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A FIVE-YEAR FISH DISTRIBUTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
HAMILTON HATCHERY DISTRICT
MONTANA

Field Work By

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Compiled By

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
FOREST SERVICE
REGION ONE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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April 1942



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SCOPE OF PLAN

The area covered by this management plan is the Clark Fork of the Columbia River drainage between the mouth of Rock Creek and the mouth of Flathead River; the Blackfoot drainage from its mouth to and including the Clearwater drainage, and the Bitterroot River drainage.

OBJECTIVES

1. To correlate the efforts of the various Rod and Gun Clubs, Montana Fish and Game Department, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service to prevent duplication in planting streams and lakes, and to minimize the mixing of fish species within the drainages.
2. To evaluate streams and lakes from a fish production standpoint and thereby formulate a more logical stocking policy.
3. To stock the streams and lakes consistent with use and demand.
4. To produce large-size fish for the stocking of the major drainages.
5. To secure maximum fish production at minimum cost.
6. To assemble all existing data in one place for ready reference by all interested agencies.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT POLICY

During June 1941, a cooperative arrangement was made between the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U. S. Forest Service whereby the state superintendent of fisheries would act as coordinator in all fish planting work in Montana. Areas of responsibility for all the hatcheries in the state were outlined, as shown on the map, page 1. The preparation of detailed management plans for the individual district was then inaugurated in order to put the fish planting activities in the state on a systematic basis. The purpose of these districts and management plans is to prevent the confusion and duplication of effort inherent in a system where no clear-cut lines of responsibility exist.

FISH MANAGEMENT FACTORS

FISH HATCHERY

The entire area will be served by the Hamilton (Daly) State Fish Hatchery, located at Hamilton, Montana. The total production of this hatchery unit will be planted in this fish management district.

DETRIMENTAL FACTORS

The use of water for irrigation is a serious detrimental factor in the Bitterroot drainage. All of the major tributaries are used heavily for irrigation, and many of them are entirely dry in their lower reaches

during the summer months. The loss of fish in the ditches and through the drying of the streams is a serious drain on the fish production. Industrial pollution from the mining operations at Butte prevents maximum fish production in the Clark Fork drainage.

TRASH FISH

Suckers and squawfish are found throughout the entire district. Bass and perch are present in a number of lakes in which they are considered detrimental.

FISHING PRESSURE

The fishing pressure is almost uniformly heavy in the main drainages. The pressure is probably greatest on the Blackfoot drainage, with the Bitterroot and Clark Fork drainages following in the order listed.

TABULAR DATA

In order that the tables may be more easily understood the following information is presented:

CONVERSION FACTORS

The following tables refer generally to number $1\frac{1}{2}$ fingerlings. To find the relative number of 1", 2", 3", 4" or 6" fish, multiply by the following conversion factors:

Size	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	3	4	6
Factor	4	1	0.565	0.33	0.25	0.2

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used in the tables to indicate the various fish species:

Rb	Rainbow
Ct	Cutthroat or native
Eb	Eastern Brook
LL	Loch Leven
Gr	Grayling
Wf	Whitefish
SS	Silver Salmon
S	Suckers

Table 3a. Management data on streams recommended for planting in the Clark Fork Drainage between the mouth of Rock Creek and the mouth of the Flathead River.

Name of stream		Miles fishing water	Width in feet	Number tributaries	Temperature degrees Fahrenheit	Food condition	Amount of fishing	Species fish present	List barriers in stream or rearing pond possibilities
Clark Fork River		140	300	43		Good	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb, LL, DV, S, Squaw, Bass	Beaver dams Rearing pond to be planted
Siegel Creek		6	4			"	None	Ct	Irrigation on lower end
Flat Creek		7	6			Fair	Light	Ct	15' falls 8 mi. from mouth. closed after Jul. 6
Mill Creek		10	8	5		Med.	Heavy	Ct	Used for irrigation
Grant Creek		13	12	1		Good	Med.	Ct	Used for irrigation
Schwartz Creek		7	15	2		"	None	Ct	Dry in places from mouth to upper end for about 5 miles
Greenough Creek		6	10	1		"	"	Ct	Possible rearing pond site
Deer Creek		5	6			Med.	Light	Ct	Beaver dams
Petty Creek		12	10	9		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb	Many beaver dams
W. Fk. Petty Creek		6	4			Good	Light	Ct	Beaver dams
Fish Creek		13	30	2		"	Med.	Ct, Rb, DV	"
S. Fk. Fish Creek		15	15	7		"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	"
Burdette Creek		6	6			"	None	Ct	"
Cache Creek		9	10	2		"	Light	Ct	"
Trout Creek		15	25	6		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	"
S. Fk. Trout Creek		4	8	2		"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	"
N. Fk. Trout Creek		3	6	2		"	None	None	30' falls 1 mi. from mouth
Oregon Gulch		12	12			Good	Med.	Ct, Rb, Eb	"
Lost Creek		7	4			"	None	Ct	"
Thompson Creek		7	4			"	Light	Ct	"
Dry Creek		12	8	4		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb	"
Cold Creek		6	4	1		V."	Light	Ct	Beaver dams

Table 3a. Management data on streams recommended for planting in the Clark Fork Drainage between the mouth of Rock Creek and the mouth of the Flathead River.

Sheet 2 of 2

Name of stream	Miles fishing water	Width in feet	Number tributaries	Temperature degrees Fahrenheit	Food condition	Amount of fishing	Species fish present	List barriers in stream or rearing pond possibilities
St. Regis River	35	15	20		Fair	V. Heavy	Ct, Rb, DV Eb, S, Wf, Squaw	Beaver dams
S. Fk. Little Joe Creek	9	8	3		Good	Heavy	Ct, DV	Beaver dams
N. Fk. "	10	7			"	Med.	Ct, DV	"
Big Creek	3	12	3		"	Heavy	Eb, Ct, Rb, DV	"
E. Fk. Big Creek	5	6	1		"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
Mid. Fk. Big Creek	5	8			"	Med.	Ct, DV, Eb	"
W. Fk. Big Creek	5	8	1		"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
Gilt Edge Creek	3	6			"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
Silver Creek	5	6	1		"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
Packer Creek	5	8	2		"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
W. Fk. Packer Creek	3	6			"	"	Ct	"
E. Fk. Packer Cr.	2	5			"	"	Ct	"
Twelve Mile Creek	11	12	4		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb, DV	"
Rock Creek	5	5			"	Med.	Ct	"
Flat Rock Creek	5	6	2		"	"	Ct	"
E. Fk. Twelve Mile Creek	3	5	1		"	"	Ct	"
Tamarac Creek	7	8	3		"	Heavy	Ct, Eb	"

Table 3b. Management data on streams recommended for planning in the Blackfoot River Drainage from its mouth to and including the Clearwater Drainage

Name of stream	Miles fishing water	Width in feet	Number tributaries	Temperature degrees Fahrenheit	Food condition	Amount of fishing	Species fish present	List barriers in stream or rearing pond possibilities
Blackfoot River	36	120	10		Good	Heavy	Ct, Rb, DV, S, Squaw, Wf, Bass, Perch, Ct, DV	Dam at lower end at Bonner
Gold Creek	17	30	2		"	"	Ct, Rb, Wf, DV, Squaw, S, Bass, Perch	Falls 12 mi. from mouth
W.Fk. Gold Creek	7	12			"	Light	Ct, DV	
Clearwater River	35	30	22		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Wf, DV, Squaw, S, Bass, Perch	Chain of lakes on channel, no barriers
Placid Creek	11	15	6		"	None	Ct, Rb, Wf, S, Squaw, DV	Closed to fishing
Boles Creek	11	10			"	Med.	Ct, Rb, Wf, DV, Squaw, S	
Deer Creek	8	15	2		"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	
W.Fk. Clearwater Riv.	11	20	2		"	None	Ct, Rb, DV	
Marshall Creek	5	10			"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	Closed to fishing
Uhler Creek	4	8			"	Med.	S, Squaw	
Colt Creek	5	8			"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	
Richmond Creek	4	8			"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	
Findell Creek	3	6			"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	
Morrell Creek	13	18			"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	Rb rearing pond 1 1/4 from mouth
Trail Creek	7	10	2		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb, DV	
Blind Canyon Creek	7	8			"	None	Ct, Rb, DV	Falls 10 mi. above mouth
					"	Light	Ct, Rb, DV	Closed to fishing

Table 3c. Management data on streams recommended
for planting in the Bitterroot River Drainage

Sheet 1 of 4									
Name of stream	Miles fishing water	Width in feet	Number tribu- taries	Temperature degrees Fahrenheit	Food condition	Amount of fishing	Species fish present	List barriers in stream or rearing pond possibilities	
Bitterroot River	73	175	53		Med.	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb, D, W, S Squaw Ct	Many irrigation diversions	
Miller Creek	14	10	5		Good	"		Lower 4 mi. dry, closed to fishing after July 6	
Plant Creek	3	5	3		"	None	Ct		
Eightmile Creek	14	5	3		Med.	Heavy	Ct		
Threemile Creek	20	8	3		"	"	Ct		
Ambrose Creek	7	5	1		Poor	"	Ct		
Burnt Fork	30	20	11		Good	"	Rb, Ct	Lower 5 mi. used for irrigation	
Flat Rock Creek	4	4	1		Poor	Light	Ct	" " " " " "	
Gold Creek	6	4			Med.	Med.	Ct		
Willow Creek	20	10	7		"	Heavy	Ct		
Gird Creek	16	6	1		Good	Med.	Ct, Rb, Eb	" " " " " "	
Skalkaho Creek	25	20	2		Med.	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb		
Railroad Creek	5	5			"	None	DV	" " " " " "	
Hog Trough Creek	5	5			"	"	Ct, DV		
Weasel Creek	4	5			"	"	Ct, DV		
Sleeping Child Cr.	26	20	4		Good	Heavy	Ct, DV		
S.Fk. " "	9	10			"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb		
Rye Creek	17	8	1		"	Light	DV		
E.Fk. Bitterroot Riv.	37	40	26		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb	Beaver dams lower 5 mi., upper 7 mi. too small Several irrigation canals	
Jameron Creek	11	6	2		"	"	Ct, DV		
Bertie Lord Creek	6	8			"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb		
Martin Creek	11	8	1		Med.	Med.	Ct, Rb, Eb W, Squaw, S	Lower 3 mi. used for irrig.	
Paint Creek	2	6			Good	Light	Ct, Eb	Beaver dams	
Loose Creek	10	12	4		"	Light	Ct		
					"	Heavy	Ct, Rb		

Table 3c. Management data on streams recommended for planting in the Bitterroot River Drainage

Sheet 2 of 4

Name of stream	Miles fishing water	Width in feet	Number tributaries	Temperature degrees Fahrenheit	Food condition	Amount of fishing	Species fish present	List barriers in streams or rearing pond possibilities
Lick Creek	4	8			Good	Med.	Ct	Beaver dams
Clifford Creek	4	6			"	Light	Ct	
Euck Creek	4	8	1		"	Med.	Ct	"
Meadow Creek	10	8	2		"	"	Ct	"
Swift Creek	5	6	1		"	Light	Ct	"
Camp Creek	9	8	6		"	"	Eb, Ct	"
Warm Springs Creek	11	15	9		"	Med.	Ct	
Wiles Creek	5	8	3		"	Light	Ct	
Laird Creek	6	8	3		Med.	"	Ct	
W.Fk. Bitterroot Riv.	45	50	26		Good	Heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb, Wf, S, DV, Squaw	W.Fk. dam 23 mi. from mouth, Beaver dams from Buck to Ditch Cr.; many dams upper 12 mi.
Piquet Creek	11	8	3		Med.	Light	Ct	Beaver dams lower 1 mi.
Little Boulder Cr.	5	4			"	None	Ct	
Overwich Creek	19	30	2		V. Good	Light	Rb, Ct	
Mine Creek	5	10			Good	None	Eb, Ct, Rb	75' falls 14 mi. from mouth; many beaver dams
Chrandal Creek	4	10			Med.	"	Eb, Ct, Rb	Many beaver dams
Salt Creek	4	10			Good	"	Ct, Eb	"
Johnson Creek	5	10			"	"	Ct, Eb	"
Sheep Creek	4	10			"	"	Ct, Eb	"
Beaver Creek	5	15			"	Heavy	Ct, Eb	"
Woods Creek	8	8			"	Light	Ct, Eb	"
Deer Creek	14	15			"	None	Ct, Eb	"
Chicken Creek	8	8			"	"	Ct, Eb	"
Nazperce Creek	20	15	4		Med.	Light	Ct, Rb, Eb	"
Sheephead Creek	8	20			Good	"	Ct	"
Watchtower Creek	9	15			"	"	Ct	"
Boulder Creek	11	15			Med.	Med.	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	Falls 4 mi. from mouth
Trapper Creek	18	15	1		"	Light	Ct, DV	

Table 3c. Management data on streams recommended
for planting in the Bitterroot River Drainage

Sheet 3 of 4

Name of stream	Miles fishing water	Width in feet	Number tribu- taries	Temperature degrees Fahrenheit	Food condition	Amount of fishing	Species fish present	List barriers in streams or rearing pond possibilities
Chaffin Creek	10	10			Med.	Light	Ct, DV	Reservoirs on head of stream
Tin Cup Creek	17	25	1		Good	Heavy	Eb, Ct, DV, Rb	Reservoir on head of stream overstocked
Rock Creek	20	15	2		Med.	Light	Ct, Rb	Lower 4 mi. unfit for planting
Lick Creek	6	5			Good	None	Ct	Lower 2 mi. used for irrigation
Lost Horse Creek	20	25	3		"	Heavy	Ct, Rb	Large irrigation dam 5 mi. from mouth
Camas Creek	8	15			"	Med.	Ct, Rb, Eb	
Roaring Lion Creek	16	15			Med.	"	Ct, Rb	Beaver dams
Sawtooth Creek	18	15			"	"	Ct, Rb	15' falls 7 mi. above mouth
Blodgett Creek	20	15	1		Good	"	Ct	Beaver dams 8 mi. from mouth; sinks 7 mi. from mouth; stream raises below; lower 4 mi. used for irrigation; several falls
Mill Creek	19	10			Med.	"	Ct	Lower 5 mi. used for irrigation
Sheafman Creek	16	6			Poor	Heavy	Ct	Steep and rocky; lower 5 mi. used for irrigation
Fred Burr Creek	24	10			Good	Med.	Rb	Beaver dam 8 mi. from mouth
Bear Creek	30	15	2		Poor	Heavy	Eb, Ct, Rb	Falls 9 mi. from mouth
Gash Creek	10	5			Med.	"	Ct	Lower end used for irrigation
Sweathouse Creek	15	12	2		Poor	Med.	Ct	Lower end used for irrigation
Big Creek	16	20	3		Good	Heavy	Ct	" " " "
S.Fk. Big Creek	6	8			"	Light	Ct	Falls 9 mi. from mouth
Kootenai Creek	17	15			Med.	Med.	Ct	Beaver dams
Bass Creek	12	12			"	Heavy	Rb, Ct, LL	Lower end used for irrigation; dam 2 mi. from mouth
N.Fk. Sweeney Creek	5	8			Poor	Light	Ct	Falls 8 mi. from mouth; dam 5 mi. from mouth
One Horse Creek	10	10			Med.	Heavy	Ct	Lower end used for irrigation
Lolo Creek	30	18	20		Good	V."	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV, Wf, S, Squaw	Irrigation on lower end

Table 3c. Management data on streams recommended
for planting in the Bitterroot River Drainage

Name of stream	Miles fishing water	Width in feet	Number tribu- taries	Temperature degrees Fahrenheit	Food condition	Amount of fishing	Species fish present	List barriers in streams or rearing pond possibilities
Mill Creek	4	4			Good	None	Ct, Eb, Rb, DV	Irrigation on lower end
E. Fk. Lolo Creek	9	10	2		"	Med.	Ct, DV	
Lost Park Creek	3	5			"	Light	Ct, DV	
W. Fk. Lolo Creek	6	7	1		"	Med.	Ct, DV	
Lee Creek	4	4			"	Light	Ct, DV	
Granite Creek	8	7	1		"	Med.	Ct, DV	
N. Fk. Granite Creek	3	6			"	Light	Ct, DV	
Howard Creek	6	5	2		"	"	Ct, DV	
Graves Creek	6	4			"	"	Ct, DV	
Bear Creek	6	4			"	None	Ct, DV	

Table 6a. Lakes in the Clark Fork River Drainage between the mouth of Rock Creek and the mouth of the Flathead River in which no planting is recommended.

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food	
Beeskove Lake	8	None					Inaccessible
Heart Lake	8	"			x		Adequately stocked
Hamilton Lake	15	Ct					"
Lower Lake	12	Ct					"
Twin Lakes (2)	14	Ct					"
McKinley Lake	17	Rb					"
Roosevelt Lake	8	Rb					"
Carter Lake	17	Rb					"
Worden Lake	10	None					"
Sheridan Lake	10	Rb					Inaccessible
Big Lake	38	Ct				x	Overstocked
Glacier Lake	20	Ct					"
Little Lake	18	Ct				x	
Saunders Lake	45	None				x	
Bull Lake	8	None				x	
W.Fk. Gold Lake	6	"				x	
Fly Lake	10	"					Inaccessible
Boulder Lake	100	Ct					"
Surveyor Lake	30	Rb					Stocked in 1941
Schley Lake	40	Ct					Adequately stocked
Cedar Log Lake	15	Ct					Stocked in 1941
Verdant Lake	15	Ct, Rb					Naturally stocked
Lower Siamese Lake	50	Ct, Rb					Stocked in 1941
Spirit Lake	20	SS					" " 1939
Straight Lake	10	None					"
Crater Lake	20	Ct			x		Inaccessible
French Lake	8	Chum salmon					Naturally stocked
Hidden Lake	8	None			x		Stocked in 1937

Table 6a. Lakes in the Clark Fork River Drainage between the mouth of Rock Creek and the mouth of the Flathead River in which no planting is recommended.

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Needs investigation	Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food		
Deep Cr. Lake	10	?					x	Reservoir Overstocked
Lost Lake	6	Eb						
Hidden Lake	6	Ct, Rb, Eb						
Diamond Lake	5	Eb						
Newman Lake	2	None					x	
Mary Lake	5	"						
Clear Lake	4	Eb			x			Adequately stocked
Gold Lake	1	?						Inaccessible
2 unnamed lakes, head of Deer Creek	4	None			x			Adequately stocked
Rudie Lake	7	Eb						
Crystal Lake	15	Rb						" stocked Eb
Silver Lake	20	Eb						" "
Diamond Lake	2	?					x	" "

Table 6b. Lakes in the Blackfoot River Drainage from its mouth to and including the Clearwater Drainage in which no planting is recommended.

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Needs investigation	Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food		
Blanchard Lake	30	Ct, Rb, SS Perch, DV Bass, S Squaw		x				
Elbow Lake	40	Ct, Rb, S Perch, DV Squaw Bass		x				
Salmon Lake	800	Ct, Rb, Wf S, Squaw Perch, DV Bass		x				
Spook Lake	10	None						Adequately stocked
Tupper Lake	8	Rb			x			
Lake Dinah	15	Rb					x	Stocked in 1941
Rainy Lake	150	Ct, Rb, Wf Perch, DV Bass, S Squaw					x	" "
Clearwater Lake	35	Ct, DV						Adequately stocked from stream
Fish Lake	40	Ct						Almost inaccessible Private lake

Table 6c. Lakes in the Bitterroot River Drainage in which no planting is recommended.

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Needs investigation	Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food		
Jerry Lake	2	None						Adequately stocked
Fish Lake	4	Ct			x			Adequately stocked at present
Legend Lake	2	Ct						"
Spur Lake	2	Ct						"
Snow Lake	2	Ct						"
Shadow Lake	4	Ct						"
Unnamed lake above Shadow Lake	3	None					x	Stocked in 1941
Ripple Lake	8	Ct					x	
Kelley Lake	4	None					x	"
Hidden Lake	3	Rb					x	"
Hope Lake	15	?						
Buck Lake	8	?					x	Adequately stocked
Carmine Lake	3	?					x	Inaccessible
Capri Lake	5	?					x	"
Pass Lake	4	?					x	"
Slate Lake	6	None						
Square Lake					x			
S.25,T.1 N,R.24W	5	"						"
Watchtower Lake								"
S8,T1N,R23W	10	"					x	"
Lit.W.Fk.Lake								"
S16,T1N,R23W	5	"					x	"
Soda Springs Lake								"
S15,T1N,R23W	7	"					x	"
Little Boulder Lk.								"
S31,T2N,R22W	2	Ct					x	
Chaffin Lake	26	Ct						
Tin Cup Lake	128	Ct					x	
Lake Como	906	Ct,Rb,Eb						Adequately stocked
		Sockeye						Overstocked
		Peanmouth						Irrigation reservoir

Table 6a. Lakes in the Bitterroot River Drainage in which no planting is recommended.

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Needs investigation	Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food		
Lit. Rock Cr. Lake	20	None					x	Adequately stocked
Elk Lake	20	Ct					x	Inaccessible
Lake Capitan	15	None						Stocked but results unknown
Unnamed lake above Lost Horse Lake	10	Rb					x	Adequately stocked at present
Fish Lake	51	Rb						Inaccessible
Welvemile Lake	10	None						Stocked but results unknown
Emile Lake	20	"					x	Adequately stocked at present
Amas Lakes (2)	20	Ct, Rb					x	Inaccessible
omo Lake	15	None					x	"
ears Lake	10	"					x	Adequately stocked
nith Lake	7	"					x	
vo Lakes (2)	30	"						
. Mary Lake	5	"						Inaccessible
harrot Creek Lakes	10	"						"
Fk. Sweeney Lks. (4)	10	"					x	"
Fk. Lakes	8	"					x	"