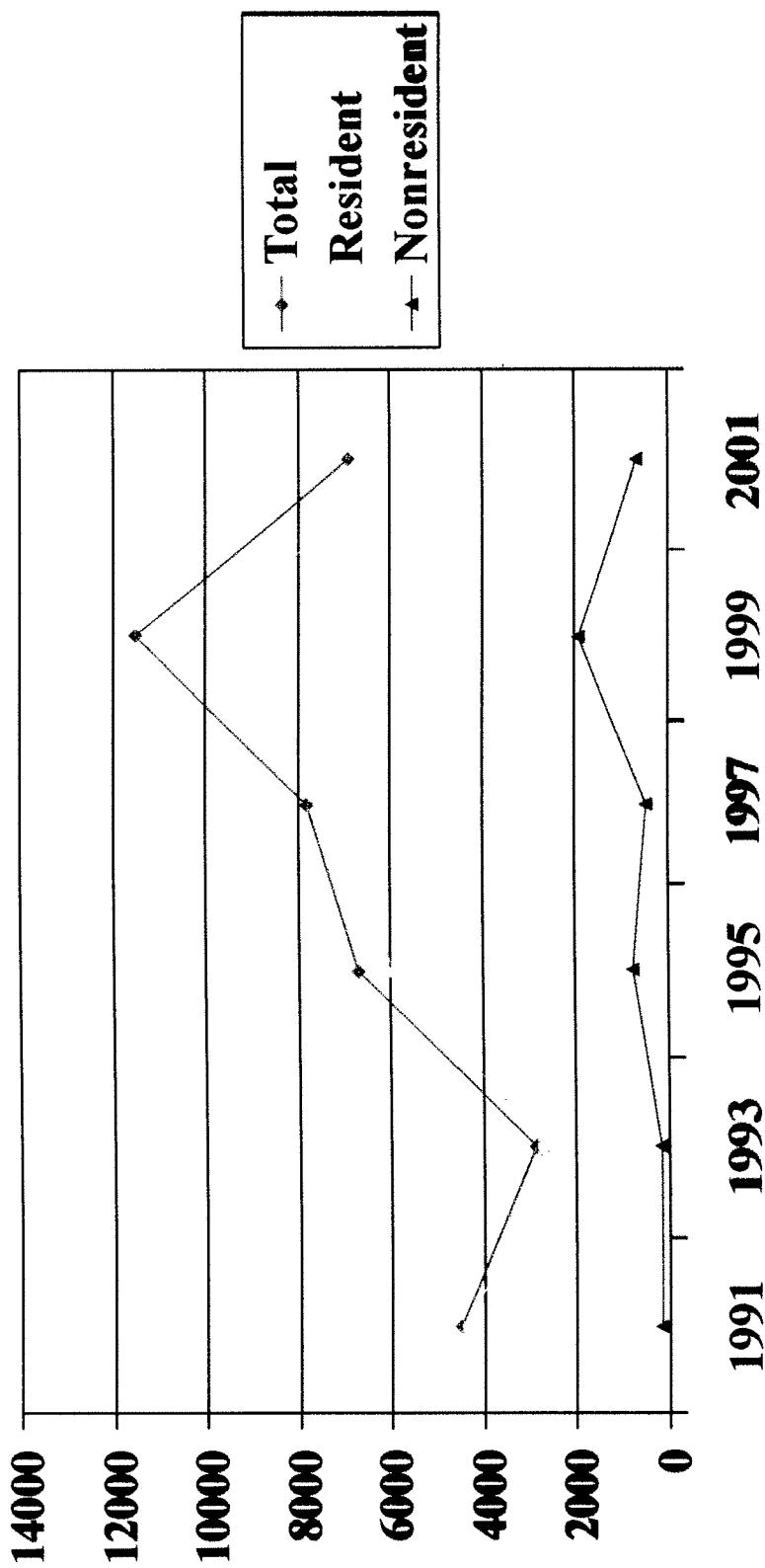
Missouri River Sec 05



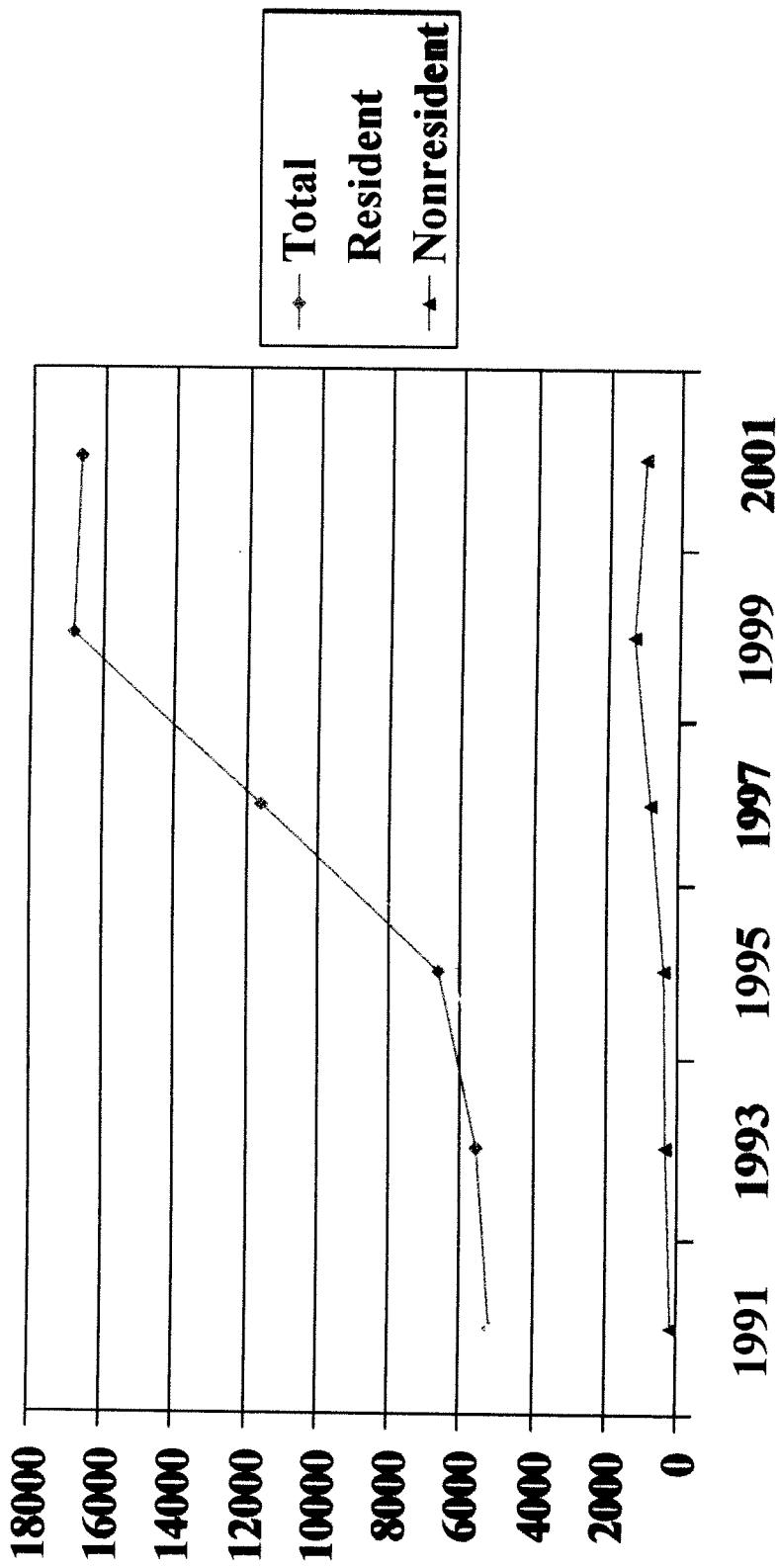
Missouri River Sec 06A



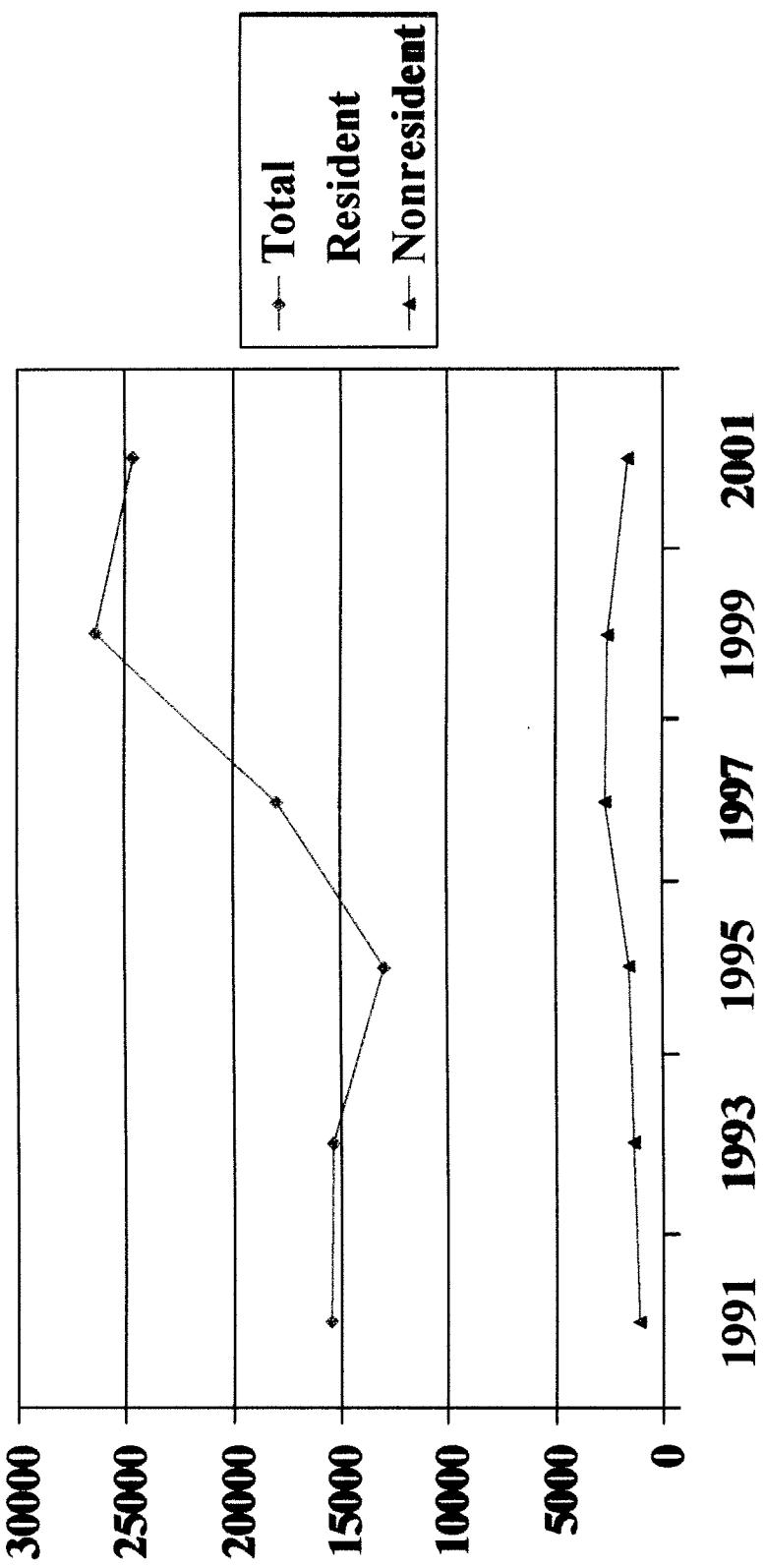
Missouri River Sec 06B



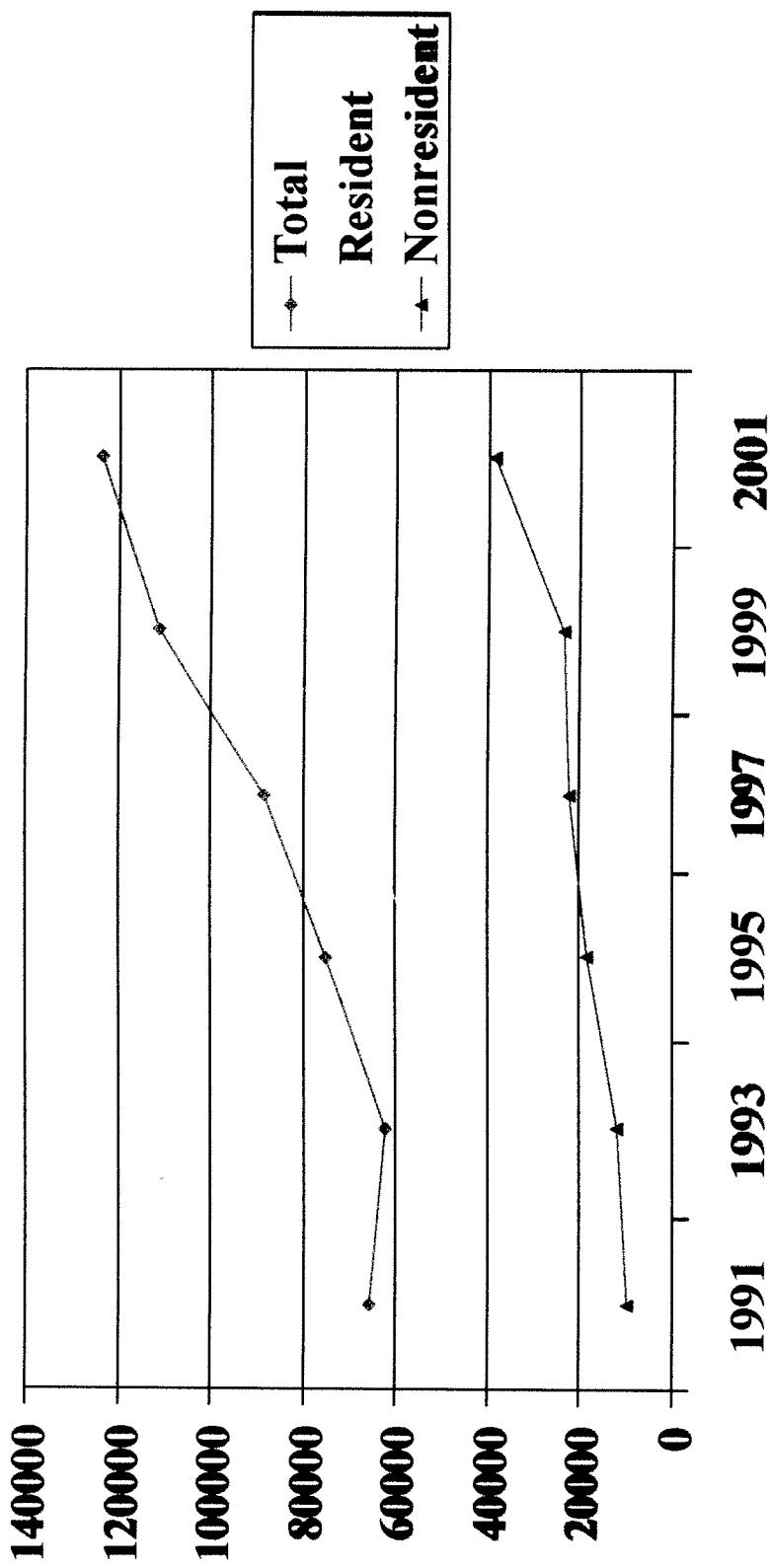
Missouri River Sec 07



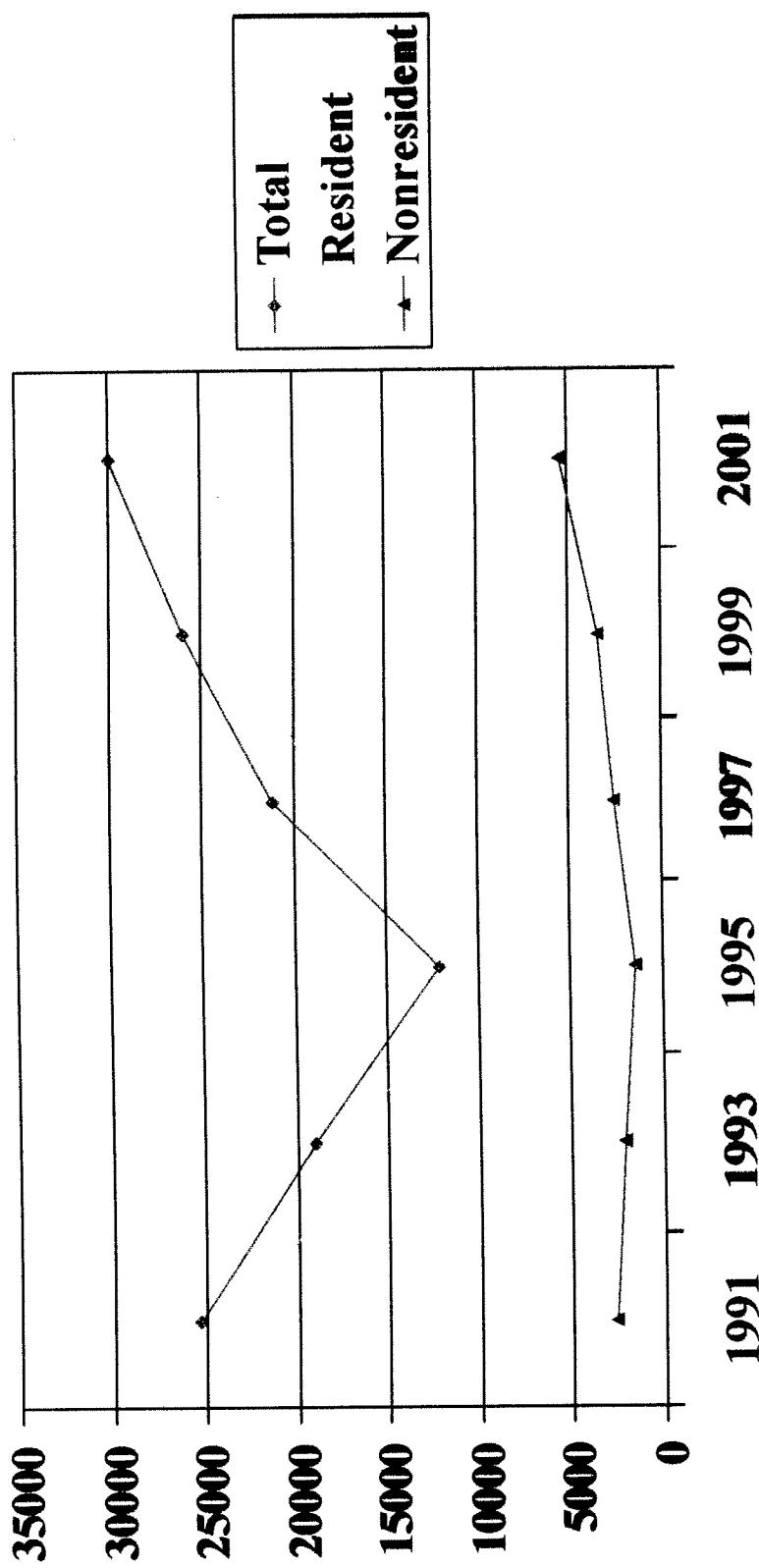
Missouri River Sec 08



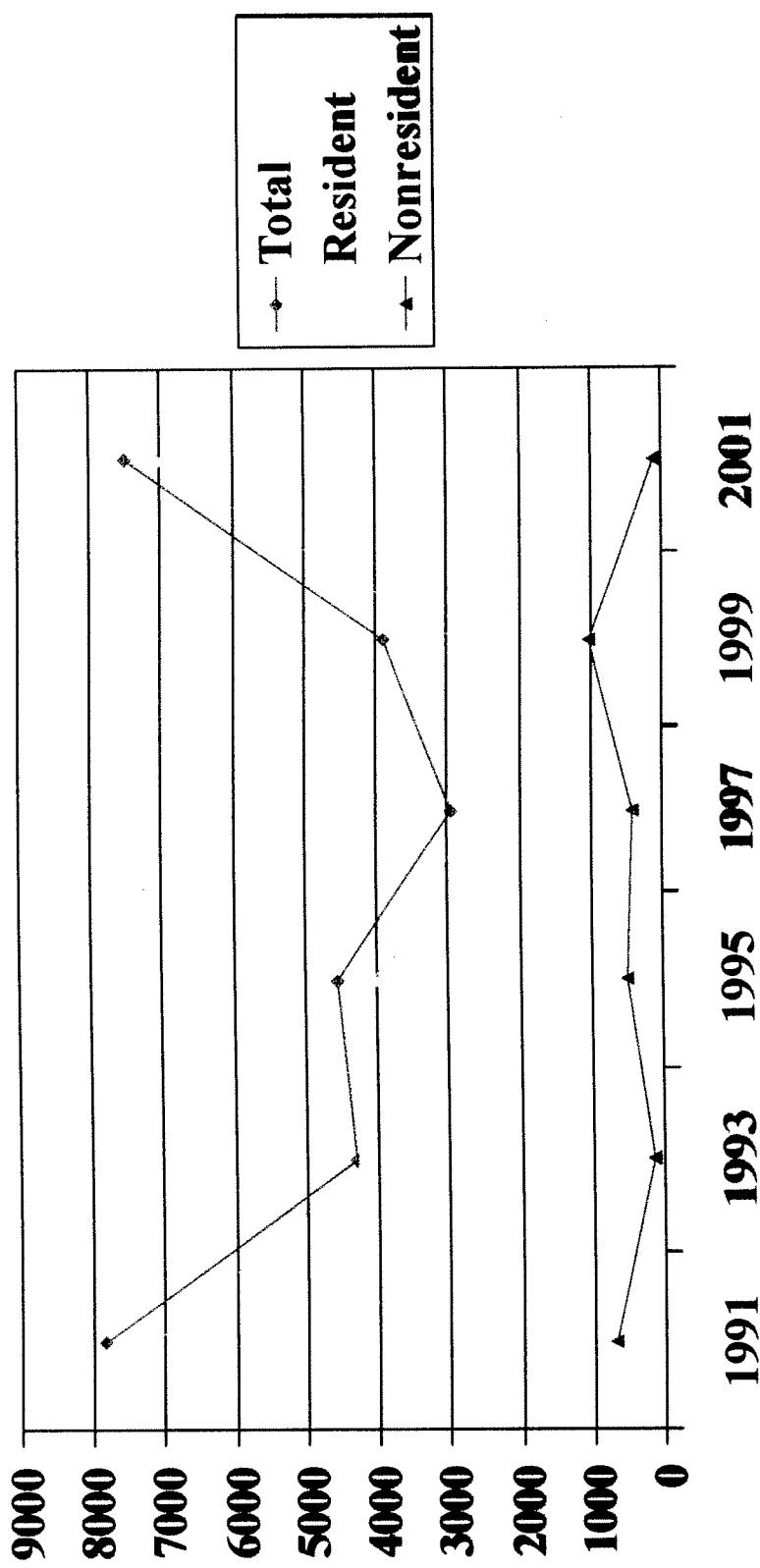
Missouri River Sec 09



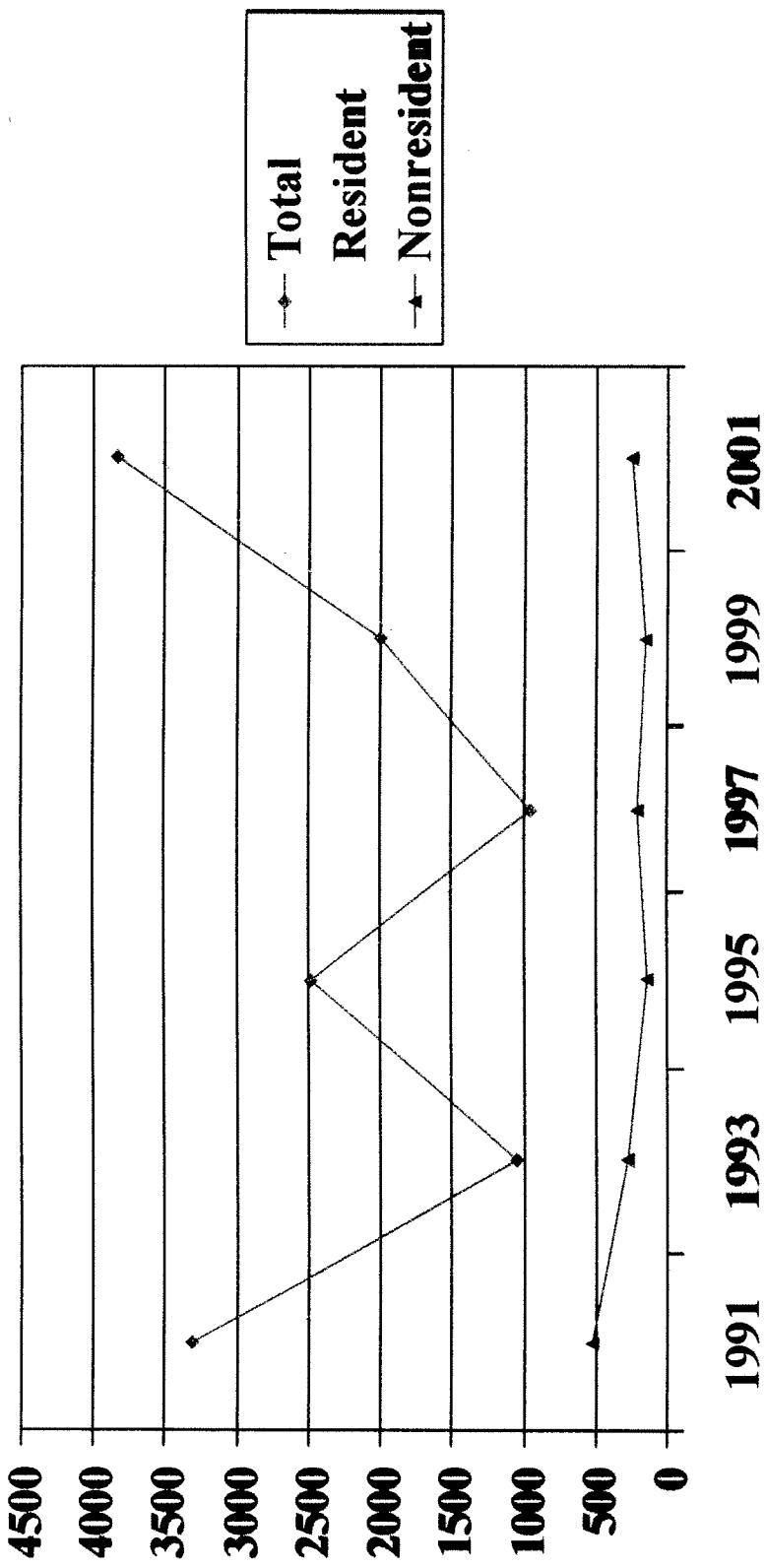
Missouri River Sec 10A



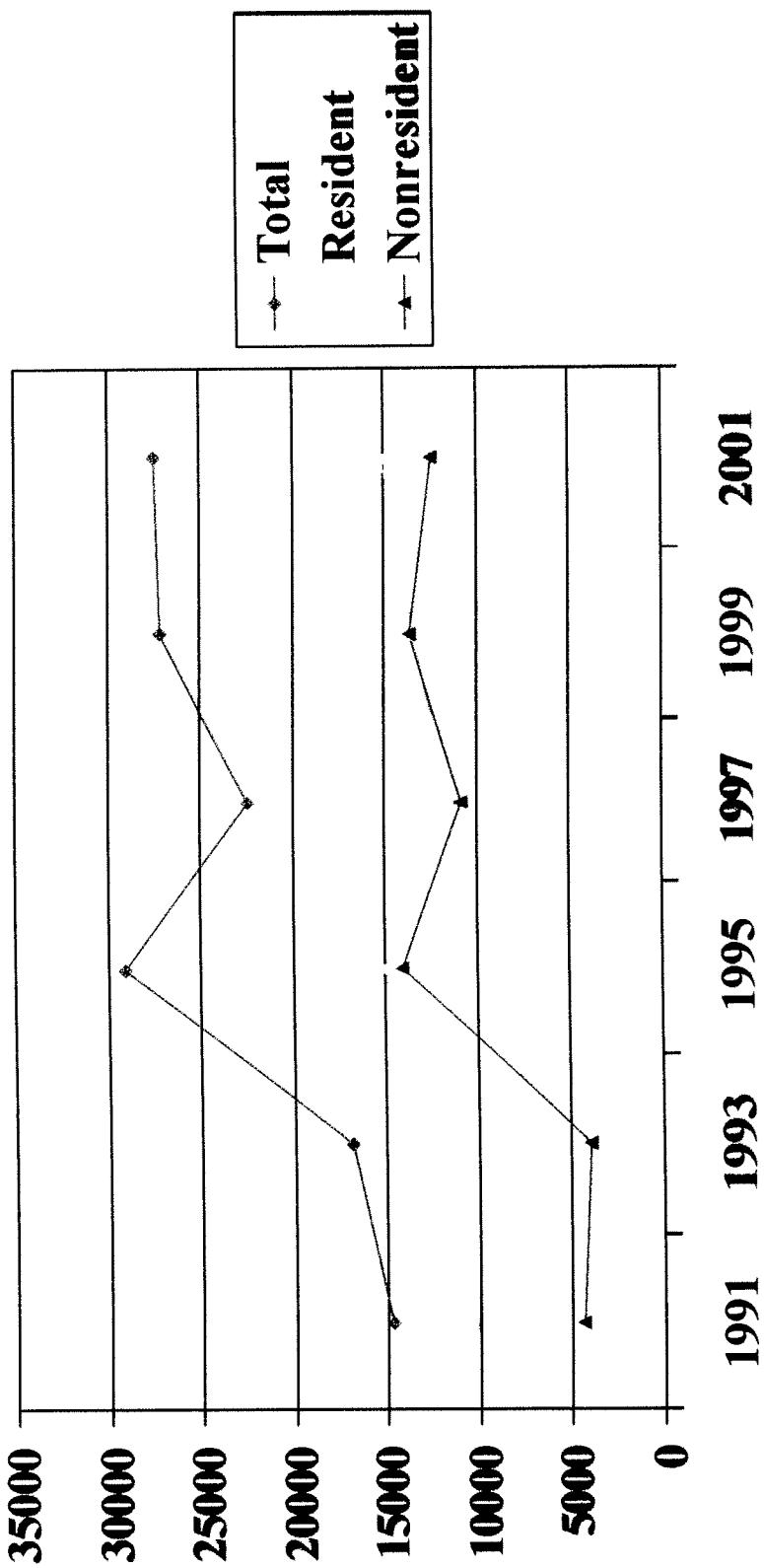
Missouri River Sec 11



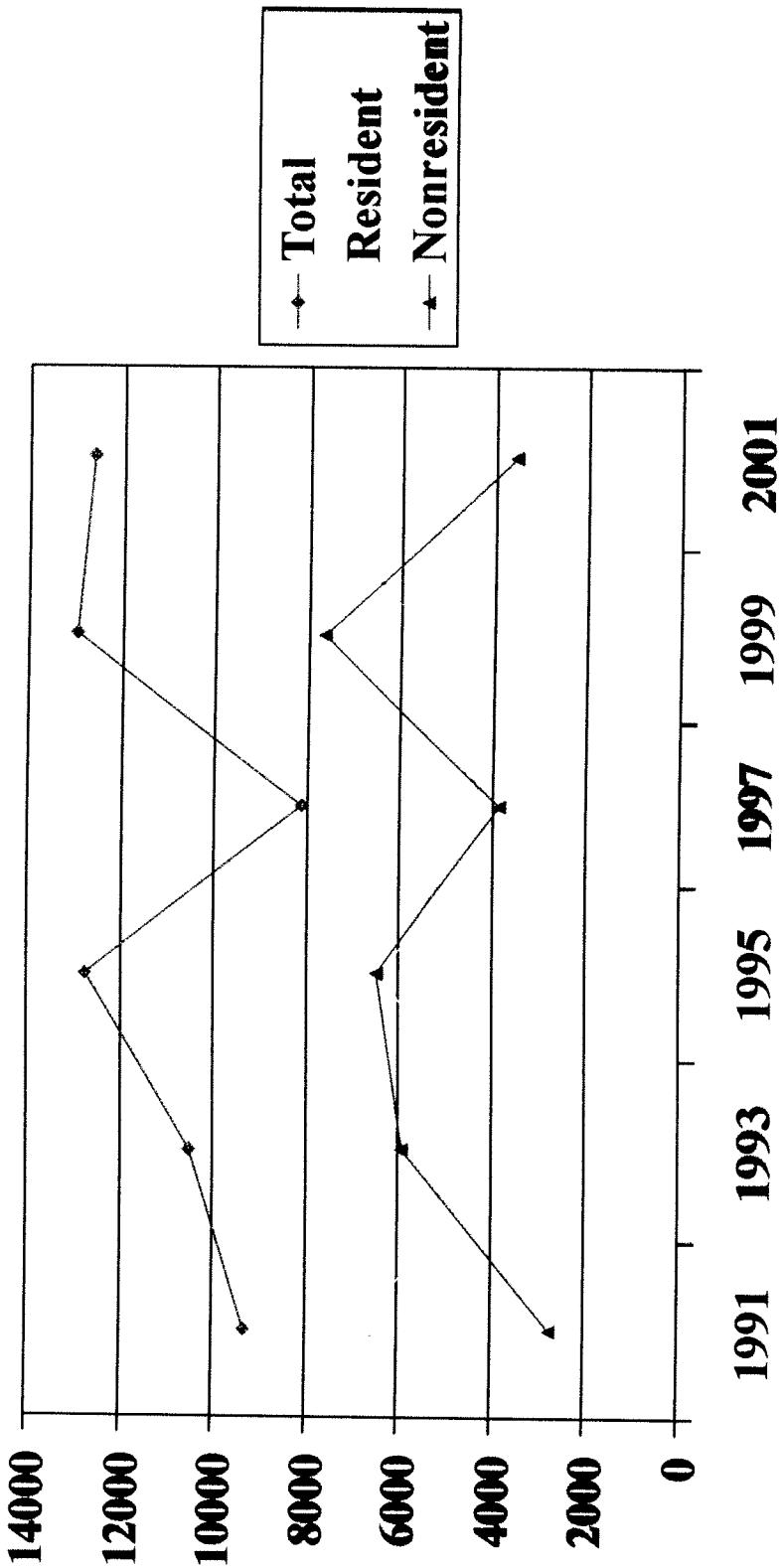
Missouri River Sec 12



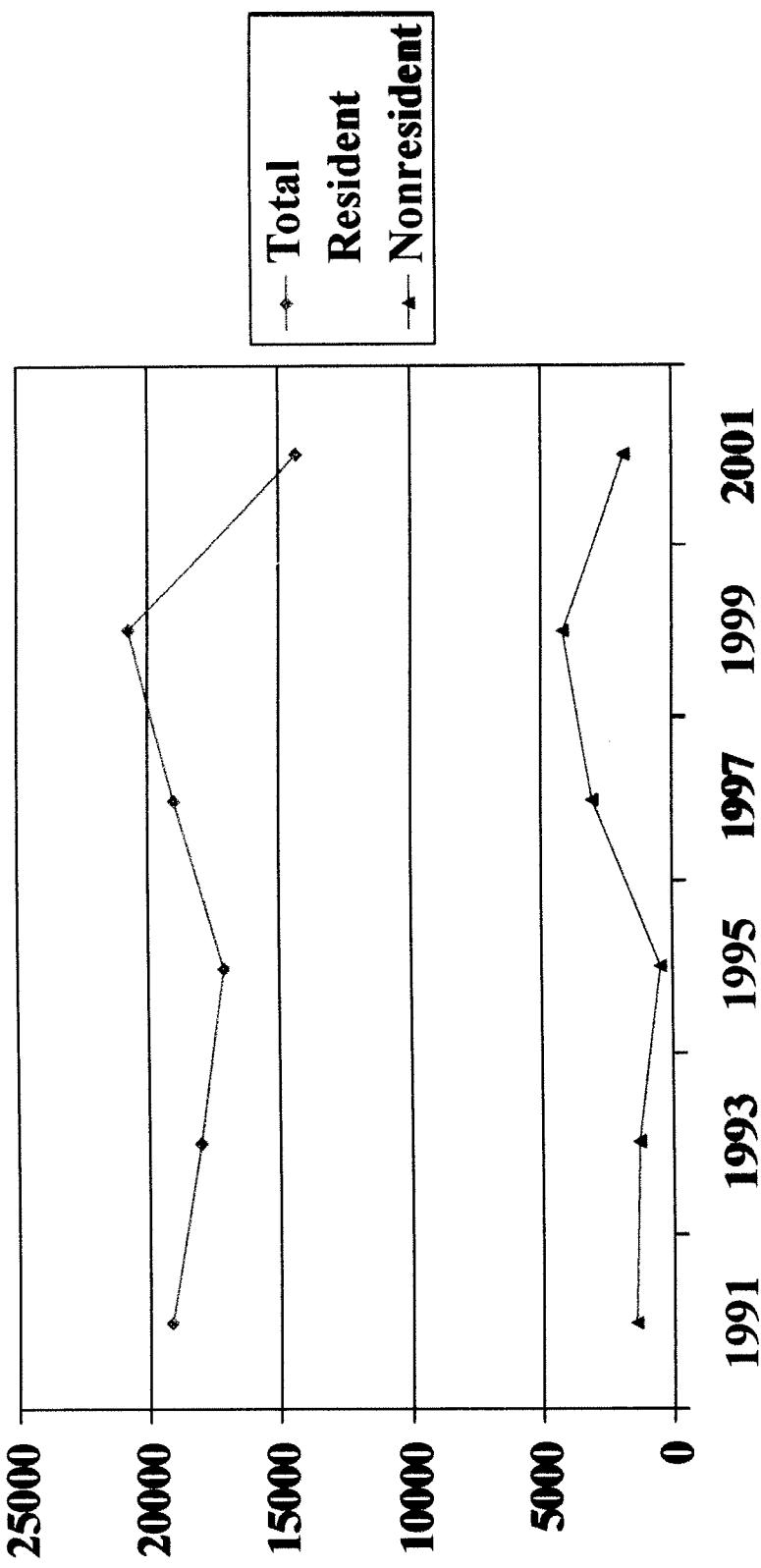
Rock Creek Sec 01



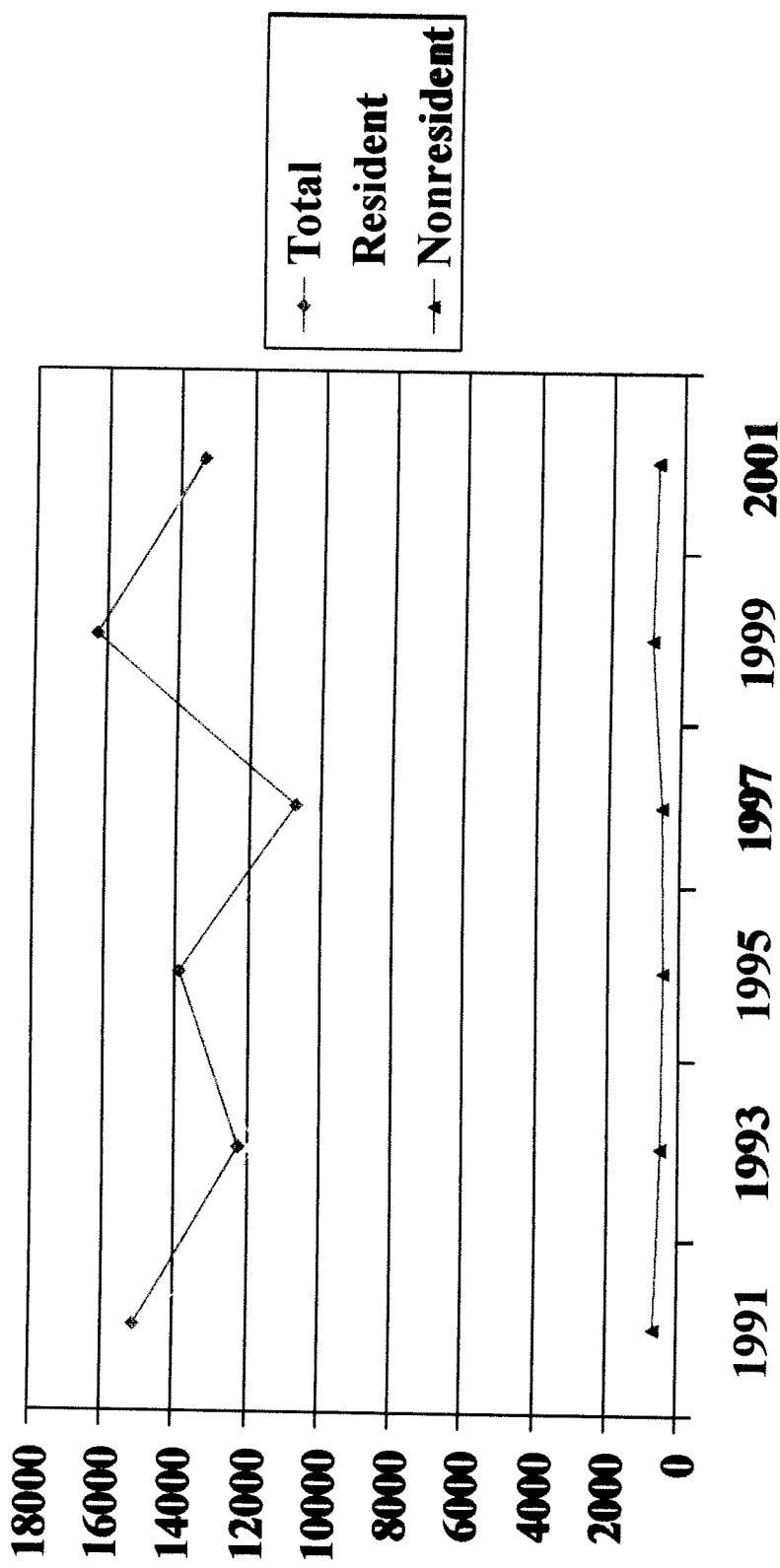
Rock Creek Sec 02



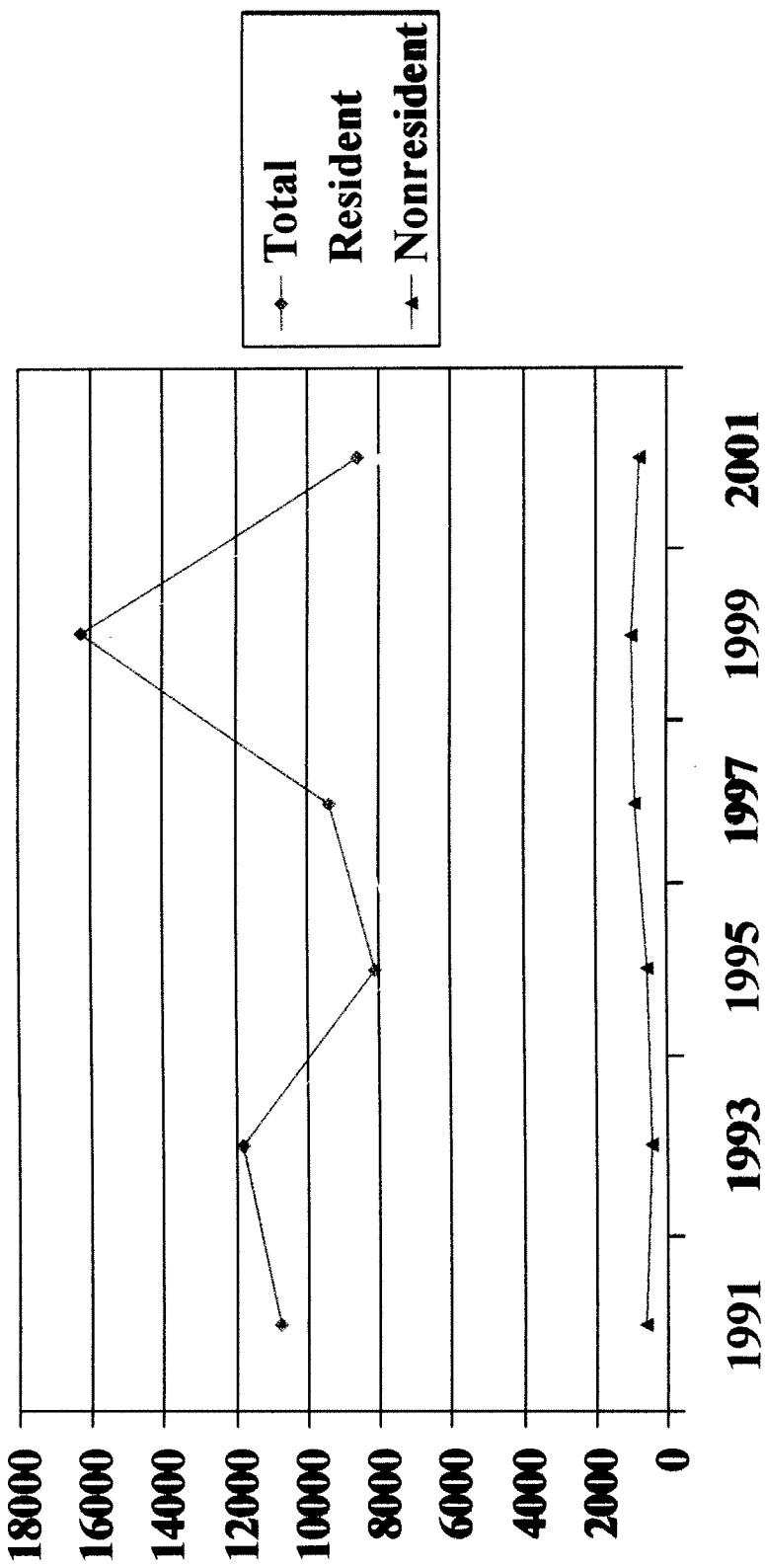
Yellowstone River Sec 01



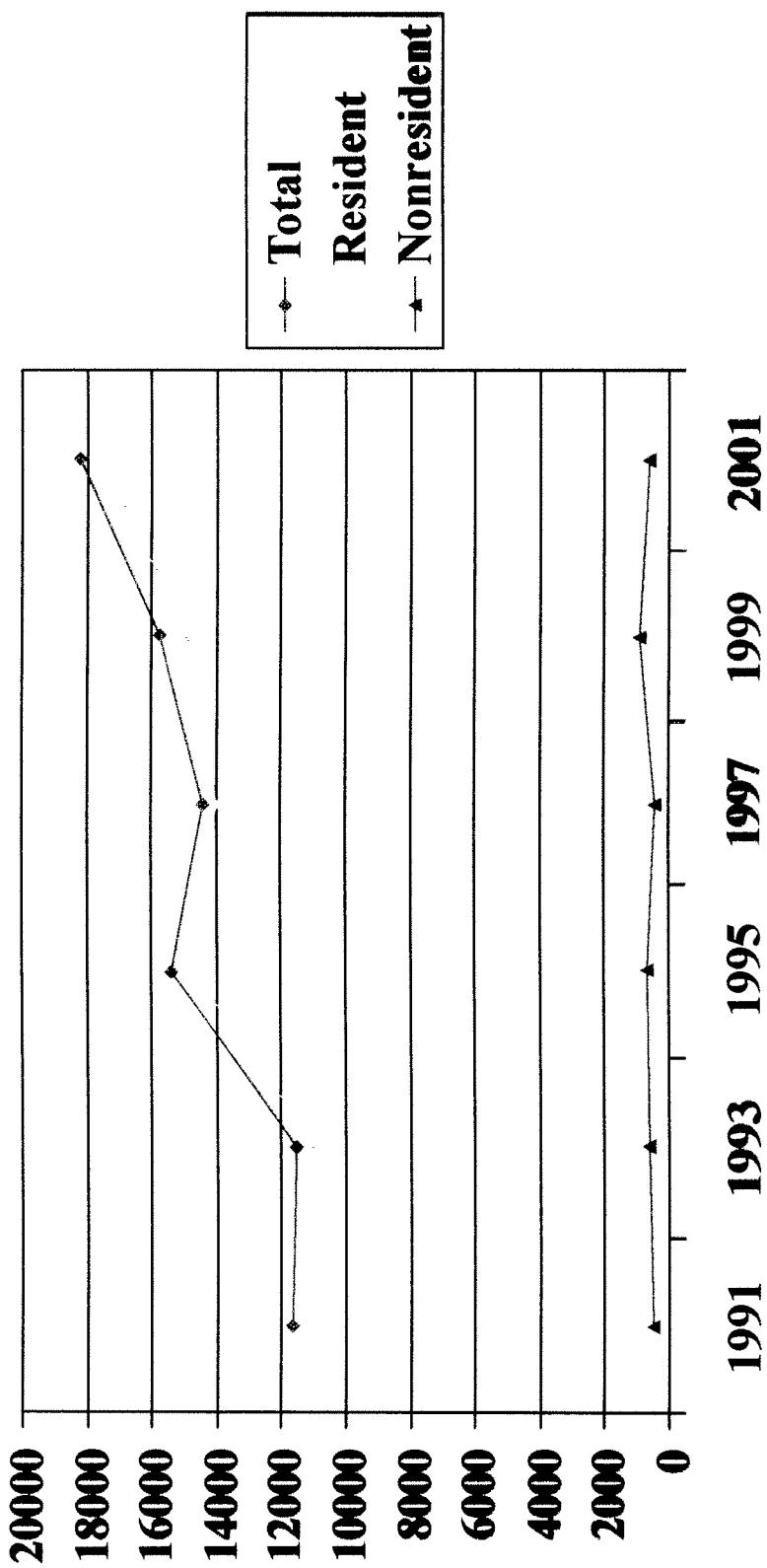
Yellowstone River Sec 02



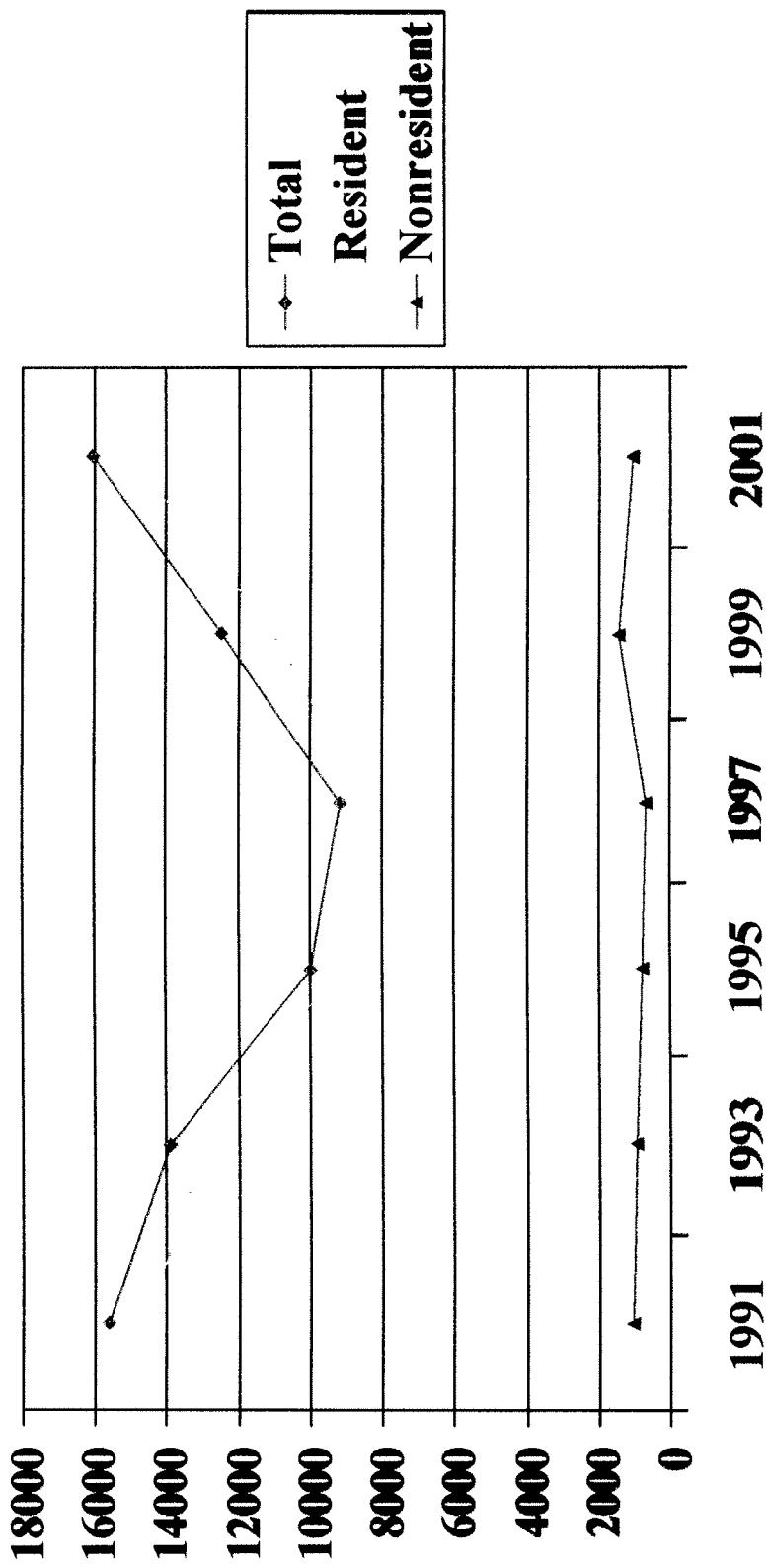
Yellowstone River Sec 03



Yellowstone River Sec 04



Yellowstone River Sec 05



Yellowstone River Sec 06

