

Anglers' Guide

to the

WATERS

of the

EMIGRANT BASIN AREA

TUOLUMNE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Stream Flow Maintenance Dam at Snow Lake



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WATERS

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EMIGRANT BASIN AREA

Tuolumne County, California

This map was prepared by the Department of Fish and Game to guide anglers to the many fine trout waters of the Emigrant Basin Area.

Most of the lakes and streams in this guide are in the Emigrant Basin Primitive Area. It is a beautiful and unique country with breathtaking scenery. Owing to extensive glaciation with some vulcanism superimposed, the basin has a natural range of hue and color. A floral wealth and a variety of wildlife are present in the area. Of greater interest to the angler, however, is the excellent fishing in many of the lakes and streams.

Although the legal opening of trout season may vary slightly, Mother Nature usually does not open these waters to anglers until June. It may even be July before some trails are clear of snow, although most of the lakes are ice free by mid-June.

There are many lakes and streams shown on the accompanying map that are suitable trout waters. The species of trout present in the lakes are as follows:

Rainbow—42 lakes
Eastern brook—28 lakes
Golden—6 lakes
Rainbow and Eastern brook—2 lakes
Brown and Rainbow—1 lake

Some of the smaller lakes are too shallow to maintain a fishery. Also, some of the smaller streams are too steep or do not have enough water to support fish life.

Most of the lakes in Emigrant Basin are in the Cherry Creek drainage, and some drain into Lily Creek. Both are tributaries to the Tuolumne River. A few others drain into Summit Creek and Kennedy Creek, tributaries to Stanislaus River.

ACCESSIBILITY

This area is readily reached from Pinecrest 30 miles from Sonora or Kennedy Meadow, 65 miles from Sonora by good road (Sonora Pass Highway 108). The southern part of the area can be reached from Cherry Valley Dam, about 40 miles from Groveland by surfaced road.

Most trails are good and fairly well marked. On the accompanying map, the main trails have been indicated by broken lines. Trails indicated by dotted lines are rough trails or hiking trails poorly marked (not advisable to travel on horseback, except for an experienced rider). Because the U.S. Forest Service is building new trails, rerouting and improving old trails, it is advisable to check with them as to the best route and trail condition. There are a few cattle driving trails or "ways". A way means just that—one has to pick his way as he goes. Here, the backpacker has an advantage over the man with stock since he can strike out cross country where there are no trails. There are several lakes which can be reached in no other way. However, this is by no means an easy task and is recommended only for those in good physical condition, preferably with some experience. It should not be tried alone.

Licensed packers can be hired for trips into the Emigrant Basin. A list of the packers is available from the Department of Fish and Game, Region 4 office, 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, or from the U.S. Forest Service in Sonora and Pinecrest.

FOR BETTER FISHING

During the years of 1932–34, conservation minded citizens of the county, in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service, constructed several stream-flow maintenance dams (check dams) in the area. Since 1952, the Department of Fish and Game, with funds from Wildlife Conservation Board, rebuilt and enlarged some of these dams and also constructed a few more. The main purpose of the dams is storage of water to be released in a continuous quantity sufficient to maintain stream flow during that portion of the year when streams would normally be very low or dry. Aside from providing the anglers with many miles of excellent stream fishing, it creates natural spawning areas for trout. Thanks to the stream-flow maintenance dams, several lakes in the area are now self-sustaining.

To carry out proper management, accurate information about individual waters is required. This is obtained through special surveys of the lakes. The principal objective of this work is to learn whether or not a water should be stocked and, if so, what species and how often. The size of the lake, its richness in natural food, and the amount and quality of spawning areas available are very important in determining the number of fish which should be

planted. Overstocking results in large numbers of thin fish which are too small to provide good sport. Understocking 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. Examination of the fish present in the lake yields important information to trained observers. Stunted fish indicate overpopulation resulting from overstocking or heavy natural spawning. The remedy is lighter or less frequent stocking, or heavier angler use. One of the purposes of this Anglers' Guide is to call attention to underfished areas in order to increase fishing pressure where that is desirable and to take full advantage of the available trout crop.

Anglers who fish in Emigrant Basin area can help by reporting on the fishing they encounter. Please send reports to Inland Fisheries, Department of Fish and Game, 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno. The information you provide will help us to keep abreast of changing conditions.

FISHING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS

Angling and hunting are permitted in the area in accordance with State fish and game laws. The latest angling regulations can be obtained at offices of the Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Forest Service, or from sporting goods dealers.

A sportsman takes only as many trout as he can use and uses what he takes. Trout he cannot use, he carefully releases and returns to the water.

CAMPING

A few of the lakes here described have established camp sites maintained by the Forest Service. Most of the lakes below and even to timberline have reasonably comfortable camp sites for overnight or a stay of a day or two. Owing to lack of firewood at the higher rockbound lakes, camping is not recommended. Where no clean, flowing water is available, drinking water should be boiled before use.

Larger meadows provide feed for stock for several days, and some of the smaller meadows will support a few head overnight.

A campfire permit is a *must* and may be obtained from any Forest Service office or Ranger Station. The area is yours to enjoy, so please help to preserve it in its natural state by maintaining and leaving a clean camp and taking every precaution against fire.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The information in this guide is based on fishery surveys made by Department of Fish and Game personnel. The field survey map was redrawn by Cliffa Corson, with U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Forest Service maps as guides. U.S. Forest Service personnel were very helpful in locating trails and boundary lines.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAKES

Adele Lake. Area 3 acres. Depth 30 feet. Elevation 7,580 feet. A small glacial lake with granite bluffs on the east side, forested on south and west. Fair food production and no spawning. Planted occasionally with rainbow fingerlings to sustain fishery. Poor campsites, good firewood, no stock feed. Accessible only on foot from Waterhouse Lake.

Banana Lake. Area 6 acres. Depth 20 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Glacial, granitoid, entirely rockbound lake with fair productivity, but no spawning areas. Receives biennial plants of fingerlings. Brook trout fishing success is sporadic, being best early and late in the season. No camp site, no stock feed.

Bear Lake. Area 30 acres. Depth 50 feet. Elevation 8,100 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake lies in a heavy timbered pocket near the headwaters of Lily Creek. Good productivity, good spawning areas in inlet, though rather limited. Good rainbow fishery. Planted biennially with rainbow trout fingerlings. A stream flow maintenance dam contains the lake. A popular lake for weekend back packers. Good camp sites, ample firewood, but limited stock feed.

Big Lake. Area 90 acres. Depth over 100 feet. Elevation 6,700 feet. Large, deep, glacial, and granitoid lake capable of supporting an attractive fishery; spawning areas very limited. Planted annually with rainbow fingerlings. Has a fair population of large rainbow trout. Poor camp sites, no stock feed.

Bigelow Lake. Area 50 acres. Depth 58 feet. Elevation 9,650 feet. Good sized alpine, glacial lake, located just below Bigelow Peak. Low productivity, no spawning areas. Receives annual plants of rainbow fingerlings. A stream-flow maintenance dam contains the lake. Fishing generally poor. One fair camp site; firewood is scarce; no stock feed.

Black Bear Lake. Area 17 acres. Depth 51 feet. Elevation 9,200 feet. Medium sized, glacial, alpine lake. Fair basic productivity, limited natural propagation. Planted biennially with rainbow fingerlings to sustain fishery. At times provides good fishing for rainbow. Fair camp site, small amount of fire wood, little or no stock feed.

Blackbird Lakes. Several small, shallow lakelets, surrounded by rocky meadows. Barren, not suitable for fish life.

Black Hawk Lake. Area 1.5 acres. Depth 22 feet. Elevation 9,600 feet. Small, beautiful lake in a magnificent setting; glacial, granitoid and nearly rockbound. Fair basic productivity, small spawning area in inlet. Planted occasionally with golden trout. The lake lies on the northwest slope of Black Hawk Mountain. There are no suitable camping places due to absence of trees. No trail, not accessible by stock.

Blue Canyon Lake. Area 3.5 acres. Depth 30 feet. Elevation 10,080 feet. Small lake surrounded by volcanic formation, above timberline, created by terminal moraine. Severe winter conditions. Low productivity, limited spawning areas in outlet. Planted occasionally with golden trout. No camp sites, firewood or stock feed. No trail.

Buck Lake, Lower. Area 42 acres. Depth 41 feet. Elevation 7,700 feet. Medium sized glacial, granitoid lake with fair basic productivity, little or no natural reproduction. A stream-flow maintenance dam contains the lake. Fair to good rainbow trout fishery. Planted annually to sustain. Fair camp sites, ample firewood, limited stock feed.

Buck Lake, Upper. Area 50 acres. Maximum depth 55 feet. Elevation 7,750 feet. Good sized alpine, glacial lake; sufficient food and excellent spawning area in inlet. Receives an annual plant of rainbow trout fingerlings, to supplement the natural reproduction. Fishing is generally good, with some slack periods. Two excellent camp sites and several minor camp sites; poor to fair supply of firewood, good stock feed in meadow above lake.

Camp Lake. Area 6.5 acres. Depth 20 feet. Elevation 8,000 feet. This little lake is set in a shallow, granite basin with timber surrounding most of the lake. No spawning areas. Requires annual plants of eastern brook trout to sustain fishery. Fishing is usually good, except for a mid-summer slowdown. There are a few places to camp, with ample firewood, no stock feed. A popular lake with weekend back packers.

Chain Lakes, Lower and Middle. Area 2.5 and 4.7 acres. Maximum depth less than 5 feet. Elevation 7,700 feet. Barren lakes, too shallow to support fish life.

Chain Lake, Upper. Area 2.9 acres. Depth 10 feet. Elevation 7,800 feet. Small, shallow lake with abundance of food. Has a small population of brook trout. Planted annually with eastern brook fingerlings. Fair camp sites, ample firewood, no stock feed.

Chewing Gum Lake. Area 5 acres. Depth 21 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Small, productive lake with some natural reproduction; usually provides good fishing. Planted biennially with eastern brook fingerlings to supplement the natural spawning. Good camp sites, ample firewood and good stock feed in nearby meadow.

Clear Lake. Area 10 acres. Elevation 7,000 feet. Receives annual plants of rainbow trout fingerlines. A popular lake with a jeep road nearby. Campsites and firewood available. This lake had to be chemically treated in 1968 to eliminate golden shiners which were introduced illegally by anglers. About two years' fishing was lost as a result.

Coolidge Meadow Lake. Area 2.5 acres. Depth less than 4 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Small, shallow, meadow-type lake with muddy bottom. Not suitable for fish life.

Cow Meadow Lake. Area 55-60 acres (including connecting lagoons). Depth 36 feet. Elevation 7,840 feet. The construction of a lake-level retaining dam created several lagoons and connected the lake with Cherry Creek. Excellent spawning areas in the stream; entirely self-sustaining; no planting necessary. A popular rainbow trout lake. At times, fly fishing is excellent in the lagoons and stream; rainbow trout up to 15 inches present. Very good camp sites; ample firewood and stock feed.

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Camp Lake. Area 6.5 acres. Depth 20 feet. Elevation 8,000 feet. This little lake is set in a shallow, granite basin with timber surrounding most of the lake. No spawning areas. Requires annual plants of eastern brook trout to sustain fishery. Fishing is usually good, except for a mid-summer slowdown. There are a few places to camp, with ample firewood, no stock feed. A popular lake with weekend back packers.

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Clear Lake. Area 10 acres. Elevation 7,000 feet. Receives annual plants of rainbow trout fingerlines. A popular lake with a jeep road nearby. Campsites and firewood available. This lake had to be chemically treated in 1968 to eliminate golden shiners which were introduced illegally by anglers. About two years' fishing was lost as a result.

Coolidge Meadow Lake. Area 2.5 acres. Depth less than 4 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Small, shallow, meadow-type lake with muddy bottom. Not suitable for fish life.

Cow Meadow Lake. Area 55-60 acres (including connecting lagoons). Depth 36 feet. Elevation 7,840 feet. The construction of a lake-level retaining dam created several lagoons and connected the lake with Cherry Creek. Excellent spawning areas in the stream; entirely self-sustaining; no planting necessary. A popular rainbow trout lake. At times, fly fishing is excellent in the lagoons and stream; rainbow trout up to 15 inches present. Very good camp sites; ample firewood and stock feed.

Coyote Lake. Area 4 acres. Depth 18 feet. Elevation 7,500 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake of medium productivity. No natural reproduction. Has a small population of eastern brook trout. Planted biennially with fingerlings. Poor camping sites, firewood is scarce. No stock feed. No trails leading to the lake.

Deadman Lake. Area 3.5 acres. Depth 25 feet. Elevation 10,560 feet. The lake was formed by a receding glacier. Barren and not suitable for fish life. Severe winter conditions. Frozen over 8 to 9 months of the year. Will not be planted. The magnificent scenery makes a hiking trip to the lake well worth the effort.

Deer Lake. Area 30 acres. Depth 30 feet. Elevation 9,020 feet. Medium sized, alpine meadow lake with very good productivity and excellent spawning areas. Due to flow releases from Long Lake, it contains a good self-sustaining population of nice rainbow trout. Excellent fly fishing in stream above and below the lake. The lake has good camp sites available. Stock feed is scarce.

Douglas Lake. Area 2.5 acres. Depth 30 feet. Elevation 8,300 feet. Small, glacial, granitoid lake. Has good population of brook trout. Productive, but no spawning. Planted biennially with eastern brook trout to sustain the fishery. Fishing is usually good, except for a midsummer slow down. Camp sites and firewood available, but no stock feed.

Dutch Lake. Area 4 acres. Depth 14 feet. Elevation 7,700 feet. Small, alpine lake with good basic productivity, no suitable spawning area. Receives annual plants of rainbow fingerlings to sustain fishery. Camp sites and firewood available; stock feed scarce.

Emigrant Lake. Area 230 acres. Depth 35 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake; one of the largest lakes in the area with a good population of rainbow trout up to 28 inches. Due to the stream flow maintenance dam program, the lake is entirely self-sustaining. It has good camp sites; limited firewood, and a fair amount of stock feed. Good stream fishing nearby.

Emigrant Lake, High. Area 14 acres. Depth 22 feet. Elevation 9,700 feet. A medium size lake above timberline created by terminal moraine, with a stream flow maintenance dam at the outlet. Fair to poor productivity; spawning areas fair, although, of questionable value due to seasonal stream flow. Has a small population of rainbow trout. Fishing success sporadic. Receives annual plants of rainbow fingerlings. No camp sites, firewood or stock feed.



Emigrant Meadow from Brown Bear Pass

Emigrant Lake, Middle. Area 25 acres. Depth 24 feet. Elevation 9,000 feet. Glacial lake with good productivity; limited spawning areas of excellent quality in inlet stream. Has a fair population of rainbow trout. Due to flow releases from the dam at Emigrant Meadow Lake, the lake is entirely self-sustaining. Partly submerged willows make fishing difficult in some parts of the lake. Fair stream fishing above and below the lake. Poor camp site, no firewood, fair stock feed in meadow below lake.

Emigrant Meadow Lake. Area 48 acres. Depth 39 feet. Elevation 9,350 feet. Alpine, meadow-type lake above timberline. Excellent producer. Has a good population of rainbow trout; entirely self-sustaining due to releases from the flow maintenance dam at High Emigrant Lake. A popular lake with fly fishermen. Poor camp sites, no firewood, abundant stock feed.

Estella Lake. Area 3 acres. Depth 20 feet. Elevation 9,100 feet. Small, glacial, and granitoid high-mountain lake. Good basic productivity; no spawning areas. Planted occasionally with rainbow trout. Fair camp site, ample firewood, little or no stock feed. No trail.

Fisher Lake. Area 1.5 acres. Depth 19 feet. Elevation 8,500 feet. Small, isolated alpine lake on glaciated granite bench. Good basic productivity, but no spawning areas. Receives occasional small plant of eastern brook fingerlings. Camping places with adequate firewood can be found. No stock feed. Access: one-half mile north, cross country from west end of Lertora Lake, no trail.

Five Acre Lake. Area 3 acres. Depth 44 feet. Elevation 7,920 feet. Small meadow-type lake. Good producer with spawning areas in the stream above and below the lake. Entirely self-sustaining because of the flow releases from Leighton Lake Dam which keeps the stream alive year-round. Has a good population of rainbow trout. Access from Red Can Lake or Yellowhammer Lake.

Fraser Lakes. There are several small lakes in this group, only the largest and most easterly lake is suitable for fish life. Area 3 acres. Depth 11 feet. Elevation 9,300 feet. Fair, basic productivity, no spawning areas. Planted occasionally with eastern brook trout fingerlings. Poor camp sites and firewood available, no stock feed. Access: cross country from Shallow Lake; no trail.

Frog Lake. Area 1 acre. Depth 22 feet. Elevation 8,350 feet. Small, glacial, alpine lake with abundance of food, limited spawning areas. Occasionally planted with rainbow fingerlings. Poor camp sites, firewood available, no stock feed. Access: one-fourth mile, northeast cross country from Lertora Lake; no trail.

Gem Lake. Area 3 acres. Depth 34 feet. Elevation 8,200 feet. Small, granitoid, glacial lake. Fair to poor productivity; no spawning areas. Has a small population of rainbow trout. Planted annually with rainbow fingerlings. Camping places and firewood available. No stock feed.

Granite Lake. Area 7 acres. Depth 28 feet. Elevation 8,080 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake with fair basic productivity, but no spawning areas. Has a fair population of eastern brook trout up to 16 inches. Receives biennial plant of eastern brook fingerlings. Poor camp sites, ample firewood, no stock feed. Accessible from Y-Meadow Dam; cross country; no trail.



Olive Lake

Grizzly Peak Lake, East. Area 12 acres. Depth 9 feet. Elevation 9,600 feet. Shallow, alpine, meadow-type with good productivity, but sparse spawning. Has a good population of rainbow trout. Receives biennial plants of rainbow fingerlings. Being a shallow lake, it may have an occasional winter kill. A good lake for fly fishermen. Fishing generally good. Poor camp sites, no firewood, little or no stock feed.

Grizzly Peak Lake, West. Area 3 acres. Depth 21 feet. Elevation 9,600 feet. This little lake is set in a shallow, granite basin above timberline. Fair to good productivity, but no spawning. Has a fair population of rainbow trout sustained by biennial plants of fingerlings. No camp site or firewood, little stock feed.

Grouse Lake. Area 9 acres. Depth 25 feet. Elevation 7,100 feet. Alpine type lake with fair spawning areas in the inlet stream. Has a mixed population of rainbow and eastern brook trout and receives annual plants of brook trout fingerlings. Fishing is sporadic, at times fly fishing is good. Fair camp sites, ample firewood, little or no stock feed.

Grouse Creek Lake. Area 1 acre. Elevation 9,600 feet. Barren in 1968. Will be planted experimentally with golden trout.

Huckleberry Lake. Area 200 acres. Depth 51 feet. Elevation 7,700 feet. Alpine, glacial, granitoid lake with good productivity and excellent reproduction. Has a mixed population of eastern brook trout and rainbow trout. Constant flow releases from dams on Snow and Bigelow Lakes provide fine spawning and nursery areas and make the lake entirely self-sustaining. Ample firewood and stock feed. The East Fork of Cherry Creek has lengthy sections of splendid trout fishing nearby.

Hyatt Lake. Area 70 acres. Depth over 100 feet. Elevation 7,300 feet. This deep lake lies in a glacial, rock bound bowl. Low productivity, no spawning areas. Planted annually with rainbow fingerlings to sustain fishery. Fishing sporadic, large rainbow present. No camp sites, firewood or stock feed. A poorly marked rough trail leads to the lake.

Iceland Lake. Area 20 acres. Depth 29 feet. Elevation 9,100 feet. High mountain, glacial, nearly rock bound lake with good basic productivity and limited spawning areas. Planted biennially with golden trout fingerlings. Poor camp sites, limited firewood, no stock feed. Accessible on foot only; cross country from Relief Valley or from Lewis Lakes.

Jewelry Lake. Area 7 acres. Depth 21 feet. Elevation 8,300 feet. Alpine, glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity; partly self-sustaining. Has a good population of rainbow trout. Receives a small annual plant of rainbow fingerlings to supplement the natural reproduction. Fishing is generally good with some slack periods. Fair camp sites, ample firewood; little stock feed.

Karls Lake. Area 10 acres. Depth 20 feet. Elevation 8,300 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake. Receives biennial plants of rainbow trout fingerlings. Subject to winter kill in severe winters.

Kennedy Lake. Area 28 acres. Depth 34 feet. Elevation 7,800 feet. Medium sized, alpine meadow-type lake with good productivity and excellent spawning areas in outlet stream; entirely self-sustaining. Has a good population of brown trout with an occasional rainbow reported in the catch. Fishing generally good. Most of the land surrounding the lake is private; permission to camp must be obtained from the owner.

Kole Lake. Area 2.5 acres. Depth 17 feet. Elevation 8,500 feet. Small, glacial, granitoid lake with low productivity and no spawning areas. Planted biennially to sustain a limited rainbow fishery. Fishing generally poor. Fair camp sites, firewood scarce, no stock feed. No trails, 45-minute ride, cross country from Wood Lake.

Leighton Lake. Area 25 acres. Depth 26 feet. Elevation 8,300 feet. A long, narrow, fluctuating lake with fair productivity, no natural reproduction. Planted biennially to sustain a limited rainbow fishery. Fishing generally poor. The lake was named after Mr. Fred Leighton who in 1925 constructed the first check dam in Cherry Creek drainage on this lake. No camp sites, no stock feed.

Leopold Lake. Area 7.5 acres. Depth 16 feet. Elevation 8,960 feet. High mountain, glacial, granitoid lake with low productivity and no spawning areas. Planted annually to sustain a limited population of rainbow trout. Poor camp sites, ample firewood, no stock feed. No trail, one mile cross country from Toejam Lake.

Lertora Lake. Area 25 acres. Depth 75 feet. Elevation 8,500 feet. Medium sized, alpine, glacial, granitoid lake; fair basic productivity and limited natural propagation. Has a mixed population of rainbow and eastern brook trout. Fishing fair to poor. Receives annual plants of rainbow fingerlings to sustain fishery. Poor camp sites, firewood limited, no stock feed.

Lewis Lake, Lower. Area 2.5 acres. Depth 18 feet. Elevation 9,070 feet. Small, alpine type lake with good productivity and limited spawning area. Has a fair population of eastern brook trout, partly self-sustaining. Receives an occasional plant of brook fingerlings to supplement the natural reproduction. Fishing is fair to good. Access: on foot only by poorly marked trail from Summit Creek. No camp site, firewood or stock feed.

Lewis Lake, Middle. Area 21 acres. Depth over 70 feet. Elevation 9,120 feet. Medium sized, glaciated, granitoid and entirely rockbound lake above timberline with fair productivity, but no spawning areas. Has a good population of eastern brook trout sustained by annual plants of fingerlings. Fishing usually good, except for mid-season slow down. No camp sites or firewood.

Lewis Lake, Upper. Area 7 acres. Depth over 50 feet. Elevation 9,770 feet. High mountain, glacial, granitoid lake above timberline. Good productivity with fair spawning areas. Partly self-sustaining. Receives biennial plants of eastern brook fingerlings to supplement the natural reproduction. Fishing is fair to good. Accessible on foot, cross country from Lower Lewis Lake or from Sardella Lake. No camp sites or firewood.

Lily Lake. Unsuitable for fish life. Barren.

Long Lake. Area 67 acres. Depth 35 feet. Elevation 8,600 feet. Large, glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity, no spawning areas. Has a fair population of rainbow trout sustained by annual plants of rainbow trout fingerlings. Fishing is poor to fair with some large rainbows present. Good camping sites, ample firewood and limited stock feed available on northwest side of the lake. A stream flow maintenance dam retains the lake.



Lost Lake

Lost Lake. Area 7.5 acres. Depth 54 feet. Elevation 10,240 feet. Lava-talus bound lake, above timberline created by terminal moraine. Excellent productivity with good natural reproduction, entirely self-sustaining. Abundant population of eastern brook trout present. Good fly fishing. This lake is fished very lightly. An easy way to reach this lake is to travel cross country from Lunch Meadow-Emigrant Meadow trail. Horses can be ridden to the lake. No camp site, firewood or stock feed.

Maxine Lake, North. Area 2 acres. Depth 15 feet. Elevation 9,420 feet. Small, alpine, glacial, granitoid lake with fair basic productivity and limited spawning areas. Occasionally planted with rainbow fingerlings. Fair camp site, ample firewood, stock feed scarce. Access: no trail, cross country from Starr-Jordan and Estella Lakes.

Maxine Lake, South. Area 1.5 acres. Depth 12 feet. Elevation 9,420 feet. Small, shallow, glacial, granitoid lake with fair basic productivity and no spawning area. Occasionally planted with rainbow trout fingerlings. Fair camp sites, ample firewood, stock feed scarce.

Maxwell Lake. Area 46 acres. Depth 51 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Long, glacial, granitoid lake with good productivity and fair natural reproduction. Good eastern brook population planted annually to supplement natural spawning. Excellent fly fishing in the evening. Good camp sites, ample firewood, limited stock feed.

Mercur Lake, Lower. Area 8 acres. Depth 23 feet. Elevation 7,700 feet. Alpine, glaciated, granitoid lake with good productivity, but no spawning areas. Planted annually to sustain good eastern brook fishery. Fishing generally good. Fair camp sites and firewood, little or no stock feed. Access: short distance from main trail on Kibbie Ridge.

Mercur Lake, Upper. Area 1 acre. Depth 13 feet. Elevation 7,700 feet. Small, glacial, granitoid lake with fair basic productivity, little or no spawning. Receives occasional plant to sustain fishery. Has a small population of nice eastern brook.

Mosquito Lake. Area 14 acres. Depth 24 feet. Elevation 9,700 feet. High mountain, glaciated cirque lake in open granite pocket; partial turf margin. Fair productivity with poor spawning. Planted biennially with rainbow fingerlings, small but ample population of rainbow trout up to 14 inches. No camp sites or firewood, no stock feed. Access: three-fourths of a mile from main trail (Lunch Meadow-Emigrant trail).

Mud Lake. Unsuitable for fish. Barren.

Olive Lake. Area 2.5 acres. Depth 23 feet. Elevation 8,200 feet. Alpine, glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity, poor spawning. Planted occasionally with eastern brook fingerlings. Good camp sites, with ample firewood, but with limited stock feed. Access: less than one-quarter hour, cross country from main trail half-way between Douglas Lake and Huckleberry Lake.

Pingree Lake. Area 18 acres. Depth 54 feet. Elevation 8,200 feet. High mountain, alpine lake; occupies a glacial bench in granite basin. Good productivity with no spawning areas. Planted annually with rainbow fingerlings. Has a fair population of nice rainbow. Fishing generally good. Fair camp sites, limited amount of firewood, some stock feed.

Pinto Lake. Area 1.5 acres. Depth 7 feet. Elevation 9,440 feet. Open, high mountain, shallow lake near timberline. Fair productivity, but poor spawning areas. Occasionally planted with eastern brook fingerlings. Poor camp sites, firewood scarce, small amount of stock feed.

Piute Lake. Area 1.7 acres. Depth 19 feet. Elevation 7,920 feet. Small, alpine, glacial, granitoid lake with turf strips around most of the lake margins. Good productivity, but no spawning areas. Has a fair population of rainbows. Planted annually to sustain fishery. Fair camp site, ample firewood, limited stock feed.

Powell Lake. Area 9 acres. Depth 25 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Granitoid, alpine lake with predominantly rocky shore line, fair productivity and poor spawning. Has a fair population of eastern brook; planted annually to sustain fishery. Fair camp site, limited amount of firewood, enough feed for a few head of stock overnight.



Powell Lake

Pruitt Lake. Area 2 acres. Depth 21 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. High mountain glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity, but no spawning. Planted biennially with rainbow fingerling to sustain fishery. Poor camp site, limited supply of firewood. No stock feed. Access: about one-half hour ride from Olive Lake, can also be reached from Yellowhammer.

Red Bug Lake. Area 1.2 acres. Depth 8 feet. Elevation 9,760 feet. Small, shallow lake created by terminal moraine. The average depth is less than 4 feet, barren, will not support fish life during winter months.

Red Can Lake. Area 8 acres. Depth 38 feet. Elevation 8,300 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake with good productivity, but no spawning. Has a good population of rainbow trout. Planted biennially and usually provides good fishing, except for a mid-season slow down. Good camp site, fair supply of firewood, little or no stock feed.

Relief Lake, North. Area 4 acres. Depth 12 feet. Elevation 8,760 feet. Shallow, high mountain, glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity, but no spawning areas. Planted biennially with eastern brook. The lake may have a winter kill. Fair camp site, fair supply of firewood, good stock feed in nearby meadow.

Relief Lake, South. Area 4.5 acres. Depth 17 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake, with good productivity, but no spawning areas. Has a small population of eastern brook supplemented by biennial plants of fingerlings. Fishing poor to fair. Poor camp sites, fair supply of firewood, good stock feed in nearby meadow.

Relief Reservoir. Area 228 acres. Depth 120 feet (maximum). Elevation 7,340 feet. Large, granitoid, rockbound impoundment with severe fluctuation resulting from operations by P.G. & E. Very poor fishing lake.

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Relief Lake, North. Area 4 acres. Depth 12 feet. Elevation 8,760 feet. Shallow, high mountain, glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity, but no spawning areas. Planted biennially with eastern brook. The lake may have a winter kill. Fair camp site, fair supply of firewood, good stock feed in nearby meadow.

Relief Lake, South. Area 4.5 acres. Depth 17 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake, with good productivity, but no spawning areas. Has a small population of eastern brook supplemented by biennial plants of fingerlings. Fishing poor to fair. Poor camp sites, fair supply of firewood, good stock feed in nearby meadow.

Relief Reservoir. Area 228 acres. Depth 120 feet (maximum). Elevation 7,340 feet. Large, granitoid, rockbound impoundment with severe fluctuation resulting from operations by P.G. & E. Very poor fishing lake.

Ridge Lake. Area 17 acres. Depth 42 feet. Elevation 9,450 feet. Medium sized glacial, granitoid lake with good basic productivity and limited spawning areas in inlet. Planted biennially with golden trout. Poor camp site, ample firewood, little or no stock feed. Access: on foot from Lower Relief Valley or from Lewis Lakes.

Rosasco Lake. Area 5 acres. Depth 30 feet. Elevation 7,800 feet. Small, sub-alpine, glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity, but no spawning. Fair size population of rainbow trout sustained by biennial plants of fingerlings. Fishing is fair to good. Fair camp site, limited firewood, no stock feed.

Rose Lake. Small, shallow lake, surrounded by swampy meadow. Barren, not suitable for fish life.

Sardella Lake. Area 3.5 acres. Depth 22 feet. Elevation 9,700 feet. Small, glacial, granitoid lake with good basic productivity, but no spawning areas. Planted biennially with golden trout fingerlings.

Shallow Lake. Area 38 acres. Depth 23 feet. Elevation 9,200 feet. Medium sized, granitoid lake formed by terminal moraine with good productivity, but poor spawning areas. The lake has an excellent population of eastern brook up to 14 inches. Planted annually with eastern brook trout fingerlings. Poor camp site, firewood scarce, no stock feed. Accessible on foot or horseback, over a poorly marked trail from Blackbird Lakes.

Snow Lake. Area 40 acres. Depth 45 feet. Elevation 9,400 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake with good basic productivity, but no natural reproduction. Has a good population of rainbow trout sustained by biennial planting. Fishing success is sporadic, being best early and late in the season. Fair camp site, firewood and stock feed scarce.

Starr Jordan Lake. Area 1.2 acres. Depth 10 feet. Elevation 8,900 feet. Small, shallow, glacial, granitoid lake with abundance of fish food, no spawning areas. Occasionally planted with rainbow trout fingerlings. Poor camp site, ample firewood, no stock feed.

Starvation Lake. Area 2.2 acres. Depth 13 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Small, glacial, granitoid lake. It is an excellent producer with good natural reproduction, has a good self-sustaining population of medium and small sized eastern brook. Due to size and location, this lake is bypassed by fishermen. Fishing generally very good. Poor camp sites, ample firewood nearby, plenty of stock feed in meadow below lake.

Toejam Lake. Area 11 acres. Depth 20 feet. Elevation 9,000 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake with good productivity and fair spawning areas. Partly self-sustaining, receives supplementary plants biennially. Has a good population of eastern brook trout. Fishing is very good, except for mid-season slow down. Good camp sites, limited firewood, stock feed scarce.

"W" Lake. Area 1 acre. Depth 14 feet. Elevation 9,160 feet. Small, glacial, granitoid lake with good basic productivity, limited spawning areas. Occasionally planted with eastern brook. Poor camp site, fair supply of firewood, little or no stock feed.

Waterhouse Lake. Area 17 acres. Depth 51 feet. Elevation 7,430 feet. This lake lies on a granite bench, timbered around northern side and has willows around much of the margin. Fair food production with no spawning areas available. Planted annually with rainbow trout. This lake was chemically treated in 1968 because fishermen had illegally introduced golden shiners which ruined the trout fishing. About two years' fishing was lost as a result. A jeep road approaches to within about 1 mile of the lake.

Wilson Meadow Lake. Area 2 acres. Depth 13 feet. Elevation 9,600 feet. Small, alpine, glacial, granitoid lake. Productive lake with good spawning areas but subject to winter kill during severe winters. Planted biennially with golden trout. Poor camp sites, no firewood, fair amount of stock feed. Access: about 2 hours' ride cross country from upper end of Long Lake via Coolidge Meadow (through a draw before reaching the lake), no trail, difficult to find.

Wire Lake, North. Area 6 acres. Depth 12 feet. Elevation 8,900 feet. Mountain, glacial, granitoid lake with fair productivity, but poor spawning areas. Planted biennially with eastern brook fingerlings. Usually provides good fishing, except for a mid-season slow down. Fair camp site, ample firewood, stock feed is limited.

Wire Lake, South. Area 10 acres. Depth 30 feet. Elevation 8,800 feet. Glacial, granitoid lake with good basic productivity, but poor spawning areas. Has good population of eastern brook; planted biennially to sustain fishery. Fishing generally good. Camp sites, firewood and stock feed available at North Wire Lake.

Wood Lake. Area 12 acres. Depth 27 feet. Elevation 8,320 feet. Due to physical changes caused by water releases from Lower Buck Lake Dam, the lake is comprised of three sections:

1. Wood Lake
2. Wood Canal
3. Little Wood Lake

Rainbow fishing is generally good in the lake, fly fishing is excellent in the canal and in Little Wood Lake. Rainbow trout up to 15 inches caught in the canal. The waters are self-sustaining and are not planted. Good camp sites, fair supply of firewood, little or no stock feed.

Yellowhammer Lake. Area 20 acres. Depth 50 feet. Elevation 7,720 feet. Alpine, glacial, granite cirque lake with good productivity, but limited spawning areas. Receives annual plants of rainbow fingerlings. Fishing is usually fair. No camp sites, firewood or stock feed.

Y-Meadow Dam. Area 50 acres (at spillway level). Elevation 8,600 feet. A barren, medium-sized, granitoid, rock-bound impoundment built for the purpose of storing water (stream flow maintenance dam). Due to severe water level fluctuation and decomposing organic substances in the bottom, the lake cannot support fish life.

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