

Anne Tews, FWP 624 N.E. Washington Street Lewistown, Montana 59457

November 14, 1999

Dear Anne:

As we discussed the other day, I did electroshock the creek above and below the existing beaver dam on the Chalmers property. Additionally, I did shock the beaver dam impoundments below the big pond. Back pack shockers are not suited to shocking ponds; however, I did shock along the banks of the two impoundments to see if I could turn anything.

No fish were observed in the creek channel above and below the dam. However, I did observe fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) in the beaver impoundment immediately below the pond. Additionally, I observed Utah chub (*Gila atraria*) in the second impoundment below the pond. I realize that Utah chub are not considered to be present in the region around Lewistown and are only considered present in the upper Missouri drainage. However, the species shocked were approximately six inches long and exhibited the coloration and markings of Utah chub. The habitat they were observed in is suitable for the species and not suitable for species with similar coloration and markings. The fish did not possess a subterminal mouth. The survey was for species' presence and no population numbers were recorded.

I have shocked extensively in Utah and therefore did not collect any fish identified as Utah chub as I felt sure of their field identification. Additionally, anecdotal evidence suggests that trout have been observed in the ponds. I feel that the fish were misidentified and the observed "trout" were actually larger Utah chub.

I doubt that I will be at the Chalmers property again before freeze-up or until spring. If you desire to reshock the small ponds to confirm the identification of the species I identified as Utah chub, I will be more than willing to bring the shocker along, unless you want to use yours, and meet you at the site.

I hope that this satisfies your additional requirement regarding the creation of a fish pond on the Chalmers property. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above phone or address. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ted Schmidt

cc: Jim Chalmers

FWP Helena and Great Falls Regional Office