

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



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title: Quantification of Hungry Horse Reservoir water levels needed to maintain or enhance reservoir fisheries.

Project Number: BPA 84-465; MDFWP 3174-1

Project Biologist: Brian Marotz *BM*

Project Technicians: Mike Hensler, Jon Cavigli, Gary Michael, John Wachsmuth, Tim Taylor

Project Manager: John Fraley

Report for the Month: September 1990

1. Summary of significant results.

Hungry Horse Reservoir elevation declined 14 feet during the month to 3,546 msl.

The summer gill nets series was completed in conjunction with the hydroacoustics estimate. Vertical gill nets and suspended horizontal nets were also set to verify species and target size at known depths for hydroacoustics. A fixed frame trawl was used to collect juvenile fish at various depths in open water.

Routine reservoir sampling was completed during the month. Insect deposition traps were removed and modified to increase their floatation and replaced the following week. Fall electrofishing population estimates were completed in four tributaries (Upper Hungry Horse, McInernie, Harris, and Felix). Westslope cutthroat imprint planting of 1" - 1 1/4" fish continued for the third consecutive year in McInernie, Harris, and Felix creeks, which received 1,000, 1,300, and 4,000, respectively.

The electric fence at Mill Creek was completed and electricians have updated the power lines to accommodate landowners. Seventeen birch trees were cut down and anchored in Mill Creek to provide additional habitat for juvenile cutthroat. Approximately 10,000 westslope cutthroat fingerling were planted in Mill Creek.

Marotz presented tradeoffs between biological production and hydroelectrical generation based on BPA's HYDRO6 analysis to the Hungry Horse Mitigation Consultation Group. Also prepared study plan for FY91.

2. **Brief discussion of major problems encountered, changes in work plan, or schedule deviations.**

None.

3. **Short description of planned activities for the following month.**

Develop preferred Hungry Horse Reservoir mitigation alternatives.

Slash structures will be constructed on site at Hungry Horse during October and November.

Approximately 7,000 adult westslope cutthroat will be planted in Reservoir with 500 carrying numbered floy tags.

Routine field sampling will continue.

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

None.

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- c: Dale Johnson (BPA, 3 copies)
Bob Adair, BOR (Boise)
Richard Prange, BOR (Boise)
Dennis Christenson, BOR (Hungry Horse Dam)
Rich Clark, BOR (Hungry Horse Dam)
Al Christophersen (District Ranger - Hungry Horse)
Barb Taylor, NWPPC (Portland)
Terry Wilner, NWPPC (Helena)
Mark Holsten, Flathead Basin Commission
Larry Peterman, Dorothy Rylander
Dan Vincent, Al Elser, Mike Aderhold, Jim Vashro, John Fraley,
Don Skaar, Mike Hensler