

1962
DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING RESEARCH

Anglers' Guide

to the

HUNTINGTON-SHAVER-DINKEY LAKES AREA

Fresno County, California

No. 16



Upper Twin Lake

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THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Anglers' Guide

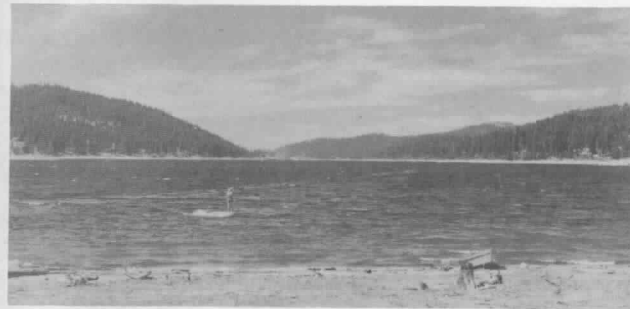
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HUNTINGTON-SHAVER- DINKEY LAKES AREA

Fresno County, California

This map was prepared by the Department of Fish and Game as a guide for anglers to the many fine trout waters of the Huntington-Shaver-Dinkey Lakes area, and to acquaint them with information on management of the fisheries.

The area is located in the Sierra National Forest northeast of Fresno in moderately rugged mountainous country. Bounded on three sides by the deep canyons of the main and South Forks of the San Joaquin River, the waters of this area are situated generally north, east



Huntington Lake
(U. S. Forest Service photo)

and south of Huntington Lake, and extend into the Kings River drainage to the southeast. The greater part of the drainage lies within a heavily forested belt of lodgepole pine. Some of the high elevation lakes are located in bare glacial, granitoid settings near timberline.

Both stream and lake fishing are available. Numerous small streams where nice catches may be taken course the area in addition to 56 lakes containing trout populations.

Rainbow and eastern brook trout predominate but brown trout may be taken in some waters. In addition to trout, Shaver Lake offers largemouth bass, crappie and catfish.

ACCESSIBILITY

The resort areas at either Shaver or Huntington Lakes and Dinkey Creek can be reached in less than two hours from Fresno and vicinity via State Highway 168. This highway passes both lakes, crosses Kaiser Pass and eventually terminates at Edison and Florence Lakes in the South Fork, San Joaquin River area. Lakes above

TOWARD BETTER FISHING

In cooperation with sportsmen the department is trying to manage the State's trout fisheries to provide the best possible angling for the greatest number. In order to carry out proper management, accurate information about individual waters is required. This is obtained through special surveys of the lakes and streams.

The principal objective of the work is to learn whether water should be stocked and if so in what way. The size of a lake and its richness in natural food are very important, for they determine to a large extent the number of fish which should be planted. Over-



Lower Mud Lake

stocking results in large numbers of stunted fish, too small to provide good sport. Under-stocking results in a few large fish which are hard to catch. In between lies the happy medium, wherein correct stocking allotments provide maximum numbers of nice-sized fish in good condition.

Some trial and error stocking, with close observation of the results obtained, is often necessary to determine just how heavily a given type of water of a certain size should be planted. This requires periodic follow-up surveys, after the initial exploratory one, to evaluate the results of various stocking rates.

Examination of the fish present in a lake yields important information to trained observers. Stunted fish indicate over-population, resulting from a combination of light fishing pressure with over-stocking, heavy natural spawning, or both. The remedy is lighter or less frequent stocking or heavier angler use. One of the purposes of anglers' guides is to call attention to under-fished areas, in order to increase fishing pressure where that is desirable and to take full advantage of the available trout crop.

Guides now are available on the following areas: Marble Mountains, Siskiyou County; Trinity Alps, Trinity and Siskiyou Counties; Trinity Divide, Trinity, Shasta and Siskiyou Counties; Salmon and Scott Mountains, Trinity and Siskiyou Counties; Sacramento Area Recreational Map; Striped Bass Fishing Map (San Fran-

cisco Bay and Delta Area); Mono Creek Area, Fresno County; Granite Creek, Madera County; Fish Creek Area, Fresno County; Bear Creek Area, Fresno County; Humphreys Basin-French Canyon Area, Fresno County; Crown Valley-Blackcap Basin Area, Fresno County; Hell-for-Sure Trout-Fleming Mountain Area, Fresno County; Mineral King, Tulare County; Colorado River, and Salmon and Steelhead Streams. Others are planned and will be published as time and funds permit.

NATURAL SPAWNING

A knowledge of natural spawning in a lake is also important. Often when spawning is good, satisfactory angling can be maintained with a single initial stocking of trout, which will subsequently breed naturally and produce all the fish the lake can support. Many high mountain lakes, however, have no spawning areas at all



Island Lake

and must be stocked regularly if there is to be any fishing. Others require occasional light stocking to augment inadequate natural reproduction.

Selection of the most suitable species of trout for stocking in each lake is also important. Eastern brook will spawn in springs and seepage areas around the lake shore, while rainbows and golden will spawn only in running water. It is often possible to develop self-maintaining populations of eastern brook in lakes which would have to be stocked regularly if rainbows or golden were used, thereby saving a great deal of money which can be spent to maintain fishing in lakes where no trout can spawn.

Getting the information needed for management of all back country trout lakes is no small task, for there are about 5,000 of them, and each one presents its own separate problem. Anglers who fish the Huntington-Shaver-Dinke area can help the department greatly with the trout management problems there by reporting on the fishing they encountered. Send reports to the Fisheries Management Supervisor, Department of Fish and Game, Fresno, California. Information you provide will help to keep the department abreast of changing conditions, and will lead to improved fishing.

Angling and Hunting Regulations

Angling and hunting are permitted in the area in accordance with state fish and game laws. The latest angling regulations are obtainable at offices of the Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Forest Service, or from most sporting goods dealers. No hunting is permitted in the Huntington Lake Game Refuge, bordering the north side of Huntington Lake.

A good sportsman takes only as many trout as he can use and 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.

Descriptions of the Lakes and Their Fisheries

1. **Avalanche Lake.** Elev. 8,750; 1.2 acres; 12 feet deep; lightly timbered glaciated granite cirque, with polished slopes to lake margin; subject to occasional avalanche kill; barren and generally unproductive. Will not be planted.

2. **Beryl Lake.** Elev. 8,740; 5.5 acres; about 20 feet deep; alpine; glacial, near timberline with poor productivity and no natural propagation. Contains eastern brook trout and requires occasional air plants of fingerlings to sustain.

3. **Betty Lake.** Elev. 8,700; 1.8 acres; 5 feet deep; small shallow tarn in rocky granite cirque; barren and too small and shallow to support trout. Will not be planted.

4. **Bill Lake.** Elev. 9,000; 1.5 acres; ample depth; alpine; glacial; fair food and good spawning; eastern brook present in good numbers. Self-sustaining under present use and no planting required.

5. **Bobby Lake.** Elev. 9,320; 1.5 acres; ample depth; alpine; sparsely timbered; fair productivity but poor spawning; eastern brook present. Requires occasional plant of fingerling eastern brook to sustain.

6. **Bonnie Lake.** Elev. 9,560; 3.5 acres; ample depth; alpine; glacial and granitoid; partly timbered; fair productivity but poor spawning. Sustains a good eastern brook fishery with occasional air plants of fingerlings.

7. **Brewer Lake.** Elev. 8,730; 4 acres; 12-15 feet deep; a small lake in thick lodgepole forest near top of ridge; fair food but poor spawning. Eastern brook fishery supported by regular air plants of fingerlings.

8. **Bullfrog Lake.** Elev. 9,410; 3.8 acres; 30 feet deep; granitoid and open; precipitous shoreline; fair food but no spawning. Eastern brook present. Sustained by small regular air plants of eastern brook fingerlings.

9. **Campfire Lake.** Elev. 9,800; 1.3 acres; 17 feet deep; alpine near timberline; occupies deep rocky, glacial basin; abrupt shoreline; good food production but fair spawning; has eastern brook to 10 inches. Receives occasional small air plant of fingerling eastern brook.

10. **Camp 61 Lake.** Elev. 8,520; 1.2 acres; 8 feet deep; alpine, glacial tarn in deep basin; steep, wooded terrain; good food production but no spawning; subject to winter kill. Has limited eastern brook fishery maintained by occasional small air plants of fingerlings.

11. **Chinquapin Lake, Lower.** Elev. 9,070; 1.6 acres; 11 feet deep; tiny, alpine lake in wooded area with fair productivity but no spawning. Contains a very small population of eastern brook trout maintained by occasional air plants of fingerlings.

12. **Chinquapin Lake, Upper.** Elev. 9,080; 0.83 acre; 17 feet deep; small alpine lakelet with steep, wooded basin; fair

pocket; fair food but no spawning. Contains a very small population of eastern brook trout maintained by occasional small air plants of fingerlings.

13. **Cliff Lake.** Elev. 9,460; 30 acres; 45 feet deep; alpine, timbered lake; glacial and granitoid with fair productivity and good spawning for eastern brook. Both eastern brook and rainbow trout are present to 12 inches but eastern brook predominate. Self-sustaining with eastern brook and planted occasionally with rainbow fingerlings.

14. **College Lake.** Elev. 9,500; 1 acre; 15 feet deep; alpine, glacial, near timberline; shoreline bordered with aquatic plants; good productivity and spawning. Self-sustaining eastern brook population up to 10 inches long. No need to plant.

15. **Corbett Lake.** Elev. 9,050; 5.5 acres; 20 feet deep; alpine; glacial; wooded; contained by a terminal moraine; scattered willows around margin; fair productivity but no spawning. Eastern brook up to 12 inches present in good condition. Needs occasional air plant of fingerlings to sustain.

16. **Coyote Lake.** Elev. 9,000; 60 acres; 51 feet deep; alpine, glacial, partly timbered, in shallow rolling forest; good productivity but poor spawning (some by eastern brook). Rainbow predominate over eastern brook with both present to 12 inches. Eastern brook self-sustaining; rainbows air planted regularly to sustain the principal fishery.

17. **Cunningham Lake.** Elev. 9,100; 3 acres; 30 feet deep; alpine; glacial; near timberline; bordered by wet turf and willows; good food and spawning. Contains nice self-sustaining population of eastern brook. No planting required.

18. **Dave Lake.** Elev. 9,300; 2 acres; 20 feet deep; small alpine lake at lower end of rocky cirque; wooded; brushy margin; fair food but spawning insufficient to sustain under present angling use. Contains nice eastern brook fishery, maintained by occasional air plants of fingerlings.

19. **Dinke Lake, First.** Elev. 9,250; 26.5 acres; 28 feet deep; large lake in alpine timbered flat; open meadow shoreline, boggy at times; good food and excellent spawning. Predominantly eastern brook fishery but occasional rainbows and brown trout taken. Produces nice catches up to 10 inches. Lake self-sustaining and no planting needed despite heavy angler use.

20. **Dinke Lake, Second.** Elev. 9,650; 6.1 acres; 28 feet deep; alpine, densely wooded, with good productivity but no spawning. Contains a fair population of eastern brook sustained by regular air plants of fingerlings. Heavy angler use at times.

21. **Doris Lake, Little.** Elev. 9,500; 1.5 acres; 20 feet deep; a tiny rockbound, alpine lakelet above Swamp Lake in wooded pocket; rocky-meadow border; fair productivity; no spawning. Contains eastern brook and must be planted with occasional small air plants of fingerlings to sustain.

22. **East Lake.** Elev. 9,400; 5.5 acres; 18 feet deep; alpine lake surrounded by low, wooded, rocky ridges; tributary to Helms Creek and difficult to find; fair productivity; no spawning areas. Eastern brook present. Requires regular air plants of fingerlings to sustain.

23. **Eastern Brook Lake.** Elev. 9,225; 3.5 acres; 15 feet deep; shallow alpine wooded tarn with thick muddy bottom; good productivity but no spawning. Contains eastern brook and requires occasional air plant of fingerlings.

24. **Ershim Lake.** Elev. 9,080; 23 acres; 38 feet deep; alpine pocket in low rolling lodgepole forest; wooded margin with sandy shoreline; fair productivity and spawning but limited to lake areas. Contains nice eastern brook fishery sustained partly by regular air plants of fingerlings.

25. **Fingerbowl Lake.** Elev. 9,660; 2.7 acres; 15 feet deep; alpine; glacial and granitoid; wooded and rocky with poor food and spawning. Contains eastern brook in fair condition. Requires

26. **George Lake.** Elev. 9,100; 5 acres; 50 feet deep; alpine, granitic, glacial basin near timberline; marshy margin; fair productivity and spawning. Eastern brook present. Receives infrequent air plants of fingerlings to supplement natural propagation.

27. **Givens Lake.** Elev. 9,220; 2.5 acres; probably ample depth; a small alpine lodgepole timbered granitic lake above Corbett Lake. Barren and unsuitable for fish life.

28. **Grouse Lake.** Elev. 9,150; 6 acres; 29 feet deep; alpine, glacial, partly timbered with mostly rocky shoreline; good productivity and spawning (wet years); eastern brook present and an occasional brown trout taken. Receives occasional small air plant of eastern brook fingerlings.

29. **Hatch Lake.** Elev. 8,900; 7.5 acres; 22 feet deep; alpine rocky granitic lake in semi-open lodgepole timber; fair productivity but poor spawning. Eastern brook present. Moderate to occasionally heavy use requires regular plants of fingerlings to sustain.

30. **Hidden Lake.** Elev. 8,340; 2.5 acres; ample depth; tributary to Kaiser Creek; also known as Double Lake; fair productivity but poor spawning. Limited eastern brook fishery sustained by occasional air plants of fingerlings.

31. **Horsethief Lake, Lower.** Elev. 7,920; 1.2 acres; shallow, granitoid, timbered, on rocky bench, abrupt outlet, but fair inlet through small grassy meadow; good food and potentially fair spawning. Barren and will not be planted for the present.

32. **Horsethief Lake, Upper.** Elev. 8,100; 1.2 acres; possibly 25 feet deep; glacial, granitoid; rocky with fringe of timber and some marshy areas; barren and will not be planted for the present.

33. **Huntington Lake.** Elev. 6,950; gross area 1,435 acres and 150 feet deep but subject to wide fluctuation; artificial lake built for power purposes by Southern California Edison Company; 60 miles from Fresno via good paved road (Highway 168); wooded, popular resort area with numerous private summer homes and cabins, restaurants, gas and oil, pack stations, etc. The lake has fair food and spawning. Rainbow, brown trout and kokanee present plus numerous suckers. Affords good angling at times. Record fish is a 13-pound brown trout taken in 1949. Requires regular plants of catchable rainbow to sustain under heavy use.

34. **Idaho Lake.** Elev. 8,720; 1.5 acres; 15 feet deep; granitoid, glacial, cirque lake on open rocky bench; good food but poor spawning; subject to winter kill. Eastern brook present in limited numbers. Sustained by occasional air plants of fingerlings.

35. **Island Lake.** Elev. 9,800; 12 acres; 18 feet deep; alpine, granitoid, rocky with wooded margin; fair food and good spawning in permanent inlets. Contains nice self-sustaining population of rainbow and eastern brook up to 12 inches. No planting required.

36. **Jewel Lake.** Elev. 9,730; 1 acre; possibly 25 feet deep; alpine, glacial and granitoid; near timberline, open and rocky; fair food but no spawning. Barren; will not be planted occasionally due to small size and remote location.

37. **Lake Camp Lake.** Elev. 9,260; 5.4 acres; 20 feet deep; alpine, wooded basin with extensive meadow shoreline; good food and spawning. Rainbow and possibly cutthroat present up to 12 inches. Requires no planting under present light use.

39. **Little Lake.** Elev. 9,250; 11 acres; 25 feet deep; alpine, wooded lake on north slope of Dogtooth Peak; mostly rocky, abrupt shoreline; fair food but no spawning for present population of eastern brook. Air planted regularly to sustain the fishery.

40. **Long Lake.** Elev. 9,000; 9 acres; possibly 50 feet deep; alpine, occupies deep open cirque; mostly rocky, abrupt shoreline; fair productivity and limited spawning. Contains small population of eastern brook sustained by occasional light air plants of fingerlings.

41. **Mallard Lake.** Elev. 9,400; 3 acres; 15 feet deep; alpine; glacial; timbered (lodgepole) on all sides; swampy, wooded margin; good productivity but poor spawning. Contains rainbow trout, sustained by occasional air plant of fingerlings.

42. **Mirror Lake.** Elev. 8,640; 5.5 acres; 35 feet deep; alpine, wooded, mud bottom lake in glacial basin; fair productivity but poor spawning (inlets go dry). Eastern brook present in good numbers, sustained by regular air plant of fingerlings.

43. **Mud Lake, Lower.** Elev. 8,670; 3.5 acres; 11 feet deep but subject to considerable fluctuation; small wooded lake with muddy-rocky shoreline; aquatic plants numerous; good productivity and fair spawning. Gets heavy use from tungsten mining camp at the lake. Eastern brook fishing (average size 8 inches) sustained by air plants of fingerlings.

44. **Mud Lake, Upper.** Elev. 8,690; 3.5 acres; 17 feet deep but subject to considerable fluctuation; small; wooded and brushy; lies in lodgepole forest; muddy shoreline; good productivity but poor spawning. Nice eastern brook population sustained by regular air plants of fingerlings. Gets heavy use from tungsten mining camp nearby.

45. **Mystery Lake.** Elev. 9,000; 15 acres; 15 feet deep; lies in lodgepole forest belt; wooded to margin with considerable rocky development; fair productivity but poor spawning. Nice eastern brook population but must be air planted regularly with fingerlings to sustain.

46. **Nellie Lake.** Elev. 8,900; 12 acres; ample depth; lies in rocky depression in lodgepole forest; gets heavy use due to nearness to Huntington Lake; fair productivity but poor spawning. Eastern brook present. Reserved for eastern brook and air planted regularly with fingerlings.

47. **Nelson Lake, Lower.** Elev. 8,925; 30 acres; about 30 feet deep; lies in open meadow flat; timbered slopes beyond; a very good eastern brook producer with good food and some natural propagation, but insufficient to sustain without planting under moderate use. Needs regular air plants of fingerling eastern brook.

48. **Nelson Lake, Upper.** Elev. 9,000; 5 acres; about 30 feet deep; alpine, granitoid and glacial cirque lake near timberline; fair food and poor spawning. Has small population of eastern brook to 11 inches long, sustained by regular air plant of fingerlings.

49. **Portal Forebay.** Elev. 7,180; 25 acres; 40 feet deep; artificial lake constructed in 1955 by the Southern California Edison Company for power purposes; lies adjacent to main Huntington Lake-Florence Lake road. Now planted with catchable rainbow.

50. **Prior Lake.** Elev. 9,040; 9.5 acres; ample depth; alpine, glacial and granitoid lodgepole timbered cirque; good food and fair but potentially sufficient spawning to sustain without further planting. Air planted for first time in 1955 with eastern brook fingerlings.

51. **Rainbow Lake.** Elev. 9,370; 3.2 acres; 35 feet deep; alpine lake in lodgepole belt with wooded, rocky shoreline; poor productivity and spawning. Contains rainbow, sustained by occasional air plant of fingerlings.

52. **Red Lake.** Elev. 8,980; 12 acres; 28 feet deep; lies in trough near saddle below Red Mountain; open and sparsely timbered; rocky and meadow shoreline; spring fed with fair productivity but poor spawning. Contains a fair population of small eastern brook. Heavy use requires regular air plant of fingerlings to sustain.

53. **Rock Lake.** Elev. 9,640; 12 acres; 33 feet deep; alpine; glacial and granitoid; near timberline; open rocky shore with sparse timber; fair food and spawning; eastern brook present in fair condition. One of the most popular lakes of Dinkey group. Requires regular air plant of fingerling eastern brook to sustain under heavy use.

54. **Shaver Lake.** Elev. 5,370; 2,184 acres (maximum); 170 feet deep (maximum) but subject to 100 feet or more fluctuation per year; large artificial lake constructed by Southern California Edison Company in wooded transition zone; popular heavily used resort area, approximately 53 miles from Fresno via Highway 168; resorts and summer homes scattered along west side. Fair productivity but poor spawning. Contains rainbow and brown trout plus largemouth bass, crappie, brown bullheads, suckers and carp. Planted regularly with catchable rainbow to offset heavy angling pressure.

55. **South Lake.** Elev. 9,300; 18 acres; 42 feet deep; alpine, timbered lake with rocky timbered shore; fair productivity but poor spawning; moderate use. Eastern brook present. Requires regular air plants of fingerlings to sustain.

56. **Sportsman Lake.** Elev. 9,250; 9 acres; 21 feet deep; alpine, glacial wooded basin, sandy to rocky shoreline. Fair food but no spawning; moderate to occasionally heavy use. Contains eastern brook sustained by occasional air plants of fingerlings.

57. **Strawberry Lake.** Elev. 9,000; 6 acres; 20 feet deep; alpine, glacial and granitoid, wooded basin; timbered margin with some sandy areas; fair productivity and poor spawning. Contains eastern brook averaging about 10 inches. Sustained by regular air plants of fingerlings.

58. **Swamp Lake.** Elev. 9,000; 23.1 acres; 37 feet deep; alpine; glacial and granitoid lake in lodgepole belt; good productivity but poor spawning. Contains nice eastern brook. Requires regular air plants of fingerlings to sustain.

59. **Swede Lake.** Elev. 9,220; 18 acres; 45 feet deep; alpine, glacial lake with wooded shore; fair food but poor spawning. Rainbow predominate although a few eastern brook are taken. Reserved for rainbow and requires regular air plants of fingerlings.

60. **Tocher Lake.** Elev. 8,780; 5 acres; 26 feet deep; small wooded lake on shelf of Foster Ridge; rocky above; rocky to sandy shoreline; good food but poor spawning. Rainbow present average 8 inches in size. Sustained by regular air plants of rainbow fingerlings.

61. **Twin Lake, Lower.** Elev. 8,580; 7 acres; 25 feet deep; alpine, glacial and granitoid; wooded shoreline with some meadow; fair food and poor spawning. Popular fishing lake with eastern brook averaging about 8 inches. Sustained by regular air plants of fingerlings.

62. **Twin Lake, Upper.** Elev. 8,630; 21 acres; 55 feet deep; alpine, glacial lake in timbered cirque with good productivity. Eastern brook and rainbow support heavy angling pressure. Rainbow fingerlings are regularly air planted to help sustain the fishery.

63. **Virginia Lake.** Elev. 8,500; 5 acres; 12 feet deep; irregular alpine lake on glaciated granitic bench; lodgepole timbered; shallow and subject to occasional winter kill; good productivity but no spawning. Small eastern brook fishery sustained by occasional air plants of fingerlings.

64. **West Lake.** Elev. 8,760; 5.5 acres; 30 feet deep; small, alpine, glacial lake surrounded by wooded ridges; good food but no spawning. Eastern brook present up to 11 inches; fishery sustained by regular air plant of fingerlings.