

**Anglers' Guide** 1966

to the

LAKES AND STREAMS  
of the**TRINITY ALPS**

Trinity and Siskiyou Counties, California



Emerald and Sapphire Lakes (Eastman Studio)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**Anglers' Guide**  
to the Lakes and Streams**TRINITY ALPS**

Trinity and Siskiyou Counties, California

This is one of the four anglers' guides to the trout lakes of northern California. Similar guides have been published for the Marble Mountains, Salmon and Scott Mountains, and the Trinity Divide areas. This series has been developed by the Department of Fish and Game to acquaint fishermen with the large number of back-country lakes and streams.

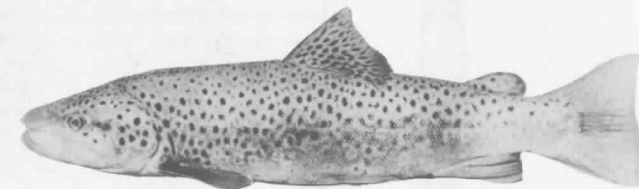
**THE WILDERNESS AREA**

Most of the lakes in this guide are in the Salmon-Trinity Alps Wilderness Area, one of the most rugged parts of California north of the Sierra Nevada. Many of the high, jagged peaks and deep-cut valleys have been sculptured by glaciation. Although Thompson Peak, the highest point, is only slightly over 9,000 feet above sea level, this area is like the Sierra on a smaller scale. It is a beautiful and unique country, many parts of which are little known and seldom visited. In addition to its breathtaking scenery the area has an interesting fauna and flora. Here, for example, one finds fine specimens of the rare weeping spruce. Of greater interest to the angler, however, is the excellent fishing in many of the lakes and streams.

There are approximately 55 lakes and many streams shown on the accompanying map that are suitable trout waters. Some of the smaller streams are too steep to maintain fish life, but where the water is suitable fine fishing is usually to be found. The Trinity River is very popular for salmon and steelhead angling. Sections of the North Fork and tributary East Fork, and the Stuart Fork of the Trinity River, the South Fork of the Salmon River, and such streams as Canyon, Coffee, Grizzly, Rush, and Swift creeks are all good trout streams. Rainbow trout are present in most of them. Eastern brook trout and a few brown trout occur in some meadow sections. Most of the lakes contain Eastern

A good sportsman takes only as many trout as he can use, and he uses what he takes. Trout he can't use he carefully releases and returns to the water. He may even remove the barbs from his hooks to do less damage to the fish he does not intend to keep.

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Brown trout

**DESCRIPTIONS OF THE LAKES**

**Alpine Lake.** Elevation 6,150 feet; 14 acres; 26 feet deep. About seven miles up the Stuart Fork trail take the Boulder Creek trail for two miles to where a trail goes up the outlet stream for about two miles to the lake. The last mile is very rough and rocky. Both rainbow and brook trout do very well.

**Anna Lake.** Elevation 7,550 feet; 4 acres; 56 feet deep. There are two ways of reaching the lake: up the East Fork of Stuart Fork via Bowerman Meadow, and thence a steep climb up the outlet to the lake; or by way of Long Canyon, the most gradual climb, making your way over the last gap in the canyon leading to the left and down to the lake. Situated in a depression on the slopes of a steep mountain. Excellent angling for brook trout to 11 inches reported in 1966.



Canyon Creek Lake

**Boulder Lake.** Elevation 6,100 feet; 8 acres; 27 feet deep. A three-hour, seven-mile trip to the lake from Coffee Creek. This is a fine lake to which a family may pack in for a vacation. Has fair sized brook and rainbow trout.



**Big Caribou Lake**

**Canyon Creek Boulder Lake.** Elevation 5,750 feet; 5 acres; 17 feet deep. Go up the Canyon Creek trail from Dedrick for six miles to Boulder Creek; then another two miles up the Boulder Creek trail to a meadow at the base of the cliff below the lake. From the north side of the meadow a trail goes through dense brush to the bench where the lake is. Stocked with rainbows.

**Little Boulder Lake.** Elevation 6,350 feet; 4.5 acres; 19 feet deep. Located about two miles by trail to the east of Boulder Lake. Also accessible by trail from Carrville and the North Fork of Swift Creek. Good population of both brook and rainbow trout.

**Lower Canyon Creek Lake.** Elevation 5,600 feet; 14 acres; 56 feet deep. From Dedrick it is an eight-mile, four-hour trip up Canyon Creek to the lake. All three species, brook, brown and rainbow trout are present, including some large ones. Upper Canyon Creek provides excellent angling for pan-sized trout.

**Upper Canyon Creek Lake.** Elevation 5,690 feet; 25 acres; 86 feet deep. A five-minute walk to this lake from the lower lake. Brook, brown and rainbow trout thrive very well. The Canyon Creek Lakes are popular and good campsites are nearby.

**Caribou Lake.** Elevation 6,850 feet; 72 acres; 72 feet deep. This, the largest glacial lake in the Trinity Alps, is located in a beautiful setting at the head of the Caribou Basin. This basin probably attracts more people than any other section of the back country. Many people make the trip just for the spectacular scenery, although the fishing is good. A four-hour ride from Big Flat at the head of Coffee Creek. Brook trout are abundant, along with fair sized rainbow and a few brown trout.

**Little Caribou Lake.** Elevation 7,150 feet; 3 acres; 16 feet deep. This lake, which is not situated in the Caribou Basin, is a two-hour ride from Big Flat, the last mile more suited to mule than horse travel. Contains brook trout.

**Lower Caribou Lake.** Elevation 6,500 feet; 22 acres; 83 feet deep. Located at the lower end of the Caribou Basin. A beautiful deep lake surrounded by high, steep mountains and sheer granite cliffs. Has rainbow, brook and brown trout, some of large size.

**Middle Caribou Lake.** Elevation 6,600 feet; .5 acre; 10 feet deep. A little lake in the center of the Caribou Basin. Has a few brook plus occasional rainbow and brown trout which drift down from Caribou Lake.

**Clair Engle (Trinity) Lake.** Elevation 2,370 feet; 16,400 acres; 465 feet deep at dam; 122 miles of shoreline. Several improved U.S. Forest Service campgrounds. Boat launching ramps available at several locations. Rental boats available. Lake is located 11 miles north of Weaverville on the Weaverville-Callahan road, or 9 miles north of Lewiston. Rainbow trout and kokanee salmon abundant, brown trout common. Large mouth and small mouth bass are numerous.

**Conway Lake.** Elevation 6,850 feet; 1 acre; 3 feet deep. This very shallow lake is able to maintain a population of brook trout because of a constant flow of water through it. Covered with water lilies in the summer. Located on a bench at the end of the trail to Lion Lake.

**Deer Lake.** Elevation 7,150 feet; 4.5 acres; 19 feet deep. Accessible by trail up Stuart Fork and thence up Deer Creek, up the Stoney Creek Ridge trail from Stuart Fork, or by way of Long Canyon. Brook trout to 10 inches were common in 1966. Other lakes nearby.

**Diamond Lake.** Elevation 7,250 feet; 2.5 acres; 13 feet deep. Best approach is up the Stuart Fork and Deer Creek trails, then take the trail to the west just past Round Lake, continuing past Luella Lake to Diamond Lake. Excellent fly fishing for brook trout. Good natural reproduction.

**Big East Fork Lake.** Elevation 5,850 feet; 2 acres; 11 feet deep. Since this small lake is out of the way it is seldom visited. Has both brook and rainbow trout. From Dedrick on Canyon Creek a trail follows up Big East Fork of Canyon Creek to the lake.

**Echo Lake.** Elevation 7,250 feet; 2.5 acres; 17 feet deep. The best route is up the Stoney Creek Ridge trail, through Stonewall Pass and past Van Matre Meadows. Just below Little Stonewall pass, a dim trail goes in a southerly direction past a small pond to the lake. Stocked with brook trout.

**Eleanor Lake.** Elevation 4,950 feet; 3 acres; 10 feet deep. The Eleanor Lake road goes nearly to the lake. Brook trout are present.

**Ell Lake.** Elevation 6,530 feet; 2 acres; 29 feet deep. From Upper Canyon Creek Lake outlet a dim trail goes to the lake; a good hour and a half climb. Brook trout do very well in this "L" shaped lake.

**Emerald Lake.** Elevation 5,500 feet; 21 acres; 68 feet deep. Emerald Lake is 16 miles by trail up Stuart Fork from the end of the road. Has both brook and rainbow trout. Stream fishing in the Stuart Fork is tops.

**Forbidden Lakes.** Elevation 6,250 feet; 1.5 acres; 18 feet deep. These small lakes are at the head of a small side canyon behind a glacial moraine just above Canyon Creek Boulder Lake. Because of extremely heavy snowdrifts some fish may not be able to survive severe winters. Stocked with brook trout.

**Foster Lake.** Elevation 7,250 feet; 5.5 acres; 20 feet deep. Named after a pioneer Trinity Center family. The main access route is up the Union Creek trail and then up the outlet to the lake; a distance of about 10 miles from Coffee Creek. A good brook trout lake.

**Found Lake.** Elevation 6,600 feet; 2.5 acres; 9 feet deep. Situated above Tapie Lake which is above Boulder Lake. From Coffee Creek it takes about three hours to reach Boulder Lake and another hour up to Found Lake. Stocked with brook trout.

**Granite Lake.** Elevation 6,000 feet; 18 acres; 64 feet deep. A seven-mile trip up the Swift and Granite Creek trails to the lake. Brook, rainbow and brown trout in lake. Brown trout get very large. Rainbows are scrappy, deep bodied. Lahontan cutthroat trout have been stocked in the past but no reports of their presence in recent years. Good fishing for rainbow trout in Granite Creek below the lake.

**Grizzly Lake.** Elevation 7,100 feet; 42 acres; 173 feet deep. From Hobo Gulch it is a beautiful ride up the North Fork and Grizzly Creek through virgin stands of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. The trail winds on through the granite into Grizzly Meadows where there's a magnificent view of a high peak with a waterfall at its base. This is Thompson Peak, over 9,000 feet high. The waterfall drops 70 feet from the lip of Grizzly Lake. Grizzly Meadows is about 19 miles from Hobo Gulch, or about nine miles from the South Fork of the Salmon River via the Hunters Camp trail. From the meadow one has to climb rocks for about 45 minutes to reach the lake. This seldom-visited lake produces fat, red-meated rainbow trout, 12 inches and longer. Grizzly Creek is a good trout stream.

**Horseshoe Lake.** Elevation 6,850 feet; 6 acres; 22 feet deep. Situated at the head of Swift Creek, it is 14.5 miles by trail from the end of the road. Brook trout are abundant and doing very well.

**Josephine Lake.** Elevation 5,800 feet; 17 acres; 47 feet deep. Josephine Lake is located near the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Being privately owned it is *not* stocked by the Department of Fish and Game.

**Kalmia Lake.** Elevation 7,500 feet; 1 acre; 13 feet deep. Named for the "mountain laurel" that grows along its shore. Situated north of Upper Canyon Creek Lake near the top of the mountain. Hike up towards Ell Lake, then through the timber to the gap between Canyon Creek and Stuart Fork, then work around in a westerly direction on the Canyon Creek side to the lake. Stocked with brook trout.

**Landers Lake.** Elevation 7,100 feet; 6 acres; 17 feet deep. The level of Landers Lake fluctuates considerably as the bottom apparently is not sealed. A 13.5 mile trip via the Swift and Landers Creek trails, and about the same distance up Union Creek from Coffee Creek. Also reached from Big Flat. Has some fair sized rainbow trout.

**Lewiston Reservoir.** Elevation 1,902 feet; 610 acres; 70 feet deep at dam. About five miles long. The lake is located about one mile north of Lewiston. Two boat launching ramps available. Rainbow trout abundant, brown trout common, kokanee salmon, large mouth and small mouth bass scarce.

**Lily Pad Lake.** Elevation 6,300 feet; 2 acres; 8 feet deep. Accessible by trail up the North Fork of Swift Creek and then up Poison Canyon to the lake. As the name suggests, lily pads encroach in the summer, and it is difficult to fish for the fat and abundant brook trout.

**Lion Lake.** Elevation 7,000 feet; 3 acres; 37 feet deep. A four-hour, seven-mile trip up the Boulder Creek trail to the lake. Brook trout are plentiful.

**Lois Lake.** Elevation 7,650 feet; 2.5 acres; 40 feet deep. It is a stiff two-hour climb up the chimney on the south side of Grizzly Meadow. Few anglers fish this brook trout lake.

**Luella Lake.** Elevation 6,950 feet; 2.5 acres; 13 feet deep. Up the Deer Creek trail out of Stuart Fork, a trail forks to the right at Round Lake and goes right past Luella Lake. Fat brook trout to 8 inches were caught in 1966.

**Mirror Lake.** Elevation 6,600 feet; 14 acres; 25 feet deep. From the upper end of Sapphire Lake it takes about one and three-quarter hours to climb up to the lake. Has both brook and rainbow trout.

**Morris Lake.** Elevation 7,350 feet; 3.5 acres; 31 feet deep. No trail and recommended only for the adventurous angler. It takes five to six hours of steep climbing to cover less than two miles from Morris Meadows on the Stuart Fork to the lake. It will take about the same time and you'll encounter the same terrain after leaving the Canyon Creek trail near the mouth of Boulder Creek. Stocked with brook trout.

**Papoose Lake.** Elevation 6,660 feet; 28 acres; 70 feet deep. Fat, scrappy, red-meated rainbow trout 16 inches and larger have been caught here. From Hobo Gulch it is about 14 miles up the North Fork and Rattlesnake Creek to Bear Valley Meadow, where one looks into a huge amphitheatre of unrivaled scenery, including Papoose Lake. From Bear Valley one has to reach the lake over some rough terrain that may take an hour or two.

**Round Lake.** Elevation 6,400 feet; .25 acres; 9 feet deep. Looks more or less like a frog pond and, at first glance, does not appear to have fish. However, it has produced 12-inch brookies. The Deer Creek trail goes right past the pond.

#### **Rush Creek Lakes.**

Lower Rush Creek Lake. Elevation 6,200 feet; .75 acre; 12 feet deep.

Middle Rush Creek Lake. Elevation 6,540 feet; 1 acre; 12 feet deep.

Upper Rush Creek Lake. Elevation 6,950 feet; 2 acres; 44 feet deep.



**Papoose Lake**

**Rush Creek Lakes.** These three lakes are off by themselves, so are lightly fished. They are beautiful lakes, set deep between high granite walls. The two lower lakes are bordered by meadows, but the upper lake is completely rockbound and sometimes frozen over until August. A good trail leaves Kinney Camp, a four to five hour trip. The lakes can also be reached from the East Weaver Lake trail, by making your way to Monument Peak, then picking your way down the steep mountainside to the lakes. Both brook and rainbow trout in the upper lakes, brook trout in the lower lake.

**Sapphire Lake.** Elevation 6,100 feet; 43 acres; over 200 feet deep. A long lake situated in a deep cut valley; 17 miles by trail up the Stuart Fork from the end of the road. Has brook and rainbow trout. A few large brown trout also reported. Brook trout most numerous.

**Salmon Lake.** Elevation 7,150 feet; 1.5 acres; 13 feet deep. Located at the head of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Reached by a beautiful and spectacular canyon ride that takes about four hours from Big Flat. The trail is clear and distinct to the divide between Willow Creek and the South Fork, then to the east there is a dim trail part way, but it is mostly a matter of picking your way to the lake. Stocked with brook trout.

**Seven Up Lake.** Elevation 7,000 feet; .5 acre; 6 feet deep. Situated high up on the southeast slope of Seven Up Peak, just below a large outcrop of white talus. Best approach is by a stiff climb north from Granite Lake. Good natural reproduction of brook trout.

**Shimmy Lake.** Elevation 6,400 feet; 1.5 acres; 10 feet deep. Because this lake is so open and shallow it gets rather warm during the summer. Reached by continuing on the trail past Eleanor Lake, or from Lily Pad Lake. Stocked with brook trout. Winter kill noted following severe winters.

**Smith Lake.** Elevation 6,950 feet; 24 acres; 167 feet deep. If it is possible to say that one of these glacial lakes is more spectacularly beautiful than the others, this one would be it. No trail. From Morris Meadow on the Stuart Fork it takes four to five hours to climb the granite mountainside to the lake. About the same time and terrain by leaving the Canyon Creek trail near the mouth of Boulder Creek. The few adventurous anglers who visit this lake report the rainbows and brook trout are very lively. Usually free of ice by July 1st.

**Snowslide Lake.** Elevation 6,700 feet; 10 acres; 42 feet deep. Another of the popular lakes in the Caribou Basin. A good brook trout producer and about a four-hour ride from Big Flat.

**Little South Fork Lake.** Elevation 5,950 feet; 9 acres; 21 feet deep. Located at the head of Little South Fork Creek, a tributary to the South Fork of the Salmon River. No trail. From the Salmon River side take the trail to the Caribou Basin; from where the trail leaves Little South Fork Creek make your way up the creek to the lake. You'll encounter considerable brush. The terrain is very rough between the Caribou Basin and the lake. Stocked with rainbow trout.

**Sugar Pine Lake.** Elevation 6,600 feet; 9 acres; 43 feet deep. About a three-hour, eight-mile trip up the Sugar Pine Creek trail from Coffee Creek. Brook and rainbow trout to 10 inches were reported in 1958.

**Summit Lake.** Elevation 7,350 feet; 13 acres; 34 feet deep. Can be reached via the Long Canyon trail past Deer Lake, or by a dim trail from Diamond Lake. A scenic lake surrounded by broken boulders and sparse vegetation. Brook trout to 11 inches were caught in 1966. Rainbows also present.

**Tapie Lake.** Elevation 6,500 feet; 1.75 acres; 15 feet deep. No trail. About a 15-minute climb from Boulder Lake. Angling was good for fat brook trout to 8 inches in 1958.

#### **Trinity Lake (See Clair Engle Lake)**

#### **Twin Lakes.**

Lower Twin Lake. Elevation 5,000 feet; .25 acre; 2 feet deep.

Upper Twin Lake. Elevation 6,100 feet; .5 acre; 2 feet deep.

About ½ mile above the mouth of Granite Creek on the Swift Creek trail, Twin Lakes peak is sighted. Follow up the outlet stream for about one-half mile to the lakes, which have a small population of brook trout.

**Union Lake.** Elevation 6,050 feet; 3.5 acres; 14 feet deep. Located about 10 miles up the Union Creek trail from Coffee Creek. A somewhat shallow lake which supports a good population of brook trout.

**Ward Lake.** Elevation 7,100 feet; 5.5 acres; 23 feet deep. Ward Lake is 14.5 miles up the Swift Creek trail. Also accessible by trail from Big Flat. A good brook trout lake.

**East Weaver Lake.** Elevation 6,350 feet; 1 acre; 12 feet deep. Take the Weaver Bally Lookout road out of Weaver-ville to the springs, just below the lookout. From here it is just a short hike to the lake. Subject to fish mortality following severe winters. Contains both brook and rainbow trout.

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