

Anglers' Guide
to the
LAKES AND STREAMS
of
CROWN VALLEY
and
BLACKCAP BASIN
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
No. 2



Crown Lake

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Waters of the
CROWN VALLEY
and
BLACKCAP BASIN AREA
Fresno County, California

This map was prepared by the Department of Fish and Game to assist in guiding anglers to the numerous trout waters of the Crown Valley-Blackcap Basin area within the Kings River drainage and to acquaint them with information leading to management of their fisheries.

The lakes and streams of the Crown Valley-Blackcap Basin area lie, for the most part, in a vast, rocky-wooded basin of the Sierra National Forest just west of Kings Canyon National Park. The basin is bounded on the west and north by the North Fork of Kings River and Blackcap Basin. Along the east side, Le Conte Divide and Kettle Ridge rise to over 12,000 feet, creating a rugged barrier between this basin and Kings Canyon National Park. Rodgers Ridge forms the southern boundary running southwest to northeast from the North Fork of Kings River to the park line at the Obelisk. Crown Ridge bisects the area in a general north-south direction along the westerly summit of Crown Valley Basin.

Extensive glaciation of the granite terrain, sparsely capped by basaltic lava and subsequently eroded, characterizes the geologic background for the present Boreal to Alpine forestation. Here will be found some of the finest stands of red and white fir, mountain hemlock, and lodgepole pine in the central Sierra range.

The Crown Valley-Blackcap basin area includes some 58 waters where anglers will find plentiful trout populations. Splendid scenic qualities, trout fishing, camping, and game combine to provide boundless recreational values available to scores of trail-travelers each year.

LAKE FISHING

Descriptive summaries are included in this guide on 58 waters, of which 44 are lakes. These vary in size from 1½ surface acres to the picturesque 49-acre Pearl Lake. The deepest is Cathedral Lake with 85 feet; Halfmoon Lake is second with a depth of 75 feet.

Thirty-one waters contain trout populations as follows:

Rainbow	12
Eastern Brook	14
Eastern Brook and Rainbow	4
Unknown	1

Only four of the above lakes have self-sustaining populations and do not need planting. Regular or occasional plants are made in the others depending on angling use and natural propagation. It is the policy of the Department of Fish and Game to plant regularly those lakes where natural propagation is insufficient to maintain the fishery.

Be sure to douse your campfire!

Keep California Green!

STREAM FISHING

Streams in the area have generally good to excellent natural propagation and are for the most part self-sustaining. There are excellent trout populations in Crown, Deer, Rodgers, and Scepter Creeks and Upper North Fork, Kings River. The numerous other small streams in Crown Valley should not be overlooked for they will usually produce nice catches of rainbow and eastern brook.

In the more accessible areas, where trout numbers and size have been pared down by angler use, supplementary plantings of fingerling trout may be necessary from time to time in order to bolster depletion of resident stock from over fishing. The lower trail crossing on Rancheria Creek and the North Fork of Kings River at Wishon are two such areas.

ACCESSIBILITY

From Fresno the area is reached by 103 miles (3 hours) of good motor road via Dinkey Creek. The road to Dinkey Creek leaves Highway 168 near Shaver Lake and terminates at Coolidge Meadow. From there the basin is reached by pack train or on foot over well-graded forest trails, requiring about 4½ hours to Central Crown Valley and about 6 hours to Blackcap Basin. The basin is also accessible from Dinkey Creek, Huntington Lake, and Kings Canyon National Park by more indirect routes.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE WATER

1. **Ambition Lake:** Elev. 10,805 feet; 38 acres; possibly 50 feet deep; glaciated; poor food conditions and poor spawning areas; rainbow trout 10-12 inches present. Requires occasional air plant of rainbow fingerlings.

2. **Battalion Lake:** Elev. 11,000 feet; 6.5 acres; possibly 50 feet deep; high montane; granitoid and glacial; poor food and spawning; rainbow trout 10-12 inches present. Requires occasional air plant of fingerling rainbow to sustain.

3. **Bighorn Lake:** Elev. 10,720 feet; 13 acres; under 50 feet deep; high montane; rockbound; poor food and poor spawning areas. Rainbow trout present to 10 inches. Receives occasional air plant of rainbow fingerlings to sustain.

4. **Cathedral Lake:** Elev. 10,760 feet; 30 acres; 85 feet deep; glacial granitoid lake above timberline; occupies a rocky pocket at the foot of high cliffs; low basic productivity; rainbow trout to 8 inches present. Receives occasional air plant of rainbow fingerlings to maintain.

5. **Chain Lake, Upper:** Elev. 9,460 feet; 7 acres; 30 feet deep; high montane; glacial; good food but no natural propagation. Has nice population of 8-12 inch eastern brook. Requires regular air plant of eastern brook fingerlings.

6. **Chain Lake, Lower:** Elev. 9,300 feet; 3.2 acres; 13 feet deep; high montane; granitoid weedy lake with good food and spawning areas in the lake. Has a good self-sustaining eastern brook fishery and no planting necessary.

7. **Chapel Lake:** Elev. 10,700 feet; 3 acres; possibly 20 feet deep; high montane; lies on rocky bench at timberline; a cold lake of low fertility. Barren now and considered unsuitable for fish. No stocking recommended.

8. **Chimney Lake:** Elev. 9,460 feet; 12 acres; possibly 25 feet deep; alpine; granitoid and glacial; timbered shoreline; good productivity with sparse spawning; eastern brook present. Requires regular air plant of fingerlings to sustain.



Crown Lake



Geraldine Lake, Upper

9. **Crown Lake:** Elev. 9,713 feet; 24 acres; 35 feet deep; alpine; lies in large, flat, open meadow at head of Scepter Creek; fair food productivity but poor spawning areas; lake occasionally subject to winter kill; rainbow trout 7-16 inches present. Requires occasional air plant of rainbow fingerlings.

10. **Division Lake:** Elev. 10,704 feet; 16 acres; possibly 50 feet deep; occupies a granitic hanging valley above timberline; rocky shoreline; good productivity and very limited spawning; good rainbow trout fishery; has fish 6-14 inches. Reserved for occasional air plant of rainbow fingerlings.

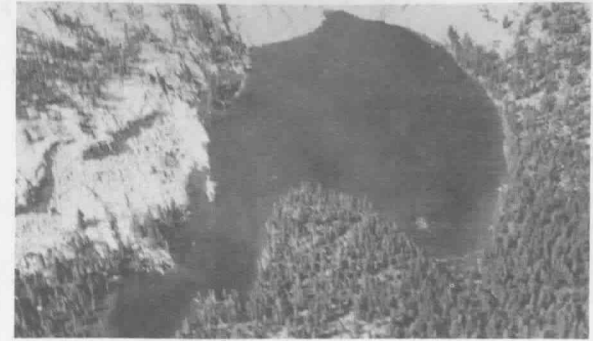
11. **Duck Lake:** Elev. 9,140 feet; 5 acres; 23 feet deep; alpine granitoid glacial lake; rather isolated in wooded pocket; good productivity and good spawning. Has good population of eastern brook to 10 inches. Self-sustaining and no need to plant.

12. **Elizabeth Lake:** Elev. 9,100 feet; about 2 acres; under 15 feet deep; high montane; wooded shoreline; too shallow and unsuitable for trout. Barren; will not be planted.

13. **Ewe Lake:** Elev. 11,100 feet; 1½ acres; shallow; lies in a high granitic basin above timberline; poor food and no spawning areas. Unsuitable for trout; barren and will not be planted.

14. **Geraldine Lake, Lower:** Elev. 8,700 feet; 4 acres; over 70 feet deep; glacial and granitoid; at timberline; rocky shoreline; good productivity; limited spawning areas for eastern brook; a few rainbow trout also present. Requires regular air plant of eastern brook fingerlings to sustain under present use.

15. **Geraldine Lake, Upper:** Elev. 9,140 feet; 14 acres; over 70 feet deep; glacial and granitoid; at timberline; rocky shoreline; good productivity; limited spawning areas for eastern brook, none for rainbow. Rainbow and eastern brook trout present in good numbers; lake reserved for occasional air plant of rainbow fingerlings.



Halfmoon Lake

16. **Halfmoon Lake:** Elev. 9,422 feet; 45 acres; 75 feet deep; also called Crescent Lake; high montane; alpine; timbered around ¾ of margin; normally a good producer with a self-sustaining eastern brook population. No need to plant eastern brook.

17. **Hummingbird Lake:** Elev. 10,325 feet; 4.2 acres; 13 feet deep; rugged, high montane, glaciated, granitoid cirque with good productivity and fair spawning. Good self-sustaining population of eastern brook to 9 inches and no need to stock.



Hummingbird Lake

18. **Marsh Lake:** Elev. 9,400 feet; 5 acres; 18 feet deep; high montane; glacial; occupies a shallow bench at head of canyon; much marshy area, with good food and poor spawning; eastern brook present. Reserved for regular air plant of eastern brook fingerlings.



Maxon Lake

19. **Maxon Lake:** Elev. 9,950 feet; 2.2 acres; 11 feet deep; rugged glacial and granitoid alpine cirque near timberline; good food and fair spawning areas. Eastern brook trout present to 9 inches in good condition. Requires occasional air plant of eastern brook fingerlings to sustain.



Midway Lake

20. **Midway Lake:** Elev. 10,600 feet; 13 acres; 18 feet deep; high montane, open, glaciated cirque; rocky, turf-lined shore; bare granite terrain; fair food and spawning areas. Rainbow trout present. Requires occasional air plant of rainbow fingerlings to sustain under present light angling.

21. **Mud Lake:** Elev. 8,530 feet; possibly 2 acres; this lakelet not seen but reports indicate too shallow and muddy to support fish life at this elevation. It will not be stocked.

22. **Old Pipe Lake:** Elev. 9,400 feet; 4.5 acres; possibly 15 feet deep; alpine; glaciated cirque; fringed with timber and shrubs; good food production but no spawning; rainbow trout 6-12 inches in good condition present. Receives regular air plant of rainbow fingerlings to sustain.

23. **Pearl Lake:** Elev. 10,600 feet; 49 acres; 31 feet deep; alpine, glaciated cirque above timberline; good productivity but poor spawning. Rainbow trout 6-12 inches present. Receives regular air plant of rainbow fingerlings to sustain.

24. **Portal Lake:** Elev. 10,300 feet; 4 acres; about 20 feet deep; small, alpine, granitoid, partly timbered lake with semi-rocky shoreline; fair food but no spawning. Eastern brook to 12 inches in good condition. Receives occasional air plant of eastern brook fingerlings to sustain.

25. **Rainbow Lake:** Elev. 10,850 feet; 13 acres; possibly 30 feet deep; high montane; glacial; above timber line; entirely rockbound. Good food and self-sustaining with eastern brook under present light use. No need for planting.

26. **Ram Lake:** Elev. 11,100 feet; 2.5 acres; shallow; occupies small, shallow, granitic basin above timberline; barren and too shallow to support fishlife at this altitude. Will not be stocked.

27. **Rancheria Lake:** Elev. 9,080 feet; about 5 acres; 8 feet deep; high montane; timbered shoreline; rocky slopes on all sides; fair food but no spawning; subject to winter kill. A few eastern brook to 14 inches present. Requires regular air plant of eastern brook fingerlings to sustain.

28. **Regiment Lake:** Elev. 10,900 feet; 5½ acres; not over 20 feet deep; alpine; glaciated granite basin above timberline; turf-rocky shoreline; poor food and no spawning. Rainbow trout support a limited fishery with regular air plant of fingerlings.

29. **Scepter Lake:** Elev. 9,625 feet; 7 acres; 5 feet deep; alpine glacial lake in open meadow; timbered on all sides; fair food and no spawning. Subject to winter kill; rainbow trout 4-18 inches present but not numerous. Needs regular air plant of fingerling rainbow to sustain.



Spanish Lake, Big

30. **Spanish Lake, Big:** Elev. 8,530 feet; 23 acres; 56 feet deep; alpine, glacial, granitoid lake; wooded margin; good productivity and no spawning areas. Eastern brook and rainbow present. Conversion to rainbow is underway. Needs regular air plant of fingerlings to sustain.

31. **Spanish Lake, Little:** Elev. 8,540 feet; 4.5 acres; 15 feet deep; alpine, granitoid with meadow and marsh lined shore; mud bottom lake with good productivity; poor spawning; eastern brook and rainbow present. Receives regular air plant of rainbow fingerlings.

32. **Twin Lake, Long:** Elev. 8,980 feet; 1.4 acres; 7 feet deep; alpine; glacial pocket with very rocky shoreline; fair food and natural spawning. Eastern brook present in limited numbers. Lake subject to winter kill. Requires occasional air plant of eastern brook fingerlings to sustain.

33. **Twin Lake, Round:** Elev. 9,060 feet; 2 acres; 8 feet deep; glacial, granitoid cirque; sparsely timbered shore; wet meadow on one side; good food but poor spawning. Small population of eastern brook present. May winter kill occasionally. Requires occasional air plant of eastern brook fingerlings to sustain.

34. **Valor Lake:** Elev. 11,000 feet; 10 acres; over 50 feet deep; high montane, rockbound lake in glaciated hanging cirque; enclosed by bare granite slopes; low productivity and probably sparse spawning. Rainbow present and may need occasional air plant of fingerlings to sustain.



Woodchuck Lake

35. **Woodchuck Lake:** Elev. 9,949 feet; 34 acres; 43 feet deep; granitoid and glacial, in small restricted alpine basin surrounded by boulder-strewn hills; turf and bedrock shoreline; a good food producer but poor spawning. Eastern brook trout 2-16 inches present. Reserved for eastern brook with regular air plant of fingerlings.

36. **Unnamed Lake N.E. of Upper Geraldine Lake:** Elev. 9,140 feet; 1½ acres; less than 12 feet deep; small alpine lakelet in wooded bowl on bench overlooking Lower Geraldine Lake; good food but no spawning; barren and not recommended for planting.

37. **Unnamed Lakes at Head of Crown Creek (3):** Elev. 9,850-10,125 feet; all are small tarns in open meadow areas and with considerable sedge marsh margins. Two upper lakelets planted with golden trout fingerlings in 1956.

38. **Unnamed Lake N.W. of Maxon Lake:** Elev. 9,350 feet; 2 acres; 5 feet deep; alpine, granitic lakelet with lodgepole margin. Barren; not suitable for planting.

39. **Unnamed Lake East of Maxon Lake:** Elev. 9,720 feet; 2¾ acres; 2 feet deep; small, alpine, open meadow tarn; barren. Too small and poor for fish and not recommended for planting.

40. **Unnamed Lakes S.W. of Rancheria Lake (2):** Elev. 8,940 feet; both are 1½ acres in size; 3 feet maximum depth; small pot-hole lakes in lodgepole basin; no permanent inlets or outlets. Barren and unsuitable for fish; will not be stocked.

41. **Unnamed Lake West of Martha Lake on Top of Le Conte Divide:** Elev. 11,400 feet; no other data.

42. The following list summarizes the 15 main streams in the basin:



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Name of Stream	Species	Fishery Status
Crown Creek	RT and EB	Medium size stream; best in the basin; plentiful fishery, self-sustaining.
Crown Basin (Upper Crown Creek)	B	Small to medium size stream; good potential; reserved for golden trout.
Rodgers Creek	RT and EB	Small but nice stream; good NP; fish abundant; self-sustaining.
Deer Creek	RT and EB	Small stream; excellent NP; fish abundant; self-sustaining.
Willow Meadow Creek	RT and EB	Small stream; upper section newly planted (1955); lower section has good population and is self-sustaining.
Bobs Creek	EB	Very small stream; good NP and probably self-sustaining.
Nigger Creek	EB	Small stream; good NP; good population; self-sustaining.
Scepter Creek	EB and RT	Medium size stream; plentiful fishery; excellent NP; self-sustaining.
Mountain Meadow Creek	RT	Small stream; isolated; good population present; good NP; self-sustaining.
Rancheria Creek, North Fork	RT and EB	Small stream with good trout population; good NP; self-sustaining.
Cabin Creek	EB	Very small creek; good NP; fish numerous but small; self-supporting.
Rancheria Creek, South Fork	EB and RT	Small stream with plentiful, self-supporting trout population.
Statum Creek	EB and RT	Small but nice stream with excellent NP; self-sustaining.
Kings River, North Fork	RT and BN	Large stream with good NP; fishery strained by increasing angler use; occasional plants of fingerlings required.
Kings River, North Fork (Upper)	RT and EB	Large stream with excellent NP; fish abundant; self-sustaining fishery.

RT=rainbow; EB=eastern brook; BN=brown trout; B=Barren; NP=natural propagation.

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