Creek 28-6 (township of Preston, Trempealeau Co.) - is a high gradient, 1.1 mile tributary of Reynolds Coulee Creek. The stream has a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found seven minnow and other forage species. The dominant substrate type is clay with lesser amounts of sand and gravel. Land use in the stream corridor is primarily agricultural fields and woodland.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for Reynolds Coulee Creek:

1. Improve habitat conditions in Reynolds Coulee Creek sufficient to enhance the existing Class II trout fishery.

2. Improve fish habitat conditions by reducing sediment and organic loading to the subwatershed streams.

Lakes Coulee Subwatershed

Lakes Coulee subwatershed (map 2) is located southwest of Blair between Reynolds Coulee and Welch Coulee subwatersheds. It drains two coulees which include Peterson Coulee and Lakes Coulee. These two coulees converge to form the lower end of Lakes Coulee Creek which drains to the Trempealeau River. There are approximately 8,000 acres in Lakes Coulee. The Lakes Coulee state public hunting grounds are located in this subwatershed.

Water Resource Conditions

Lakes Coulee Creek - is a 6.2 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream is managed as a Class III trout fishery, but the 1990 survey found no trout. The stream is usually stocked with trout on an annual basis, but was not stocked in 1990. Apparently, their is little or no carryover of stocked trout. The survey found a diverse forage fish community of 13 species. Sand and clay are the dominant substrate types, with some gravel present in the upstream portion. The stream HBI was 4.26, indicating some organic loading, and the Habitat Rating was "fair".

Water resource problems in Lakes Coulee Creek include sedimentation of riffles and pools, streambank erosion, elevated stream temperatures, and occasional low dissolved oxygen conditions. A survey conducted in 1990 found a maximum stream temperature of 81 degrees F., a near-lethal temperature for brown trout. A minimum dissolved oxygen level of 5.33 mg/l was recorded in August 1990, which is below the 6.0 mg/l water quality standard for trout streams.

Land use in the stream corridor is mostly open meadow with some cattle pasture and wetland. The wetland portion is mostly in the Lakes Coulee State Public Hunting Grounds. Streambank erosion ranges from light to heavy and portions of the stream were previously ditched. Gravel in the riffle areas is moderately embedded with sand.

Peterson Coulee Creek - is a 2.4 mile tributary of Lakes Coulee Creek. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found only brook stickleback. The stream substrate is mostly shifting sand with some clay and detritus. Land use in the stream corridor is primarily open meadow, pasture and woodland. Streambank erosion is light.

Creek 19-5 (township of Preston, Trempealeau County) - is a 1.6 mile tributary of Lakes Coulee Creek. The stream is managed as a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found only brook stickleback. The dominant substrate is shifting sand with lesser amounts of gravel, silt and clay. Most of the stream is in the Lakes Coulee State Public Hunting Grounds.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Lakes Coulee subwatershed:

1. Improve habitat conditions in Lakes Coulee Creek sufficient to enhance the Class III trout fishery.

2. Improve fish habitat conditions by reducing sediment loading to subwatershed streams.

Larkin Valley Subwatershed

Larkin Creek subwatershed (map 3) has approximately 5,900 acres and is located north of Blair and southeast of Whitehall. The Pigeon Creek Watershed borders to the northeast with the western boundary being the Trempealeau River. Larkin Valley Creek empties directly into the Trempealeau River.

Water Resource Conditions

Larkin Valley Creek (Cr. 1-4, township of Preston, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 3.7 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream has a forage fishery and the substrate is mostly sand and silt with some gravel and clay. The stream HBI was 5.82, indicating fairly significant organic loading, and the Habitat Rating was "fair".

Water resource problems in Larkin Valley Creek include low dissolved oxygen levels and minimal streamflow and habitat. The stream has limited fishery potential due to natural limitations including insufficient physical space. The streambanks are stable and the stream is

completely overgrown with vegetation during summer. The stream appears to be impacted by sediment from cropland runoff.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Larkin Valley subwatershed:

1. Enhance the forage fish community in Larkin Valley Creek.

Welch Coulee Subwatershed

Welch Coulee subwatershed (map 3) has approximately 3,400 acres. It is located west of Blair between Irvin Creek and Lakes Coulee subwatersheds. Welch Coulee Creek drains directly to the Trempealeau River.

Water Resource Conditions

Welch Coulee Creek (Cr. 7-4, township of Preston, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 4.5 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream has a forage fishery and the 1990 survey found nine minnow and other forage species. The substrate is primarily sand with some gravel and clay. The stream HBI was 3.20, indicating no apparent organic loading, and the Habitat Rating was "fair".

Water resource problems in Welch Coulee Creek include sedimentation of riffles and pools, scarcity of stable cover, and streambank erosion. Maximum stream temperatures during summer 1990 were slightly elevated for a coldwater fishery. Gravel in the riffle areas was highly embedded with sand.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource management objectives are recommended for the Welch Coulee subwatershed:

1. Improve habitat conditions in Welch Coulee Creek sufficient to upgrade the stream to a Class III trout fishery.

2. Improve fish habitat by reducing sediment and organic loading to the subwatershed streams.

Irvin Creek Subwatershed

Irvin Creek subwatershed (map 3) is south of the city of Whitehall with the Trempealeau River bordering on the north and east sides. Plum Creek borders to the west, with Welch Creek to the south. Irvin Creek has 6,700 acres which all drain to the Trempealeau River.

Water Resource Conditions

Irvin Creek - is a 4.2 mile tributary of the Trempealeau River. The stream was de-classified from Class III trout water to a forage fishery in 1989. A 1988 fish survey found no trout, but a very diverse forage fish community. The survey found largemouth bass and 11 minnow and forage species. The two most abundant forage species were white sucker and creek chub.

The dominant substrate type in Irvin Creek is sand with lesser amounts of silt and rubble. The stream HBI was 3.68, indicating slight organic pollution.

Water resource problems include scarcity of stable instream cover, sedimentation of riffles and pools, and streambank erosion. Considerable garbage and automobile debris was noted in the stream in Whitehall. Dairy farming is the primary land use, and the stream is adversely impacted by overgrazing and cropland runoff.

Creek 3-5 (township of Preston, Trempealeau Co.) - is a 1.1 mile tributary of Irvin Creek. The stream has a forage fishery and a 1988 survey found only creek chub and brook stickleback. Sand is the dominant substrate type with some silt present.

Water resource problems include scarcity of stable instream cover and sedimentation of riffles and pools. Fishery potential of the stream is limited due to its small size and limited flow. The primary land use is dairy farming and the stream is seriously impacted by cattle grazing.

Water Resource Objectives

The following water resource objectives are recommended for the Irvin Creek subwatershed:

1. Improve habitat conditions in Irvin Creek sufficient to upgrade the stream to a Class II trout fishery.

2. Improve fish habitat by reducing sediment and organic loading to the subwatershed streams.