

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE:** MONTANA  
**GRANT TITLE:** Yellowstone Corridor Native Fish & Wildlife Survey  
**AGREEMENT:** T - 28 - 1  
**PERIOD COVERED:** January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007

**Objective**

1. Describe seasonal movement patterns and habitat use of adult blue sucker, channel catfish, and burbot.
2. Identify and describe blue sucker spawning habitats.
3. Identify potential burbot spawning aggregations
4. Develop stock forecasting methods, stock assessment methods, and investigate how environmental factors affect the spawning, migration, and fishing success of paddlefish.
5. Describe distribution of snapping and soft-shell turtles, as well as movements and habitat use of spiny soft-shell turtles.
6. Determine distribution and nesting success of interior least terns, piping plovers, and bald eagles.

**Location**

The study will occur in the Yellowstone River Corridor in southeastern Montana, between Billings and the North Dakota border.

**Accomplishments**

**January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 (reported previously)**

Objectives for the second season of the Yellowstone River corridor native species project were successfully achieved; most transmitters were implanted (n=289) and tracking of telemetered fish and turtles to determine seasonal movements and habitat selection continued. Large maximum seasonal movements were observed for blue sucker (817 km), shovelnose sturgeon (322 km), burbot (193 km), channel catfish (209 km), and spiny soft-shell turtles (47 km). High rates of transmitter expulsion occurred for some species (catfish, burbot) but most expelled transmitters (45) were recovered. All habitats upstream to Intake Diversion were delineated and a representative random sample of these were characterized in the field. A total of 31 bald eagle nests were documented and two interior least terns were observed.

Second season objectives in Region 5 (confluence with the Big Horn River upstream to above the confluence with the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River) include implanting remaining transmitters (39), relocating telemetered fish and turtles, and quantifying habitat characteristics.

**January 1, 2007 through June 30 2007**

Progress was made in satisfying the objectives for the third season of work Region 7 (confluence with Missouri River upstream to the confluence with the Big Horn River) during the reporting period. New fish were collected and recovered or new transmitters were implanted into targeted species. Tracking of telemetered fish and reptiles was continued from the previous reporting period. Summary reports of work completed during the first and second seasons are attached. Further reports will be provided in the future.

**Variiances:**

None

**Expenditure Recap:**

Proposed:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	300,000.00		117,985.00		417,985.00
Indirect Costs	53,955.00				53,955.00
Total	353,955.00	75.0%	117,985.00	25.0%	471,940.00

Current Expenditures:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	301,117.02		117,985.00		417,985.00
Indirect Costs	52,837.98				53,955.00
Total	353,955.00	75.0%	117,985.00	25.0%	471,940.00

Expense Detail:

Salary & Benefits	116,598.14
Lodging & Travel	26,604.58
Equipment & Supplies	142,871.30
Contracted Services	15,043.00
Aircraft Flights	
Misc.	
Total	\$ 301,272.28

Non-federal match was contributed by FWP (\$69,220.56) for additional equipment expenditures.

## **Project Personnel**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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