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INTENSIVE EVALUATION OF SMOLT PRODUCTION
Project 91-73 (DE-BI79-84BP13381)
Quarterly Progress Report for
July - September 1995

prepared by

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SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OR ACTIVITIES

JULY

Chris Restall and Jane Mauser reported to work for the summer field season. The old office was converted to a storage unit and we moved all our equipment into it. We worked cooperatively with chinook supplementation and National Biological Service steelhead projects to snorkel Crooked River and Red River transects. We used two techniques to validate underwater length estimates for juvenile steelhead in Crooked River. We collected juvenile steelhead from Crooked River for NBS studies (fin samples for genetic analysis). We traveled to upper Salmon River and snorkeled with regional personnel, other researchers, and hatchery personnel. We took photographs of bull trout fry for the wild trout program.

AUGUST

We finished upper Salmon River snorkel surveys. Some modification of techniques had to be used to overcome high water. We PIT tagged in the upper Salmon River with assistance from Sawtooth Hatchery and USFS personnel. We cooperatively collected parr from Crooked River with the NBS crew for PIT tagging and genetic samples. Jerry investigated an illegal kill of an elk. Jerry worked up population estimates for Crooked River and Upper Salmon River. Jerry worked up tagging mortality tables for the field season. Both emigrant traps were put into operation. We are cost sharing emigrant trapping crews with the ISS project in both the Stanley Basin and South Fork Clearwater River drainage. We assisted the Salmon Region with collection of chinook salmon parr for captive rearing program.

SEPTEMBER

A second emigrant trap was installed in the upper Salmon River. The trap was converted to 12 volt DC electrical operation. The trap is located about 500 m upstream of the Sawtooth Hatchery weir at the hatchery water intake. Redd counts were conducted in upper Salmon River. Two adult females were released above the weir, but no redds were observed. Since no adult females returned to Crooked River, no redd counts were conducted. Jane Mauser finished her employment term and left the project. Chris and Jerry designed and built a needle rack for PIT tagging. Chris began making repairs to field equipment and improving shelving and storage racks in the storage trailer. Jerry, Russ, and Paul began putting together data, analyzing data, making tables and figures, and writing the 1995 annual report first draft. Russ and Paul downloaded all dam detection files for 1995 to be used for travel time analysis and survival estimates. Russ, Paul, and Jerry error checked all August PIT tag files and modemed them to PTAGIS. While Paul was in the office, Chris operated the Salmon River traps. Russ had his annual performance evaluation. Russ was able to take a week of vacation time.

NON-EXPENDABLE OR SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT PURCHASED

None.

PROBLEMS OR PROJECT DELAYS

High water levels caused many problems while snorkeling. This required more personnel than normal and modification of techniques.

Due to budget cutbacks and the need for more personnel, snorkeling became a major personnel scheduling problem with other research projects to cooperatively accomplish all goals.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Replaced the windshield in the Suburban.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER GOALS

- 1. Complete final draft of the 1994 report.**
- 2. Complete first draft of the 1995 report.**
- 3. Continue fall emigrant trapping until the first week of November.**