

*Liter* *Larry Determan*  
*CP Helena*

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



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**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Project Title: Coal Creek/Flathead River Basin Monitoring Study  
Project Number: MDFWP 3177-1  
Project Biologist: Thomas Weaver *(TW)*  
Project Manager: John Fraley  
Report for the Month: April 1990

**1. Summary of significant results.**

We collected 156 McNeil core samples during April. As of the end of the month, all core sampling required for the Coal Creek contract and the Red Bench Fire contract is complete. Three sites (n=36) remain to be sampled under the Flathead Basin Commission contract. Sieve analysis is ongoing; results are not available at this time.

The bull trout incubation study continued through April. We monitored dissolved oxygen content and temperatures through standpipes located in egg pockets where the sealed egg bags are incubating. We expect fry emergence to begin shortly after the first of May.

We completed a manuscript describing westslope cutthroat fry emergence at various gravel mixtures in Langford Creek. The manuscript was distributed to the Cooperative members, other study leaders, and outside specialists for review.

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

We requested and received a 30-day extension for submitting the Coal Creek Monitoring Study draft report to the USFS. The extension was needed because unusual precipitation and extremely high stream flows last fall prevented us from completing the McNeil core sampling as originally planned.

Jim Brammer has transferred to a position on another project. We will fill his position during May.

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

We will attempt to complete the McNeil core sampling at the three remaining FBC sites in May. Sieve analysis of FBC core samples will be ongoing throughout the

summer. The bull trout incubation study will continue. We will continue to monitor intergravel water characteristics and quantify emergence success from the 18 capped incubation cells in Coal Creek.

We will excavate a set of sealed egg bags once emergence begins as a final check on pre-emergence mortality. The last set of sealed bags will be used in assessing entombment mortality. We will document intergravel water characteristics in each of the 18 incubation cell egg packets immediately following fry emergence.

We will remove and examine all incubation cells once the emergence period is over.

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

None.

/ss

c: Hank Dawson, USFS (Kalispell)  
Dean Sirucek, USFS (Kalispell)  
Mary Peterson, USFS (Kalispell)  
Mike Enk, USFS (Bigfork)  
Loren Bahls, WQB (Helena)  
Craig Hess, Flathead Basin Commission  
R.C. Murray, U of M (Administration)  
Ric Hauer, Craig Spencer, UMBS  
Bill Parsons, Plum Creek Timber Co., Inc.  
Gary Brown, DSL (Missoula)  
Sid Frissell, Don Potts, Bob Pfister, U of M (School of Forestry)  
Larry Peterman  
Al Elser, Jim Vashro