

***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
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Project Manager: John Fraley

Report for the Month: April 1990

1. Summary of significant results.

Reservoir elevation rose 20.8 feet throughout the month, and was at 2,347 feet at the end of the month. The average inflow for the month was 14,246 cfs and the average outflow was 6,486 cfs.

Field sampling continued throughout the month. Zooplankton (Schindler and vertical tow) and fishes (vertical gill nets) were sampled the week of April 9-13 in the forebay and Tenmile area; afterbay zooplankton was sampled during the same week.

Laboratory analysis of 1988 and 1989 fish stomach samples and 1989 zooplankton samples continued through the month.

The entire staff traveled to Murray Springs Hatchery on the 12th to fin clip 18,000 Kamloops rainbow, most of which are destined for Libby Reservoir.

A \$5,000 purchase order was awarded to BioSonics, Inc., to help us install and calibrate the transducer we will use at Libby Dam in our entrainment study. A transducer, echosounder, chart recorder and cable were borrowed from the Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers.

Sonotronics, Inc. of Tucson, Arizona, submitted the lowest bid to provide us with ultrasonic telemetry equipment; an order for the equipment has been placed.

The entire staff traveled to Kalispell on the 30th to attend the Regional Fisheries meeting.

Advanced Underwater Systems of British Columbia was at the dam on April 12 to examine the trashracks for debris. The trashracks were found to be relatively free of debris, and plans are proceeding to pull them and install a transducer.

Reservoir creel survey began on April 30.

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

None.

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

Reservoir creel survey will continue through the month.

Zooplankton and horizontal gill net sampling on the reservoir will be conducted the week of May 7-11.

Data entry and laboratory analysis of samples collected in 1989 will continue throughout the month.

Preparations for the telemetry study on the river will continue through the month. Sonic transmitters have been obtained; early in the month we will practice surgical procedures for inserting them into fish and late in the month we will begin trying to capture fish in the river from Bonners Ferry down to Kootenay Lake.

Rainbow trout redd surveys will be conducted through the month, with the objective to determine timing, abundance and microhabitat characteristics of redds from the dam to Kootenay Lake.

Radio transmitters will be purchased during the month.

The transducer will be installed on the Libby Dam trashracks on May 16.

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

None.

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