

A FIVE-YEAR FISH DISTRIBUTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
1947 - 1951

HAMILTON HATCHERY DISTRICT - MONTANA

By

Raymond M. West
Biologist
and
A. G. Shubblefield
Superintendent of Fisheries

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
REGION ONE
IN COOPERATION WITH
STATE OF MONTANA
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

Approved by
A. G. Shubblefield
Montana State Superintendent of Fisheries
and
Montana State Fish and Game Commission

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FOREWORD

This is the second 5-year fish planting plan for the Hamilton Hatchery district. It is an extensive survey of the stream and lake resources within the district and has been prepared for the purpose of correlating the efforts of all agencies concerned. The material presented is not based on a detailed study but is a composite of information secured from hatchery men, forest officers and sportsmen having intimate knowledge of the areas. Its purpose is to record the available information and to focus attention on the problems.

The plan is designed to serve as a management plan and record of achievement for a 5-year period beginning with 1947. Since the entire output of the Hamilton Hatchery will be distributed in the area, the hatchery management problems will be greatly simplified. Revision will, undoubtedly, be necessary and your constructive criticism is solicited.

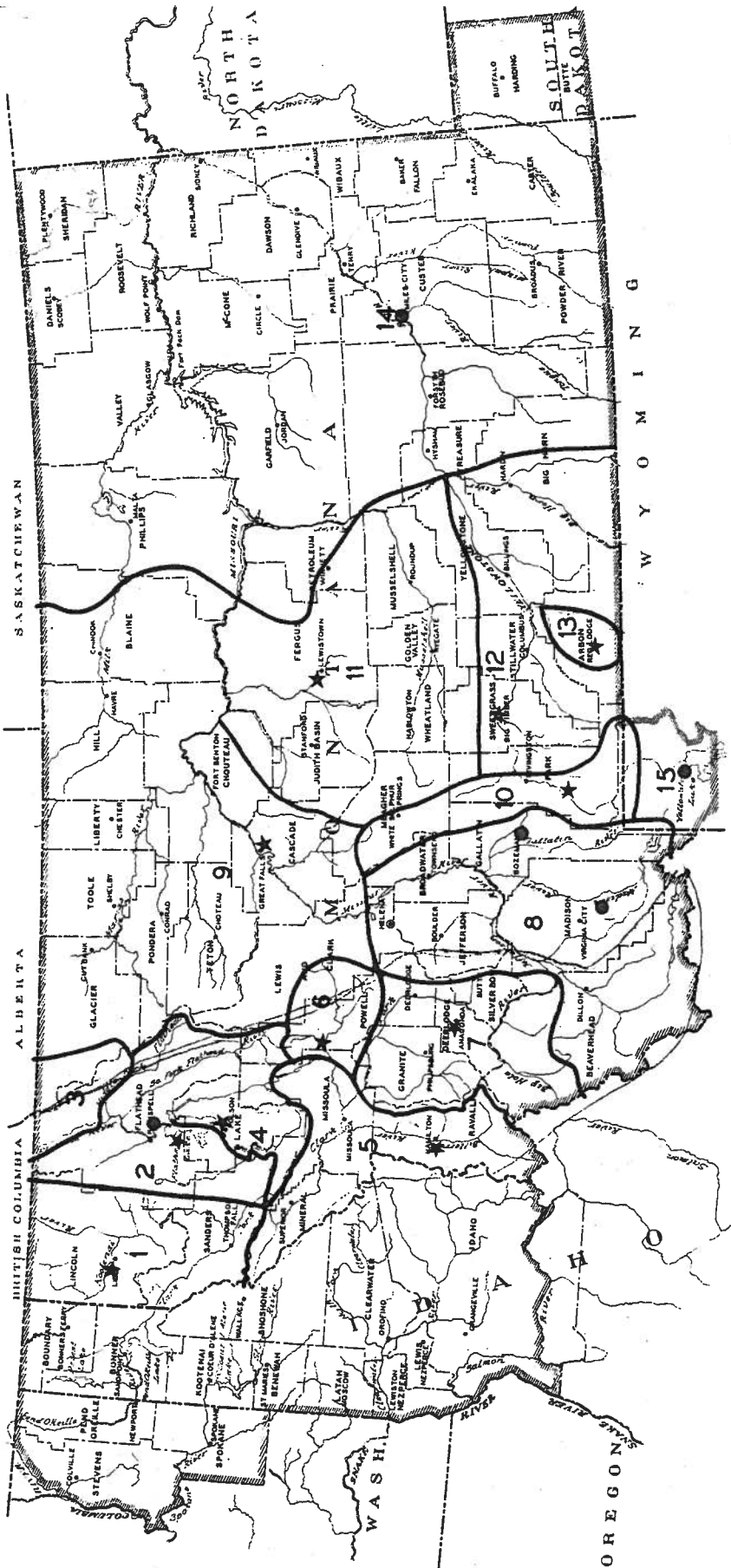
Since the plan has been examined and approved by the interested agencies, it is the sincere wish of this department that it be followed as closely as conditions will permit.

/s/ A. G. Stubblefield
A. G. STUBBLEFIELD
State Superintendent of Fisheries

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CANADA



AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN FISH PLANTING STATE AND FEDERAL HATCHERIES

LEGEND

- ★ MONTANA STATE HATCHERY
- FISH & WILDLIFE HATCHERY

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 LIBBY | 6 OVANDO | 11 LEWISTOWN |
| 2 SOMERS | 7 ANACONDA | 12 BIG TIMBER |
| 3 GLACIER PARK | 8 ROZEMAN & ENNIS | 13 RED LODGE |
| 4 POLSON | 9 GREAT FALLS | 14 MILES CITY |
| 5 HAMILTON | 10 EMIGRANT | 15 YELLOWSTONE PARK |

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. 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 mining operations 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	Wf-----Whitefish
Ct-----Cutthroat or native	SS-----Silver salmon
Eb-----Eastern brook	S-----Suckers
LL-----Loch Leven	Yr-----Yearling fish
Gr-----Grayling	

AVERAGE NUMBER OF FISH PER PICK-UP TRUCK LOAD

Average length of fish in inches	Average number of fish per pound	Average number of pounds of fish per pick-up tank load	Average number of fish per pick-up tank load
1	3,436	35	120,260
$1\frac{1}{2}$	982	40	39,280
2	382	50	19,100
$2\frac{1}{2}$	181	50	9,050
3	100	60 to 70	6,000 - 7,000
$3\frac{1}{2}$	62	70 to 80	4,370 - 4,960
4	42	80 to 100	3,360 - 4,200
$4\frac{1}{2}$	30	80 to 100	2,400 - 3,000
5	22	80 to 100	1,760 - 2,200
$5\frac{1}{2}$	16	80 to 100	1,280 - 1,600
6	12	80 to 100	960 - 1,200
$6\frac{1}{2}$	9	80 to 100	720 - 900
7	7	80 to 100	560 - 700

Table 1. Summary of fish distribution by species and size for the Hamilton Hatchery district

Ranger district	Species	Size	Thousand fish per year									
			1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
			Needed	Planted	Needed	Planted	Needed	Planted	Needed	Planted	Needed	Planted
Clark Fork River drainage between the mouth of Rock Cr. and the mouth of the Flathead River	Ct	Yr 1 1/2	18		18		18		18		18	
	Ct	1 1/2	228		214		233		211		231	
	Rb	1 1/2	25		10		10		25		10	
	Eb	Yr	10		10		10		10		10	
	Eb	1 1/2	14		5		17		14		5	
	LL	1 1/2	213		200		200		213		200	
Blackfoot River drainage from its mouth to and including the Clearwater River drainage	Ct	Yr	67		67		67		67		67	
	Ct	1 1/2	110		110		110		110		110	
	Rb	Yr	55		55		55		55		55	
	Ct	Yr	40		44		40		44		40	
	Ct	1 1/2	290		280		275		265		280	
	Rb	Yr	26		26		26		26		26	
Bitterroot River drainage	Rb	1 1/2	15		15		25		15		15	
	Eb	Yr	4		4		4		4		4	
	LL	1 1/2	150		150		150		150		150	
	Ct	Yr	125		129		125		129		125	
	Ct	1 1/2	628		604		618		586		621	
	Rb	Yr	81		81		81		81		81	
Totals	Rb	1 1/2	40		25		35		40		25	
	Eb	Yr	14		14		14		14		14	
	Eb	1 1/2	14		5		17		14		5	
	LL	1 1/2	363		350		350		363		350	
			1,265		1,208		1,240		1,227		1,221	
Total all sizes												

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	35' dam at Bonner
<i>Stungus near Emmett</i> Ninemile Cr.	25	35	20		"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb	Some placer mining
Mill Cr.	10	8	5		medium	"	Ct	Irrigation on lower end
Petty Cr.	12	10	9		"	"	Ct, Rb	Dry for 5 mi. in summer
Fish Cr.	13	30	2		good	medium	Ct, Rb, DV	Beaver dams
S. Fk. Fish Cr.	15	15	7		"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	"
Cache Cr.	9	10	2		"	light	Ct	"
Trout Cr.	15	25	6		"	heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	"
S. Fk. Trout Cr.	4	8	2		"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	
N. " " "	3	6	2		"	none	none	
Oregon Gulch	12	12			"	medium	Ct, Rb, Eb	30' falls 1 mi. from mouth
Cedar Cr.	13	15	2		"	light	Ct, Rb, Eb	Some mining operations
Dry Cr.	12	8	4		"	heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb	
St. Regis River	35	15	20		fair	very heavy	Ct, Rb, DV, Eb, S, Wf, Squaw	Beaver dams
S. Fk. Little Joe Cr.	9	8	3		good	heavy	Ct, DV	"
N. " " "	10	7			"	medium	Ct, DV	"
Big Cr.	3	12	3		"	heavy	Eb, Ct, Rb, DV	
E. Fk. Big Cr.	5	6	1		"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
Mid. Fk. Big Cr.	5	8			"	medium	Ct, DV, Eb	"
W. " " "	5	8	1		"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
Silver Cr.	5	6	1		"	"	Ct, DV, Eb	"
W. Fk. Packer Cr.	3	6			"	"	Ct	
E. " " "	2	5			"	"	Ct	
Twelve Mile Cr.	11	12	4		"	heavy	Ct, Rb, DV	
Rock Cr.	5	5			"	medium	Ct	
Flat Rock Cr.	5	6	2		"	"	Ct	
E. Fk. Twelve Mile Cr.	3	5	1		"	"	Ct	
Tamarac Cr.	7	8	3		"	heavy	Ct, Eb	"

*Temperatures during July and August to be entered as records become available.

**Light fishing, 0-300 man-days' use; medium fishing, 300-1000 man-days' use; heavy fishing, 1000-3000 man-days' use; very heavy fishing, more than 3000 man-days' use.

Table 3b. Management data on streams recommended for planting 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	Dam at lower end at Bonner
Gold Cr.	17	30	2		"	"	Ct, DV	Falls 12 mi. from mouth
W. Fk. Cold Cr.	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 Cr.	11	15	6		"	none	Ct, Rb, Wf, S, Squaw, DV	Closed to fishing
Boles Cr.	11	10			"	medium	Ct, Rb, Wf, DV, Squaw, S	
Deer Cr.	8	15	2		"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	
W. Fk. Clearwater River	11	20	2		"	none	Ct, Rb, DV	Closed to fishing
Marshall Cr.	5	10			"	"	Ct, Rb, DV, S, Squaw	" " "
Colt Cr.	5	8			"	medium	Ct, Rb, DV	Rearing pond 1 1/4 mi. from mouth
Findell Cr.	3	6			"	"	Ct, Rb, DV	Falls 10 mi. above mouth
Morrell Cr.	13	18			"	heavy	Ct, Rb, DV	Closed to fishing
Trail Cr.	7	10	2		"	none	Ct, Rb, DV	

*Temperatures during July and August to be entered as records become available.

**Light fishing, 0-300 man-days' use; medium fishing, 300-1000 man-days' use; heavy fishing, 1000-3000 man-days' use; very heavy fishing, more than 3000 man-days' use.

Table 3c. Management data on streams recommended for planting in the Bitterroot River 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
Bitterroot River	73	175	53		medium	heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV, Wf, S, Squaw	Many irrigation diversions
Miller Cr.	14	10	5		good	"	Ct	Lower 4 mi. dry - closed to fishing after July 6
Holloman Cr.	3	5	3		medium	light	Ct	Lower 5 mi. used for irrigation
Eightmile Cr.	14	5			"	heavy	Ct	do
Threemile Cr.	20	8	3		"	"	Ct	Lower 3 mi. used for irrigation
Ambrose Cr.	7	5	1		poor	"	Ct	Lower 11 mi. used for irrigation
Burnt Fork	30	20	11		good	"	Rb, Ct	Lower 5 mi. used for irrigation
Willow Cr.	20	10	7		medium	"	Ct, Rb, Eb	do
Skalkaho Cr.	15	20	2		"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	
Daly Cr.	11	15	3		good	"	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	
S. Fk. Skalkaho Cr.	10	12	3		"	medium	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	
Railroad Cr.	5	5			medium	none	Ct, DV	
Weasel Cr.	4	5			"	"	Ct, DV	
Sleeping Child Cr.	26	20	4		good	heavy	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	
E. Fk. Bitterroot River	37	40	26		"	"	Ct, Rb, Eb, Wf, Squaw, S	Several irrigation canals
Martin Cr.	11	8	1		"	medium	Ct	
Moose Cr.	10	12	4		"	heavy	Ct, Rb	
Meadow Cr.	10	8	2		"	medium	Ct	Beaver dams
Reimel Cr.	7	8			"	"	Ct	
Warm Springs Cr.	11	15	9		"	"	Ct	
W. Fk. Bitterroot River	45	50	26		"	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.

*Temperatures during July and August to be entered as records become available.

**Light fishing, 0-300 man-days' use; medium fishing, 300-1000 man-days' use; heavy fishing, 1000-3000 man-days' use; very heavy fishing, more than 3000 man-days' use.

Table 3c. Management data on streams recommended for planting in the Bitterroot River drainage (cont.)

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
Overwich Cr.	19	30	2		very good	light	Rb, Ct	75' falls 14 mi. from mouth - many beaver dams
Hughes Cr.	18	20	4		good	medium	Ct, Rb	Many beaver dams
Beaver Cr.	5	15			"	heavy	Ct, Eb	" "
Deer Cr.	14	15			"	none	Ct, Eb	" "
Chicken Cr.	8	8			"	"	Ct, Eb	" "
Nezperce Cr.	20	15	4		medium	light	Ct, Rb, Eb	" "
Boulder Cr.	11	15			"	medium	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV	Falls 4 mi. from mouth
Tin Cup Cr.	17	25	1		good	heavy	Eb, Ct, DV, Rb	Reservoir on head of stream overstocked
Lick Cr.	6	5			"	none	Ct	Lower 2 mi. used for irrigation
Lost Horse Cr.	20	25	3		"	heavy	Ct, Rb	Large irrigation dam 5 mi. from mouth
Camas Cr.	8	15			"	medium	Ct, Rb, Eb	Beaver dam 8 mi. from mouth
Fred Burr Cr.	24	10			"	light	Rb	Falls 9 mi. from mouth
Bear Cr.	30	15	2		poor	heavy	Eb, Ct, Rb	Irrigation on lower end
Lolo Cr.	30	18	20		good	"	Ct, Rb, Eb, DV, Vf, S, Squaw	"
Mill Cr.	4	4			"	none	Ct, Eb, Rb, DV	"
E. Fk. Lolo Cr.	9	10	2		"	medium	Ct, DV	"
Lost Park Cr.	3	5			"	light	Ct, DV	"
W. Fk. Lolo Cr.	6	7	1		"	medium	Ct, DV	"
Lee Cr.	4	4			"	light	Ct, DV	"
Granite Cr.	8	7	1		"	medium	Ct, DV	"
N. Fk. Granite Cr.	3	6			"	light	Ct, DV	"
Howard Cr.	6	5	2		"	"	Ct, DV	"
Graves Cr.	6	4			"	"	Ct, DV	"
Bear Cr.	6	4			"	none	Ct, DV	"

*Temperatures during July and August to be entered as records become available.

**Light fishing, 0-300 man-days' use; medium fishing, 300-1000 man-days' use; heavy fishing, 1000-3000 man-days' use; very heavy fishing, more than 3000 man-days' use.

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	Acre- age	Species fish present	Reason for not planting					Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food	Needs inves- tigation	
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, DV, Squaw, S, Perch, Bass		x				
Spook Lake	10	none						
Tupper Lake	8	Rb			x			x
Lake Dinah	15	Rb						x
Summit Lake	50	Ct, Rb, Wf, S, Bass, Perch						Stocked in 1947 " " " Stocked from main drainage
Clearwater Lake	35	Ct, DV						Almost inaccessible

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

Name of lake	Acre- age	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Other
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food	
Burnt Fork Lake	60	Rb, SS					
Little Burnt Fork Lake	7	none					
Neaves or Willow Lake	8	Gr			x		Adequately stocked
Foolhen or Willow Lake	9	Rb					
Bear Trap Lake	2	none			x		Adequately stocked
Dam Cr. Lake	20	"					
Crooked Cr. Lake	5	"					
Jerry Lake	2	"			x		"
Fish Lake	4	"			x		"
Legend Lake	2	Ct					"
Spur Lake	2	Ct					"
Snow Lake	2	Ct					"
Shadow Lake	4	Ct					"
Unnamed lake above	3	none					Stocked in 1941
Shadow Lake							
Ripple Lake	8	Ct					
Kelley Lake	4	none					
Hidden Lake	3	Rb					
Hope Lake	15	?					
Buck Lake	8	?					
Carmine Lake	3	?					
Capri Lake	5	?					
Shelf Lake	12	Ct					
Pass Lake	4	?					
Piquet Lake	10						
Slate Lake	6	none					
Square Lake - sec. 25, T. 1 N., R. 24 W.	5	"			x		Adequately stocked Inaccessible
Watchtower Lake - sec. 8, T. 1 N., R. 23 W.	10	"					Overstocked
Little W. Fk. Lake - sec. 16, T. 1 N., R. 23 W.	5	"					Inaccessible

Table 6c. Lakes in the Bitterroot River drainage in which no planting is recommended (cont.)

Name of lake	Acre- age	Species fish present	Reason for not planting				Other	
			Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Inadequate food		Needs inves- tigation
Soda Springs Lake - sec. 15, T. 1 N., R. 23 W.	7	none					x	Inaccessible
Little Boulder Lake - sec. 31, T. 2 N., R. 22 W.	2	Ct					x	
Blue Joint Lake	5	Ct						
Nelson Lake	35	Ct						Adequately stocked
Boulder Lake	35	Ct						Overstocked
Dollar Lake	5	Ct						Adequately stocked
Crystal Lake	5	Ct						"
Turbid Lake	12	Ct						"
Baker Lake	8	Ct						"
Chaffin Lake	26	Ct						"
Tin Cup Lake	128	Ct						"
Gem Lake	3	Ct						"
Kerlee Lake	37	Ct						Overstocked
Goat Lake	5	none						Adequately stocked
Lake Como	906	Ct, Rb, Eb, Sockeye, Peanmouth						"
Little Rock Cr. Lake	20	none						Inaccessible
Elk Lake	20	Ct					x	Irrigation reservoir
Lake Capitan	15	none					x	
Lost Horse Lake	67	Ct					x	Adequately stocked
Unnamed lake above Lost Horse Lake	10	Rb					x	Inaccessible
Fish Lake	51	Rb						Stocked but results unknown
Bailey Lake	15	Ct, Rb						
Twelvemile Lake	10	none						Adequately stocked at present
Terminle Lake	20	"					x	Overstocked
Camas Lakes (2)	20	Ct, Rb					x	Inaccessible
							x	"
								Adequately stocked

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Table 6c. Lakes in the Bitterroot River drainage in which no planting is recommended (cont.)

Percentage in which no planting is recommended (cont.)								
Name of lake	Acre- age	Species fish present	Too warm	Undesirable fish present	Too shallow	Reason for not planting		Other
						Inadequate food	Needs inves- tigation	
Canyon Lakes (3)	56	Rb (stocked 1946)						
High Lake	36	Rb					x	Adequately stocked
Lomo Lake	15	none					x	"
Sears Lake	10	"					x	"
Tag Alder Lake	5	Rb						Hard to plant
Mill Lake	40	Ct						"
Lockwood Lake	10	none						Adequately stocked
Hauff Lake	12	Ct						"
Sheafman Lakes (2)	10	Ct						Inaccessible
Fred Burr Lake	15	Rb, SS						Adequately stocked
Smith Lake	7	none						"
Two Lakes (2)	30	"						Inaccessible
Bryan Lake	17	Ct						Adequately stocked
Bear Lake	20	Ct						"
Glen Lake	7	Rb						Adequately stocked
Hidden Lake	10	Rb						"
Pearl Lake	8	Rb						"
S. Fork Lake	16	Ct						"
St. Mary Lake	5	none						"
Sharrot Cr. Lakes	10	"						"
McCalla Cr. Lakes (3)	12	Ct						"
S. Kootenai Lake	60	Rb					x	Inaccessible
Middle Kootenai Lake	15	Rb						Adequately stocked
N. Kootenai Lake	15	Rb						"
Bass Lake	100	Rb, Ct, LL						"
Lappi Lake	5	Rb						"
S. Fk. Sweeney Lakes	10	none						"
(4)								"
S. Fork Lakes	3	"					x	Inaccessible

Table 7. Species of fishes and their distribution in the main streams and lakes in the Hamilton Hatchery district

River or lake	Species of fish											
	Cutthroat	Rainbow	Eastern brook	Loch Leven	Grayling	Whitefish	Silver salmon	Dolly Varden	Suckers	Squawfish	Bass	Perch
<u>Rivers</u>												
Clark Fork												
St. Regis	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	
Blackfoot	x	x	x			x		x	x	x		
Clearwater	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x
Bitterroot	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x
	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x
<u>Lakes</u>												
Heart												
Oregon Lakes (2)				x								
Placid			x									
Seeley	x	x			x							
Burnt Fork	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x
Painted Rocks		x				x		x	x	x	x	x
Big Cr. Lakes	x	x	x				x					
Bass	x	x						x	x	x		
	x	x		x			x					
Native species												
	x											
Introduced species						x		x	x	x		
		x	x	x	x		x				x	x