

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title: Quantification of Libby Reservoir levels needed to maintain or enhance reservoir fisheries.

Project Number: BPA 83-467; MDFWP 31761

Project Biologist: Don Skaar

Project Technicians: Larry Garrow, Barry Hansen, Chris St.Germaine
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Project Manager: John Fraley

Report for the Month: July 1990

1. Summary of significant results.

Reservoir elevation rose 12.6 feet throughout the month, and was at 2,458.8 feet at the end of the month. The average inflow for the month was 27,294 cfs and the average outflow was 17,858 cfs.

Field sampling continued throughout the month. Zooplankton (Schindler and vertical tow) were sampled July 12 in the forebay, Tenmile, Rexford and Canada Areas. Afterbay zooplankton was sampled during the same week. The old sampling location (David Thompson Bridge) was abandoned after the net cable broke, and a new location was established at the USGS gage house, using their trolley setup.

Sampling at the dam with the transducer on the trashracks did not proceed during the month because the chart recorder was malfunctioning. Once the recorder is repaired, sampling will begin again in August.

Reservoir creel survey continued during the month.

The Quartz Creek trap (for bull trout) was monitored through the month, with the first trout appearing July 18.

Section I of the river (Libby Dam to Kootenai Falls) was surveyed for habitat types in order to establish reaches for snorkel surveys of fry and juvenile fish. Snorkel surveys began on July 27.

Sections I and II of the river (Libby Dam to Boner's Ferry) were checked for radio frequencies that would interfere with transmitter detection. Once done, transmitters were ordered.

2. Short discussion of any major problems encountered, changes in workplan, or schedule deviations.

Joel Tohtz was selected to fill the crew chief position vacated by Barry Hansen. His first day will be August 6.

3. A short description of planned activities for the following month.

Reservoir creel survey will continue throughout the month.

Zooplankton sampling on the reservoir will be conducted the week of August 6-10.

Radio transmitters will be tested in the river for signal strength; and we will practice implant techniques.

Design on the draft tube net frame will be finalized during the month.

Entrainment work including hydroacoustic monitoring of the penstock, hydroacoustic transects in forebay and vertical gill net sampling will continue through the month.

The annual hydroacoustic kokanee estimate will be conducted the week of August 13-17.

The Flower-Pipe and Troy sections of the river will be electrofished the last week of the month to determine population estimates for rainbow trout and mountain whitefish.

4. Itemized listing of each non-expendable item greater than \$1,000 and each designate sensitive item.

None.

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