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

Field Work By

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Compiled By

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

Approved By
Elmer G. Phillips
Montana State Superintendent of Fisheries

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Table 3a. Management data on streams recommended for
planting in the Musselshell River drainage

Sheet 1 of 2

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
Musselshell River	175	25	25		Good	Heavy	Eb, LL, Rb, Ct, Wf, S, Pike, Carp	Dry lower 140 mi. in summer
Big Coulee Creek	37	6	6		"	Light	Eb, S	Lower 31 mi. unfit for fish
Fish Creek	51	6			"	"	Eb	" 7 " "
Simmons Creek	10	6			"	"	Eb	" 15 " goes dry in midsummer
American Fork	30	12	6		"	Mod.	Eb	
Bear Creek	2	6			"	None	Eb	
Miners' Creek	2	6			"	"	Eb	
S.Fk. American Fork	7	10	2		"	Mod.	Eb	Falls at mouth
Mid Fk. American "	5	8	1		"	"	Eb	" 3 mi. from mouth
Makey Creek	2	6			"	Light	Eb	
N.Fk. American Fork	3	6			"	None	Eb	
O'Hearn Creek	3	4			"	Light	Eb	
Big Elk Creek	15	15	4		"	Heavy	Eb	Sinks for 3 mi. 10 mi. from mouth
Lebo Fork	6	12			"	"	Eb	
Crooked Creek	7	4			"	Med.	Eb	
Blacktail Creek	2	6			"	Light	Eb	
Mid.Fk. Big Elk Creek	2	6			"	Med.	Eb	
Miller Creek	8	8	2		"	Mod.	Eb	Sinks 2 mi. from mouth
E.Fk. Miller Creek	5	6			"	"	Eb	
W.Fk. Miller Creek	6	8			"	"	Eb	
Little Elk Creek	14	8			"	Med.	Eb, Rb, Ct, LL	
Cottonwood Creek	10	20	4		"	Heavy	Eb, Ct	Sinks, lower 3 mi. used for irrigation
Lost Horse Creek	8	6			"	Light	Ct, Eb, Rb	
Loco Creek	8	12			"	"	Eb, Ct	
Mid.Fk. Cottonwood Creek	6	12	7		"	None	Eb, Ct	
Castle Creek	2	4			"	"	Eb, Ct	

Table 3a. Management data on streams recommended for
planting in the Musselshell River drainage

Sheet 2 of 3

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
Crow Creek	2	4			Good	None	Eb, Ct	
Eagle Creek	2	4			"	"	Eb, Ct	
Virginia Creek	2	4			"	"	Eb, Ct	
Spring Creek	5	10			"	"	Eb, Ct	
Little Cottonwood Creek	3	6			"	Little	Eb	
S. Fk. Musselshell	25	12	6		"	Moderate	Eb, Rb	
Indian Creek	2	6			"	None	Eb	
Box Canyon Creek	4	6			"	None	Eb	
Bozeman Fork	4	8			"	Light	Eb	
Warm Springs Creek	8	6			"	"	Eb	Many beaver dams
Alabaugh Creek	11	8	6		"	Medium	Eb	Beaver dams
Castle Creek	3	3			"	Light	Eb, Ct	"
Hensley Creek	4	4	1		"	"	Ct, Eb	
Robinson Creek	5	3			"	None	Eb, Ct	
Bonanza Creek	11	5	1		"	Light	Eb, Ct	
N. Fk. Musselshell River	33	15	11		"	Heavy	Eb, Ct, Rb, LL S.Wf.	Many beaver dams
Flagstaff Creek	5	3	1		"	None	Eb, Rb	Closed to fishing
Checkerboard Creek	10	4			"	"	Eb, Rb, Ct	"
Lion Creek	5	5			"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb	"
Mill Creek	4	3			"	"	Eb, Ct, Rb	Beaver dams
Trail Creek	8	5			"	Medium	Eb	"
Spring Creek	11	10	5		"	"	Eb, Rb	Lower 6 mi. closed to fishing, beaver dam
Whitetail Creek	5	4			"	"	Eb	Beaver dams
E.Fk. Spring Creek	6	3	1		"	"	Eb	
Daisy Dean Cr.	21	6	3		"	"	Eb	25' irrigation dam 5 mi. from mouth, upper 11 mi. dry in summer
Haymaker Creek	8	6			Fair	Medium	Eb	

Table 3a. Management data on streams recommended for planting in the Musselshell River drainage

Sheet 3 of 3

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
Careless Creek	38	8		54	Good	Medium	Eb, Rb, S	Lower 30 mi. dry in summer
Timber Creek	8	6		50	"	Light	Eb	" 5 " " " "
Little Careless Creek	11	6		50	"	"	Rb, Eb	" 7 " " " "
Swimming Woman Creek	24	10		56	"	Heavy	Eb, Rb, S	" 16 " " " "
Willow Creek	41	8		54	"	Medium	Eb, Ct	" 35 " " " "
Flatwillow Creek	57	10		60	"	"	Eb, Rb, S	" 40 " " " "
S.Fk. Flatwillow Creek	19	?		56	"	Heavy	Eb, Rb, Ct	
N.Fk. Flatwillow Creek	20	?		56	"	"	Eb, Rb, Ct	
Half Moon Creek	6	5		45	Pair	Light	Ct	Lower 3 mi. dry in summer
McCartney Creek	8	6		50	Good	Medium	Eb, Ct	
Box Elder Creek	50	4		52	"	"	Eb	" 45" unfit for fish
S.Fk. McDonald Creek	24	6		60	"	"	Eb	" 16" " " "
Blacktail Creek	9	4		56	"	Light	Eb	
Tyler Creek	7	6		54	"	"	Eb	
W.Fk. Tyler Creek	2	4		54	"	"	Eb	
N.Fk. McDonald Creek	21	10		58	"	"	Eb	Lower 18 mi. unfit for fish

Table 3b. Management data on the streams recommended for planting that are tributary to the Missouri River drainage

Sheet 1 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
Ford Creek	4	4		50	Fair	Small	Eb	Dry below canyon
Brickyard Creek	4	4		50	"	"	Eb	" "
Log Gulch	3	4		48	"	"	Eb	" "
Armell's Creek	54	8		52	Good	Medium	Eb, Ct	" lower 50 mi.
Judith River	110	40		62	"	Heavy	Eb, Ct Rb, Ll S, Wf	Gets low from mouth of Spring Cr. to Utica from irrigation
Warm Spring Creek	29	20		68	V."	"	Carp	Irrigation ditches
Big Spring Creek	20	20		50	"	"	" "	Irrigation dam and flour mill dam
E.Fk. Big Spring Creek	18	10		50	Good	Medium	Rb, Eb, Ct, S	
Hanson Creek	5	4		52	"	Small	Eb, Ct	Lower 2 mi. dry in summer
Castle Creek	10	4		54	"	"	Eb, Ct	3 " " "
Casino Creek	12	6		54	"	Medium	Eb	
Cottonwood Creek	22	10		50	"	"	Eb, Eb, Ct	Sinks in several places
E.Fk. Cottonwood Creek	10	5		45	Fair	Light	Ct	
W.Fk. Cottonwood Creek	4	4		45	"	"	Ct	
Beaver Creek	17	8		52	Good	Medium	Eb, Rb	
Rock Creek	23	8		52	"	"	Eb, Rb	Sinks below schoolhouse
Buffalo Creek	15	6		52	"	Light	Eb	Lower end in summer
S.Fk. Judith River	18	10		48	"	Medium	Ct, Rb	Sinks 3 mi. below Trask ranch.
Russian Creek	3	4		45	"	Light	Ct	
Big Hill Creek	2	4		45	"	"	Ct	
Lost Fk. Mid. Fk. Judith R.	10	6		45	"	Medium	Ct, Rb	
Harrison Creek	7	6		45	"	"	Ct	
Cleveland Creek	9	6		45	"	"	Ct	
Yogo Creek	14	6		45	"	"	Eb, Ct	Lower 3 mi. dry in summer
Porter Creek	7	4		50	"	Light	Eb, Rb	"
Running Wolf Creek	17	8		54	V. Good	Heavy	Eb, Rb, Ct	10 " unfit for fish

Table 3b. Management data on the streams recommended for
planting that are tributary to the Missouri 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 stream or rearing pond possibilities
Dry Wolf Creek	17	6		45	Good	Medium	Ct, Eb, Rb	Sinks from mouth of Lower 24 mi. dry Lower 28 mi. dry
Arrow Creek	27	6		52	"	Light	Eb	
Surprise Creek	31	6		50	"	"	Eb	

Table 4a. Management data on the lakes recommended for planting in the Musselshell River drainage

Sheet 1 of 1

Name of lake	Acreage	Temperature degrees F.	Food condi- tion	Species fish present	Percent of area over 30 feet in depth	Percent of area over 100 feet in depth	Amount of vegetation present	Principal type of shore line; mud, gravel, rock, etc.	Drains into
Lebo Lake	640	60	Good	Rb	90	None	Heavy	Mud, gravel	Lebo Creek
Martinsdale Lake	1000	60	"	LL, Rb	30	10	Light	" "	N.Fk. Musselshell
Forest Lake	15	55	"	Eb, Ct	40	None	"	"	Cottonwood
Castle Lake	5	60	"	Ct	75	"	"	Rock, gravel	E.Fk. Musselshell
Harris Lake	500	60	"	Eb, Ct, Eb	50	10	"	Mud,	N.Fk. "
Dead Man's Basin Lk.	1400	65	"	Wf, S					
Dead Man's Basin Lk.	1400	65	"	Rb, LL, S	50	None	"	" "	Musselshell R.
Miller Lake	140	60	"	Rb, Eb	100	"	Heavy	" "	"

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Table 4b. Management data on the lakes recommended for planting that are tributary to the Missouri River Drainage

Sheet 1 of 1

Name of lake	Acreage	Temperature degrees F.	Food condi- tion	Species fish present	Percent of area over 30 feet in depth	Percent of area over 100 feet in depth	Amount of vegetation present	Principal type of shore line; mud, gravel, rock, etc.	Drains into
Nielson Reservoir	60		Good	Eb	85	None	Heavy	Mud, gravel	Dog Creek
Stafford Reservoir	125		"	Rb	100	"	"	"	"
Crystal Lake	40		Ex."	Rb	100	"	"	Rock,	Rock Creek
Ackley Lake	240		Very"	Rb, Ct, S	60	"	"	Gravel	Judith River
Lake Elva	1		Good	Rb, Ct	100	"	Medium	" , rock	Yogo Creek

Table 5a. Lakes in the Musselshell drainage in which no planting is recommended

Sheet 1 of 2

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Needs investigation	Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food		
Dry Lake	?	None			x			Dry
Mason Lake	640	"					x.	Unfit for fish
Little Bear Lake	400			x				
War Horse Lake	640							
Wild Horse Lake	1200							
Valentine Lake	150							
(The following are Soil Conservation dams planted experimentally with warm water fishes during the period 1938-1941)								
Nick	5	Bass					x	
Stormwind	25	Bass, Bream					x	
Elde	7	Crappie					x	
McDonald	38	Bream					x	
Morgan	10	Crappie					x	
Moos	10	Catfish					x	
Elde	5	"					x	
Hamilton	12	"					x	
Kelly	10	"					x	
Manuel	3	"					x	
Hogback	?	"					x	
Engles	?	"					x	
Phillips	7	Crappie					x	
Duck Lake	?	Catfish					x	
Buckler	?	Crappie					x	
Teigen	?	"					x	
Gorman Coulee	?	"					x	
Highway Dam	?	"					x	

Table 5a. Lakes in the Musselshell drainage in which no planting is recommended

Sheet 2 of 2

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Needs investigation	Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food		
Vedova	5	Crappie					x	
Breed Springs	?	"					x	
Yellow Water	600	Bream, Catfish, Bass, Crappie					x	
Kratochvill	?	Catfish					x	
Rine	?	"					x	
Grange	?	"					x	
Shields	5	Catfish					x	
Goodwin	7	"					x	
Melstone	25	Bream, Bass, Crappie, Catfish					x	
Ivanhoe	3	"					x	
Allen	5	"					x	
Wet	4	Crappie					x	
Alt	3	Catfish					x	
Meyers	5	" , Bream					x	
Nelson	?	Catfish					x	
Windmill	4	Bream					x	
Red Lake	15	Catfish					x	
Miller	4	Crappie					x	
Headley	3	Catfish					x	
Hemminger	4	"					x	
Hoodoo	17	Crappie					x	
Parker	?	Bass					x	
Joyce	6	Bream					x	

Table 5b. Lakes in the Missouri River drainage in which no planting is recommended

Sheet 1 of 1

Name of lake	Acreage	Species fish present	Reason for not planting					Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food	Needs investigation	
High, Hidden or Crater Lake Twin Lakes	1 1	Rb None					x	Adequately stocked

Table 7. Species of fishes and their distribution in the main rivers and lakes in the Lewistown Hatchery District.

River or lake	Cutthroat	Rainbow	Eastern Brook	Loch Leven	Whitefish	Suckers	Bass	Crappie	Catfish	Perch	Bream	Pike	Carp	Ling
River														
Musselshell	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Judith	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lakes														
Lebo		x												
Martinsdale		x		x										
Forest	x		x											
Castle	x													
Harris	x	x	x		x	x								
Dead Man's Basin		x		x		x								
Miller		x	x											
Nielson Reservoir		x												
Stafford "		x												
Crystal		x												
Ackley	x	x				x								
Elva	x	x												
Warm Water Res.								x	x	x	x	x		
Native Species	x				x	x			x			x		x
Introduced Species		x	x	x				x	x		x	x	x	