



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Helena National Forest  
2880 Skyway Drive  
Helena, MT 59601  
406 449-5201

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FISHERIES DIV.  
DEPT. FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

File Code: 2610

Date: February 2, 1996

Larry Peterman  
Fisheries Division  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1420 East 6th Ave  
Helena, mt. 59620

Dear Larry:

Attached is the summary of 1995's electrofishing activities undertaken on the Helena National Forest. Also included is some background information on our proposed 1996 operations to be undertaken as part of a regionally issued collecting permit through Rick Stowell in our Missoula Office. If you need any additional information pertaining to our past activities my staff will provide that information to you. We are looking forward to another year of obtaining new fishery information that will be valuable to both our agencies.

THOMAS J. CLIFFORD  
Forest Supervisor



COLLECTION PERMIT REPORT SUMMARY 1995 AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
FOR 1996 ACTIVITIES  
February 1, 1996

**A. Principal Investigators:**

Leonard Walch, U.S. Forest Service. Fisheries Biologist for the Helena National Forests. Seventeen years field experience plus 4 yrs seasonal work and graduate study fieldwork.

Archie Harper, U.S. Forest Service, Fisheries Technician for the Helena and Townsend Ranger districts. Twelve years field experience with the MFW&P and Forest Service.

Laura Burns, U.S. Forest Service, Fisheries Technician for the Lincoln Ranger District. Six years field experience assisting A. Harper and L. Walch in electrofishing and other fishery survey work.

Shane Hendrickson, U. S. Forest Service. Fisheries Biologist, Helena Ranger District- Five field seasons working with Archie Harper, Len Walch and Laura Burns.

Chad Baconrind, U.S. Forest Service. Fisheries Co-Op Ed Student, Supervisors Office. One Field Season working with Archie Harper and Shane Hendrickson.

**B. Need for Permit: Describe Project goals and objectives**

Provide fish distribution and abundance information on streams throughout the Helena National Forest.

Detail fish populations present in areas proposed for land management activities.

Continue evaluating streams for genetically pure westslope cutthroat

Continue with efforts to define the extent of bull trout distribution in the Blackfoot and Little Blackfoot River Drainages.

**C. Describe Collection Methods, locations, dates anticipated number of fish to be collected and the anticipated number of fish to be kept. If electrofishing will be utilized to collect fish, describe the equipment to be used and the type of current to be used.**

Electrofishing will be the primary method of collection, although hook and line methods will be used if cutthroat trout are collected from Bighorn Lake in the Scapegoat Wilderness. All fish will be released except for cutthroat trout to be genetically tested (estimate 50 fish from the various streams and lakes). Sampling will be conducted between June 15th and November 30th 1996. Local State Fishery personnel are kept informed of plans in advance.

## Electrofishing Gear and Personnel information

Smith Root Model 12- One unit; Battery Powered. Generally use pulsed DC down to 20 pulses per second. If only small fish likely and unsuccessful at collecting then pulse frequency is increased. If large fish present DC only is used.

Coffelt Mark XXII Electrofishers- One unit; Gas powered. Generally use Complex Pulse System (CPS). If large fish are not present then DC square wave with 30 pulses per second is used if CPS is unsuccessful.

Coffelt BP-6 Electrofisher- One unit; gas powered. Used only by Len Walch. If large fish are present this unit is not used. Lowest voltage that successfully draws fish is used at 250 pulsed DC. This unit is planned for retooling by Coffelt or replacement by the summer of 1996.

Personnel, All personnel listed earlier as operators have had 1st aid training and some background in CPR. All are trained in the dangers of electrofishing and the safety equipment and precautions to use. All operators have read the literature on the negative effects of electrofishing on salmonid fishes.

### D. Describe the proposed disposition of those specimens collected and kept.

Cutthroat trout to be tested for genetic purity will be sent to the University of Montana for analysis (estimate 50 fish). All other fish are released immediately or if disoriented held in live wells until orientation is regained.

### E. Describe provisions that will be made to protect T&E Species and Montana Species of Special Concern.

Fish will be released immediately or kept in live wells until released after being measured. No electrofishing conducted at times either cutthroat or bull trout are spawning in streams containing these species unless specific clearance is obtained from Montana Department Fish Wildlife and Parks Biologist.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY IN 1995

Results for 1995 are summarized on the table below. All fish were released except as noted in the footnotes.

COLLECTION PERMIT REPORT  
1995

Name: Leonard A. Walch

Telephone #: 406-449-5201

Street Address: Helena National Forest, 2880 Skyway Drive

City: Helena

State: Montana

Zip Code: 59601

Species Taken	# Taken	Size Range Inches	Gear Used	Time of Year	Water and Location
Cutthroat	12*	3-6"	Electrofisher	9/14/95	Kady Gulch Jefferson
Cutthroat	15*	4-6"	"	9/7/95	Prickly Pear Creek, Jefferson
Brook Trout	2286	4-17"	"	8/17/95	Whites Gulch
Cutthroat	13	8-12"	"		Ponds Jefferson
Brook Trout	1214	2-12"	"	9/20/95	Whites Gulch
Cutthroat	113	3-12"	"		Stream portion Jefferson
Cutthroat	15	2-6"	"	6/20/95	Avalanche Cr Broadwater
Brook Trout	43	2-9"	"	6/29/95	Weimer Cr
Brook Trout	present	2-8"	"	7/19/95	Crazy Creek
Rainbow Trout	present	2-7"	"		Jefferson
Brook Trout	present	4-12"	"	9/6/95	Clear Cr Jefferson
Brook Trout	present	4-8"	"	9/5/95	Moose Cr Jefferson
Barren	-	-	"	8/24/95	Badger Cr
Barren	-	-	"	7/25/95	Little Tizer Cr Jefferson
Brook Trout	present	3-6"	"	9/18/95	Maupin Cr Jefferson

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Species Taken	# Taken	Size Range Inches	Gear Used	Time of Year	Water and Location
Brook Trout	present	3-6"	"	9/19/95	S. Fk Warm Springs Cr Jefferson
Barren	-	-	"	8/24/95	S.Fk Beaver Creek
Brook trout	present	3-6"	"	9/11/95	Black Canyon Creek Jefferson
Cutthroat	present	2-12"	"	8/2/95	Dog Creek
Brown Trout	present	3-15"			Powell
Whitefish	present	3-13"			
Cutthroat	present	3-8"	"	10/4/95	Uncle George Creek, Powell
Cutthroat	present	2-7"	"	10/11/95	South Fork Humbug Cr L&C County
Cutthroat	present	3-9"	"	10/16/95	South Fork Poorman Cr L&C
Brook Trout	present				
Cutthroat	present	1-4"	"	9/95	Rochester Cr L&C
Barren	-	-	"	9/95	Little Davis L&C
Barren	-	-	"	9/95	McCarthy Cr L&C
Brook Trout	-	2-6"	"	9/95	Horsefly Cr L&C
Cutthroat	present	3-6"	"	9/95	Swansea Trib L&C

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\* Cutthroat Trout were collected to be sent to the University of Montana for genetic testing.

\*\* Whites Gulch Mine Reclamation: Settling ponds were drained for stream rehabilitation purposes. Brook trout which were salvaged were moved downstream below a constructed fish barrier. Westslope cutthroat trout relocated upstream out of the project area. The procedure was also followed with fish removed from the stream. Work was accomplished in cooperation with biologists from the Dept of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.