

**LAKES  
OF THE  
HIGH UINTAS**

**Whiterocks River Drainage**

1987

Publication No. 87-6

**LAKES OF THE HIGH UINTAS**

**Whiterocks River Drainage**

**1987**

Work Assigned To:

Eric Larson, Field Project Leader

Chad W. Crosby, Fishery Manager

Glenn M. Davis, Project Leader

William H. Geer, Director

Publication completed under Federal Aid to  
Sport Fish Restoration — Utah Project F-42-R



UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Wildlife Resources

## INTRODUCTION

The Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah are unique in that they are the highest mountain range in Utah and the only major range of mountains in the contiguous United States to lie in an east and west direction. Kings Peak, Utah's tallest point of land, standing at 13,528 feet, is hard to distinguish from its sister peaks, all of which stand over 13,000 feet in elevation. This is a country of snow-capped mountains, large alpine basins dotted with lakes, steep rocky slopes, green meadows and tall trees. Four of Utah's major rivers, the Duchesne, Provo, Weber and Bear, originate in the snowfields of these mountains. There are well over 1,000 natural lakes in the headwater regions of the Uinta Mountains, and more than 650 of these lakes support populations of game fish.

Although a number of these lakes and basins have been investigated from time to time over the years, the first comprehensive lake study undertaken by the Utah Department of Fish and Game began in the summer of 1955. Much of the information gathered during that study is now outdated. The physical, chemical and biological features of each lake may change from year to year; therefore, management schemes must also change. A second comprehensive lake study was initiated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 1971 to evaluate past management efforts and stocking programs to recommend appropriate changes. This booklet contains information from studies completed on the Whiterocks River Drainage completed in 1985. No attempt was made to list all the lakes in the respective drainages for this publication. Only those which were found to support populations of game fish are included. In some cases, fishless lakes are incorporated on maps to serve as landmarks or orientation points.

In early days, the use of pack animals for stocking mountain lakes meant that only a few lakes could be planted each year. Since 1955, aircraft have been used for planting these remote lakes, greatly increasing the number of waters stocked each year. Brook and cutthroat trout are the predominant species stocked as they have demonstrated an ability to grow and survive well in these alpine lakes. However, rainbow and golden trout, as well as arctic grayling, can also be found in several Uinta Lakes, adding variety and beauty to the fisherman's experience.

Aerial stocking is designed to replenish populations or introduce fish into lakes that Division surveys have found suitable to receive experimental stocking. Care is taken not to overstock these lakes because it usually results in small, poorly developed fish. Because the optimum growing season for trout at this elevation is very short (June through August), growth is relatively slow and trout will reach only 8 to 12 inches by the third year of life. The more inaccessible lakes are stocked on a 3-to-5-year cycle to encourage growth, and the heavily fished lakes are planted on a 1-to-2-year cycle to maintain population levels.

A trip into the High Uintas can be very enjoyable, but may also be uncomfortable or hazardous to unprepared travelers. As most of the lakes lie in remote basins, it is recommended that trips be well planned and adequate preparations made beforehand. Always leave word with a friend or relative on your approximate destination and when you plan to return. Most of these lakes can be accessed on well marked U.S. Forest Service trails. Other lakes can only be reached by going cross-country. However, cross-country travel should be avoided unless the user is familiar with this type of travel. While the trails have been updated in this booklet, it is a good idea to carry a topographical map for reference. These can be purchased from the U.S. Geological Survey. Ordinarily trips up to 5 miles can be made on foot when the fisherman plans to spend only one day on the lake and return home that evening. However, backpackers who wish to stay overnight can easily reach the more remote lakes. Those wishing to use horses in the Uintas should study available pastures and plan their trip accordingly. Information concerning the availability of horse rentals may be obtained from Division offices, conservation officers or forest rangers. Reservations should be made well in advance.

Because of the altitude and unpredictable weather of the Uintas, users should take steps to prevent possible hypothermia. Warm clothing (layered wool and down) and good rain gear should be carried at all times. Remember that snow showers are common all season at these high elevations, and the temperature can drop 20 to 30 degrees in a matter of minutes. Carry instant energy food, such as candy and fruit, and avoid exhaustion. If you get hot, ventilate to dispel body heat and moisture. Avoid drinking large quantities of cold water when chilled. Be sure to carry plenty of insect repellent for camp and horse, at least until mid-August.

You may also wish to bring suntan lotion and lip balm to protect the skin from the intense sunshine of high elevation. Users should be cautioned that drinking untreated water in backcountry areas may cause giardia, a parasitic infection which can make you very ill. Symptoms, which include chronic diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bloating, fatigue and weight loss may not appear until 2 to 3 weeks after contact. Recent studies have shown that water purifiers will not kill the parasite. As a safeguard against giardia, boil all drinking water 3 to 5 minutes before using it.

Of major concern is maintaining the aesthetic beauty and wilderness appeal of the Uinta Mountains. Since the second study began, camping, hiking and fishing use appears to be increasing. Excessive recreational pressure can quickly damage this alpine habitat if conscious efforts are not made to preserve its beauty. Those entering the High Uinta country should minimize their impact and leave these mountains the way they would like to find them when they return. Remember to burn all combustible material and pack out everything that is nonburnable. DO NOT bury any litter. Pack out refuse left by those less courteous than yourself. Dump waste water a minimum of 150 feet from springs, lakes and streams and use biodegradable soap. Select a campsite carefully and avoid clearing the vegetation or ditching around a tent. It is a good idea to utilize previously constructed fire rings whenever possible. Avoid camping in one spot longer than 5 days. Horse packers should carefully select suitable pasture away from lakes and streams, avoiding wet and boggy areas. It is recommended that horses be hobbled or picketed during the evening to allow grazing over a large area. Picketed animals should be moved frequently to prevent trampling and beat-out circles in meadows. A good wilderness toilet is made by digging a "CAT HOLE" no deeper than 8 to 10 inches and at least 200 feet from water sources. Cover human waste with 4 to 6 inches of lightly compacted topsoil.

Large groups encroach upon the solitude of others and have a greater impact upon the wilderness environment than the same number of users scattered among several parties. In an effort to control this problem, the forest supervisors for the Ashley and Wasatch national forests have implemented group size restrictions. Parties using the Wilderness Area are not to exceed 15 people and 20 horses, and smaller group restrictions are being considered. Boy Scout and other leaders should remember to check with U.S. Forest Service officials for guidelines and helpful suggestions. Scout groups may wish to take part in the "Leave No Trace" wilderness training programs offered by their local Boy Scout councils.

Fishing is unpredictable, especially in the High Uintas. If one lake fails to produce fish, try another; there is usually one nearby. If the lakes are slow, try fly fishing the numerous streams. If you like elbow room to camp and fish, and enjoy discovering new scenic wonders, let us recommend the High Uintas.

## WHITEROCKS RIVER DRAINAGE

Due to the relative ease of vehicular access and its close proximity to Vernal, the largest town in the Uintah Basin, the drainage of the Whiterocks River is probably one of the most popular drainages on the south slope of the Uinta Mountains. It is the only drainage on the south slope where a passenger car can gain access to within two miles of the main Uinta Divide. The headwater regions of the Whiterocks River drainage are characterized by dense pine stands interspersed with numerous alpine meadows of various sizes. There are well over 70 natural lakes and ponds, 45 of which contain trout populations under active management. These lakes range in size from under 2 acres to nearly 140 acres and from 10,030 feet to over 11,200 feet in elevation. The highest point in the drainage is an unnamed peak at the very head of Reader Lakes Basin that stretches to 12,700 feet above sea level. Numerous other mountains, which ring the drainage, are also well above 12,000 feet in elevation.

Utah S.R. 121, which runs west from Vernal, provides access to the two main points of entry to the Whiterocks drainage. A short distance east of Lapoint, a dirt road heads north from the highway to Paradise Park Campground. Trailheads at Paradise Park provide access to lakes on the east side of the Whiterocks drainage and also those in the Dry Fork drainage to the northeast. Another road, just a few miles northwest of the town of Whiterocks, winds up Pole Mountain and traverses the west side of the drainage, eventually terminating at Chepeta Lake. There are a number of both major and minor trailheads along this dirt road. The campground at Pole Creek Lake is a good place from which to hike to the Rock Lakes area. Further along the road, the West Fork Trailhead provides access to the popular Cleveland/Queant Lakes area and also to the lakes of the Uinta River drainage across Fox-Queant Pass. Lakes of the Reader Lakes Basin are accessible via a minor trailhead at Reader Creek. At road's end, the trailhead at Chepeta Lake provides access to

Reader Lakes Basin and those lakes drained by the East Fork of the Whiterocks River. These main trails and other secondary trails are identified on the drainage map by trail number.

Lakes of the Whiterocks drainage receive a substantial amount of fishing pressure; but, as is common in other drainages, most of it is directed to only a handful of waters. Relatively few anglers bother to make the trek to Rock Lakes even though that area is fairly close to the Pole Creek Campground. The West Fork Trailhead receives considerable use, but most angling pressure in the West Fork area is localized in the Queant Lake vicinity. The cluster of waters around Chepeta Lake are relatively popular but not nearly as much as Chepeta itself. With the exception of Ted's Lake, most waters on the eastern side of the drainage receive very little angling pressure.

Brook trout is the most abundant species in the Whiterocks drainage, although cutthroat are also found in quite a few waters. Arctic grayling will be stocked on an experimental basis in Cirque Lake, located in Rasmussen Lakes Basin. If grayling prove successful in Cirque, other lakes which provide only marginal fish habitat may also be planted with this species in the future.

USGS topographic maps applicable to the Whiterocks River drainage include the Chepeta Lake, Paradise Park, Rasmussen Lakes and Whiterocks Lake quadrangles. Small portions of the drainage are also found on the Bollie Lake and Fox Lake quadrangles. It is also a good idea to consult the current **Forest Travel Plan** published by the Ashley National Forest. The Whiterocks drainage has been damaged in a number of areas by the irresponsible use of off-road vehicles. The **Forest Travel Plan** tells you in which areas ORV use is permitted.

**ANGEL LAKE, WR-19.** This natural lake lies at the bottom of a shallow cirque 0.7 miles south of the West Fork Trailhead. Horseback access up a rocky, timbered slope is difficult. Angel Lake is 10.4 acres, 10,407 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 17 feet. The surrounding area is quite rocky. There is no horse feed and campsites are very scarce. Intermittent springs are located on the west side of the lake. Angel Lake is stocked periodically with cutthroat trout but apparently winterkills on occasion. Fishing pressure is light on this seldom visited water.

**ANN LAKE, WR-74.** Ann Lake is located at the head of Rasmussen Lakes Basin, 4.0 miles from the West Fork Trailhead. There are no maintained trails in this basin and horseback access, although possible, is moderately difficult. Ann Lake lies at the base of a talus slope 0.5 miles northwest of Eric Lake (see Eric Lake access). The lake is 3.4 acres, 10,910 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 14 feet. Best campsites and horse feed can be found further east on the basin floor. A few springs enter the lake on its northeast corner. Ann Lake winterkills regularly but will be stocked with cutthroat on an experimental basis. Contact the Wildlife Resources office in Vernal for the current management status. Fishing pressure is very light.

**BECKY LAKE, WR-14.** Becky Lake sits on a high, rocky bench overlooking Rasmussen Lakes Basin, 1.5 miles west of Rasmussen Lakes. At least half of the shoreline is composed of rock slides. Horseback access is, at best, difficult and not recommended. The lake is 6.5 acres, 10,960 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 24 feet. There are no good campsites or spring water near the lake. Campsites and horse feed in this little basin are almost completely restricted to the valley bottoms. Becky Lake is stocked with brook trout and receives very little fishing pressure.



Chepeta, WR-64

**CHEPETA LAKE, WR-64.** This impounded lake is by far the largest water in the Whiterocks River drainage. A relatively good quality dirt road begins at the Elkhorn Guard Station at the bottom of Whiterocks Canyon and, after winding up the drainage some 24 miles, terminates 200 yards south of Chepeta Lake. This ease of vehicular access makes Chepeta a popular destination for both day outings and extended camping. The Chepeta Lake Trailhead provides access to a number of lakes on both the eastern side of the drainage and the Reader Lakes area to the west. Chepeta Lake is in excess of 135 acres at full pool, 10,560 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 55 feet. Campsites are plentiful in the area, and abundant horse feed is located south of the lake. There are a few springs in the area; however, their quality is questionable due to the heavy recreational use. Chepeta Lake is stocked with brook trout but also supports a fair number of cutthroat sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing pressure is quite heavy, particularly on weekends.



Cirque, WR-33

**CIRQUE LAKE, WR-33.** This shallow pond lies, as the name implies, in a cirque 0.4 miles southwest of Rasmussen Lakes, 2.1 miles due west of the West Fork Trailhead. Cirque Lake is 6.8 acres, 10,652 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 10 feet. The lake is located at the foot of a massive rock glacier. Cirque Lake can be fairly turbid and has been known to winterkill in the past. Grayling are scheduled to be stocked on an experimental basis. Check with the Wildlife Resources office in Vernal as to the success of this program and current management status. A few passable campsites are found in the immediate area, but spring water is scarce. The lake is inaccessible by horseback. Fishing pressure is very light.



**CLEVELAND LAKE, WR-7.** This shallow, on-stream pond lies just west of the trail to Fox-Queant Pass, 4.0 miles from the West Fork Trailhead. Cleveland Lake receives a fair amount of fishing pressure due to the close proximity of the lake to the trail and the popular Queant Lake area, 0.5 miles to the east. The lake is 23.9 acres, 10,640 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of only 6 feet. Good campsites and abundant horse feed are found in the area, but there are no springs in the immediate vicinity. Cleveland Lake is stocked with brook trout but an occasional cutthroat may also be caught. The open shoreline is conducive to fly fishing. Angling pressure is moderate.

**CLIFF LAKE, WR-49.** Cliff is a large, impounded lake which lies at the base of a talus slope in the southeastern portion of the Whiterocks River drainage, 5.6 miles by trail from Chepeta Lake. Vehicle access is possible from the Paradise Park Campground. Follow the dirt road west past the guard station (U.S.F.S. Road #104). The map in this booklet indicates that the road dead ends above Johnson Creek. Actually, the road continues down the slope, eventually connecting with the jeep road along Johnson Creek (#140). The jeep road circles the west side of the bare mountain to the north and terminates at Cliff Lake, a total distance of 11.5 miles from Paradise Park. Although access by vehicle is possible, it is not recommended. Beyond Johnson Creek, the road crosses numerous rock ledges at grade and is extremely rough. You've got to hate your truck for this one. Cliff Lake is 68 acres at full pool, 10,348 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 55 feet. Campsites are scarce in rocky, heavily timbered terrain. There is no horse feed or springs in the immediate area. Fishing pressure is light for stocked brook trout and the occasional cutthroat.

**DEAD LAKE, WR-29.** Dead Lake is an irregularly-shaped, shallow pond which sits in a narrow, timbered draw due north of the Paradise Campground and 0.2 miles east of the reservoir. The lake is 9.7 acres, 10,075 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 15 feet. Several campsites are found in the area, but there is no spring water or horse feed. The inlets to Dead Lake are not well defined and the lake has a history of winterkill. If this situation persists, stocking will be discontinued despite fairly heavy angler use. Contact the Wildlife Resources office in Vernal for current management status.

**DENISE LAKE, WR-9.** Denise Lake is located in the West Fork of the Whiterocks River drainage, 1.9 miles northeast of Queant Lake. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is 5.9 miles. Denise Lake can also be reached from Chepeta Lake across a shallow saddle on the high ridge west of Reader Lakes Basin. The lake is 3.0 acres, 11,160 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 9 feet. During dry years, good campsites are available on the edges of a small, grassy meadow on the lake's north shore. These areas are often too wet, however, for comfortable camping at any

other time. The meadow provides a little horse feed, and there is a small spring on the northeast shore. Fishing pressure is fairly light for stocked brook trout.

**DOLLAR LAKE, WR-43.** This natural lake sits against a talus slope 0.5 miles south of Whiterocks Lake and 4.0 miles from Chepeta Lake. Follow the trail from Chepeta Lake due east along the south flank of Rose Peak. The trail passes alternately through meadows and pines. Eventually you break out of the trees to the grassy meadows which border the East Fork of the Whiterocks. Dollar Lake lies cross-country at the base of the ridge to the south. The lake is 7.3 acres, 10,500 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 15 feet. Campsites and horse feed are scarce in the rocky, timbered terrain surrounding the lake. Best areas for camping and pasturage are in the valley of the East Fork. There is no spring water at the lake. Dollar Lake supports a naturally reproducing population of brook trout. Cutthroat trout are also fairly numerous. Fishing pressure is light to moderate.



Denise, WR-9



Eric, WR-76

**ELBOW LAKE, WR-58.** This fairly large, picturesque lake is located at the base of a steep cliff a short mile west of Chepeta Lake. There is no trail to Elbow Lake. Access from the Chepeta Lake dam is cross-country, 1.9 miles up the slope through downed timber and rocks. A no less arduous, but more certain, route is to follow the west shore of Chepeta Lake to the lake's northwest corner, where Elbow Lake's outlet enters Chepeta. Traveling up the outlet is still rough going, but the odds of becoming disoriented are lessened. Elbow Lake is 26.0 acres, 10,910 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 27 feet. Good campsites are found primarily along the west side of the lake. Springs are located along the lake's southwestern tip. Horse feed is fairly scarce. Elbow Lake is stocked with brook trout and fishing pressure is moderate.

**ERIC LAKE, WR-76.** Eric Lake is a small, on-stream pond located on the main drainage stream of Rasmussen Lakes Basin, 3.7 miles west of the West Fork Trailhead. The most direct access is to follow the West Fork upstream 0.8 miles to its confluence with Eric Lake's outlet. The West Fork Trail on the north side of the creek takes you close to this point, but you're then forced to cross to the south bank of the West Fork. Although there is no trail, staying on the south side of the West Fork until you reach the confluence may keep your boots dry. Follow the outlet up the slope through downed timber until you break out of the trees. Eric Lake lies at the head of a series a narrow, brushy meadows which line the bottom of Rasmussen Lakes Basin. The lake, actually a pair of ponds connected by a

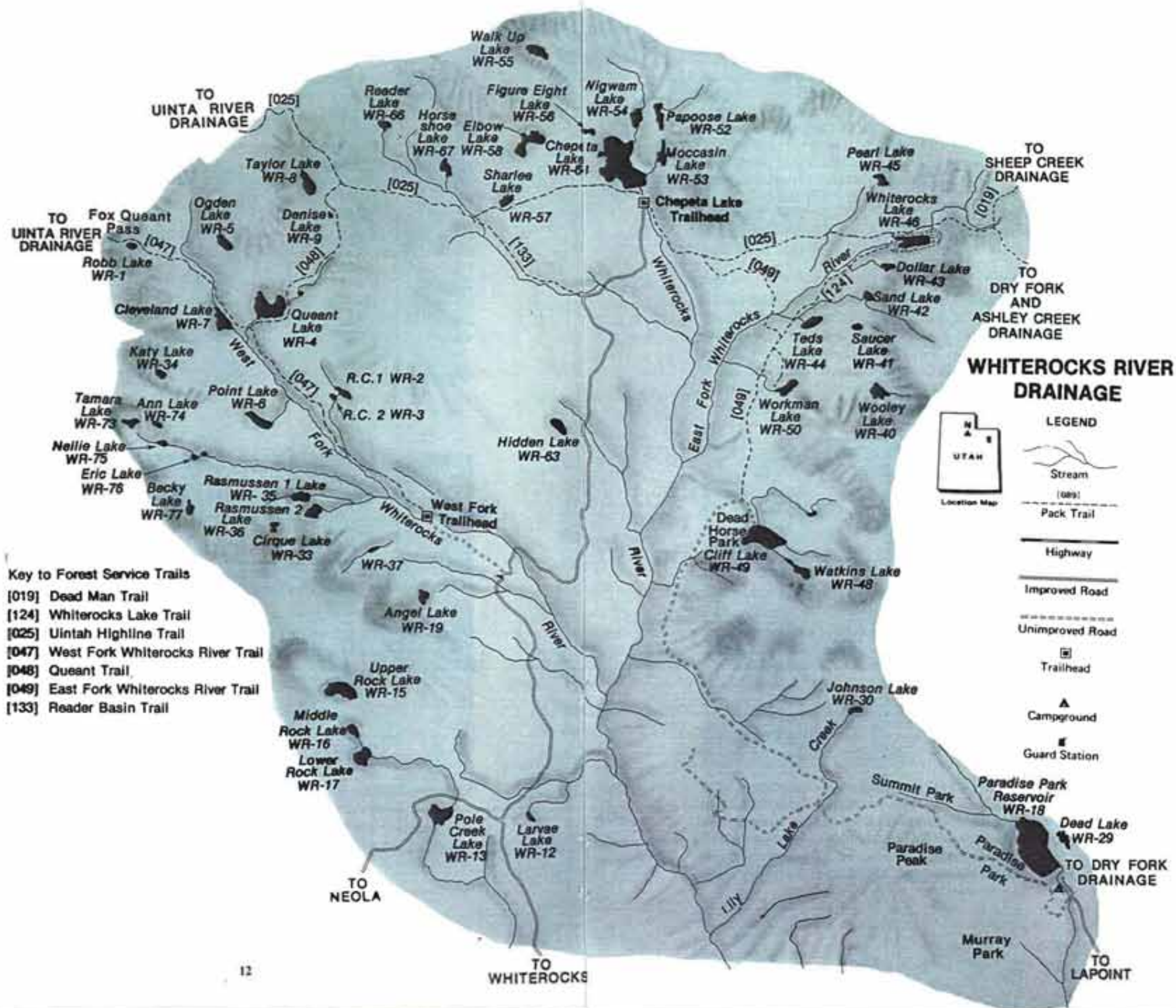
short stream section, is depicted on topographic maps as one larger water. Both ponds are nearly completely surrounded by wet meadow, which makes for great fly casting but also quite soggy walking. The main pond is 4.2 acres, 10,610 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of only 6 feet. Campsites and horse feed are fairly common, and there is a spring on the lake's south side. The lake supports populations of both brook and cutthroat trout sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing pressure is light.

**FIGURE-EIGHT LAKE, WR-56.** This shallow, hourglass-shaped lake sits on a rocky bench a few hundred yards northwest of Chepeta Lake. Figure-Eight Lake is 3.6 acres, 10,660 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 5 feet. A few campsites can be found in the rough terrain surrounding the lake, but horseback access is difficult. Spring water is also available. A large, naturally reproducing population of pansized cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. Fishing pressure is light.



Figure-Eight, WR-56





**HIDDEN LAKE, WR-63.** Hidden Lake is located at the base of a rocky knob 400 yards west of the road to Chepeta Lake, approximately halfway between the turnoff to the West Fork Trailhead and Reader Creek. A trail to Hidden Lake begins on the south side of the first large meadow on the west side of the road about 3 miles beyond the turnoff to the West Fork Trailhead. Although the trail bypasses the lake itself, a sign points to its general location. Hidden Lake is 13.2 acres, 10,350 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 45 feet. The lake is completely enclosed by a heavily timbered, rocky shore, and fly fishing is difficult. There are a few campsites, but horse feed is scarce in the immediate vicinity. Springs are located along the shoreline. Fishing pressure is quite light for stocked brook trout.

**HORSESHOE LAKE, WR-67.** Horseshoe Lake is located at the bottom of a rocky bluff in Reader Lakes Basin, 3.0 miles from Chepeta Lake and 2.6 miles from the trailhead at Reader Creek. The last 0.5 miles is cross-country across rocky meadows. Follow the outlet north from Reader Creek to the lake, which sits on the top of a small bench. Horseshoe Lake is 12.0 acres, 10,860 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 14 feet. Spring water and campsites are available at the lake. The best horse feed is found along Reader Creek. The lake is stocked with cutthroat trout, but occasionally brookies, likely Reader Creek migrants, are also taken. Fishing pressure is light to moderate.

**JOHNSON LAKE, WR-30.** Located a couple of miles northwest of Paradise Park Reservoir, this lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

**KATY LAKE, WR-34.** Katy is natural, glacial lake located in a high, rocky cirque, 1.0 miles northwest of Point Lake in the drainage of the West Fork of the Whiterocks River. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is 4.8 miles. A deep and steep, boulder-strewn cleft extends from near Point Lake along the base of the talus slope, eventually terminating at Katy Lake. Be sure to watch your footing. The lake is 9.0 acres, 11,200 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 45 feet. The lake is surrounded by talus, rocky meadow and low, scraggly willows. Campsites and horse feed are scarce in open, wind-swept, rough terrain. There are no springs in this well-drained area. This cold, remote lake is stocked with cutthroat trout. Fishing pressure is very light. Katy Lake is a good lake to visit and be by yourself.

**LARVAE LAKE, WR-12.** Larvae Lake is an elongated pond surrounded by dense conifers 1.1 miles due east of the Pole Creek Campground. The lake lies 0.3 miles east of the junction of the Chepeta Lake Road and the road to Pole Creek Lake. Larvae is 5.8 acres, 10,030 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 29 feet. There is no spring water, but both campsites and horse feed are available near the lake. Larvae Lake is stocked

periodically with brook trout but may winterkill from time to time. Fishing pressure is moderate.

**LOWER ROCK LAKE, WR-17.** Lower Rock Lake is located 1.4 miles northwest of Pole Creek Lake. Those who feel like practicing their compass skills could go cross-country directly from the Pole Creek Campground. The easiest access, however, is to follow the inlet of Pole Creek Lake upstream to a large meadow, 0.5 miles north of the road. Skirt the south side of the meadow and follow the outlet of Lower Rock Lake through heavy timber to the lake. The lake is 18.7 acres, 10,550 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 39 feet. The lake is surrounded by rocks and heavy stands of pine with little open shoreline. Campsites are present, but they are few and far between each other. The best bet for both campsites and horse feed are in the meadows to the east that you crossed on your way to the lake. Spring water can be found on the lake's southwest shore. Fishing pressure for stocked brook trout is relatively light considering the close proximity to the popular Pole Creek area.



Katy, WR-34



**MIDDLE ROCK LAKE, WR-16.** The smallest of the chain of Rock lakes, Middle Rock is located 200 yards north of Lower Rock Lake. Access is as described for Lower Rock. The lake is 7.3 acres, 10,580 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 10 feet. Middle Rock is encircled by timber and large rocks, with little open shoreline. Campsites are difficult to find, and the terrain is hard to negotiate on horseback. As with Lower Rock Lake, the best overnight amenities are found in the meadow to the east. There are no springs feeding the lake. Fishing pressure is moderately light for stocked brook trout.

**MOCCASIN LAKE, WR-53.** This irregularly-shaped, impounded lake lies at the bottom of a talus slope 0.7 miles east of Chepeta Lake. The outlet to Moccasin Lake is the first stream on the east side of Chepeta, north of the dam. The lake is 11.1 acres, 10,620 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 27 feet. Campsites can be found in the area but spring water is unavailable. The best horse feed is located south of Chepeta Lake. Moccasin Lake supports a naturally reproducing population of brook trout. Fair numbers of cutthroat also inhabit the lake. Fishing pressure is moderate to heavy.



Moccasin, WR-53

**NELLIE LAKE, WR-75.** Nellie is a small, on-stream pond which sits near the head of Rasmussen Lakes Basin, 0.4 miles west of Eric Lake. There are no maintained trails in this basin. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is 3.7 miles. Access from the trailhead is as described for Eric Lake. Nellie Lake is 2.7 acres, 10,691 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 8 feet. Campsites are very scarce. What little horse feed present is restricted to the lake's margin. A small spring is located on the lake's northwest shore. Fishing pressure is light for stocked cutthroat trout.

**OGDEN LAKE, WR-5.** Ogden is an oval-shaped, natural lake sitting at the bottom of a steep cliff 0.6 miles northwest of Queant Lake. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is 5.2 miles. Access from Queant Lake is cross-country up the slope through rocky terrain littered with downed timber. Those who desire to go directly to Ogden Lake from the trailhead should stay on the West Fork Trail until the trail crosses to the south bank of the West Fork, a short distance beyond Cleveland Lake. Continue on the north side of the stream and turn north through a series of small meadows. You will eventually wind up at the outlet of Ogden Lake. The lake is 13.9 acres, 10,900 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 21 feet. Campsites are plentiful, and there is excellent horse feed in the meadows below the lake. A fair-sized spring enters the lake on its north shore. Ogden Lake is stocked with cutthroat on a regular basis but has been known to winterkill in the past. Fishing pressure is light to moderate.

**PAPOOSE LAKE, WR-52.** Papoose is an impounded lake situated on a bench about 500 yards north of Chepeta Lake. There is no trail to the lake, but access is quite easy if you follow the lake's outlet from where it flows into the northeastern arm of Chepeta. Papoose Lake is 14.9 acres, 10,635 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 21 feet. Campsites, horse feed and spring water are all found in the immediate vicinity. The open shoreline makes for relaxed fly casting. A self-sustaining population of brook trout inhabit the lake. Papoose also yields an occasional cutthroat. Fishing pressure is moderate.

**PARADISE PARK RESERVOIR, WR-18.** Paradise Park Reservoir is a large impounded lake 26 miles north of the town of Lapoint via an improved dirt road. A Forest Service campground and guard station are located near the lake. Paradise Park Reservoir is not considered a high lake for management purposes. The lake is stocked with catchable-size rainbow and fingerling brook trout. Recreational use is very heavy.

**PEARL LAKE, WR-45.** Pearl Lake lies at the head of the East Fork of the Whiterocks drainage in a small basin at the base of the Uinta divide, east of Chepeta Lake. Total distance from Chepeta Lake is 4.5 miles, the last half which is cross-country through a series of long, narrow meadows. The lake is 7.9 acres, 10,700 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 15 feet. Campsites and spring water can be found near the lake, while horse feed is

located in meadows to the north. Pearl Lake is stocked with cutthroat trout but also supports a population of brookies sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing pressure is very light.

**POINT LAKE, WR-6.** Point is an elongated lake which lies on a high, rocky bench below the tip of the mountain which separates Rasmussen Lakes Basin from the Cleveland Lake area. There is no trail to the lake. Access is fairly straight forward if you follow the West Fork Trail to the confluence of the West Fork and the outlet of Point Lake, and follow the outlet up a rocky slope to the lake. From anywhere on the trail the lake's approximate position is also fairly easy to judge due to its distinctive location at the tip of the mountain. Consequently, dead-reckoning and direct cross-country access is not at all difficult. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is 3.2 miles. Point Lake is 16.1 acres, 10,720 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 21 feet. There are few good campsites due to the rough, rocky terrain. Horseback access is quite difficult for the same reason. Campsites and horse feed are located to the east along the West Fork. Springs are located northwest of the lake along the bottom of the talus slope. Point Lake is stocked with brook trout and sustains light to moderate fishing pressure.

**POLE CREEK LAKE, WR-13.** This large water is not technically considered to be a high lake for management purposes. A Forest Service campground is located at the lake. Pole Creek Lake, which is located 15.0 miles by dirt road from the Elkhorn Guard Station, is stocked on an annual basis with catchable-size rainbow trout. Recreational use is very heavy.

**QUEANT LAKE, WR-4.** This large, natural lake, located in the West Fork drainage, is probably the most popular lake not accessible by vehicle in the Whiterocks drainage. A large proportion of the recreational traffic leaving the West Fork Trailhead has the Queant Lake area as its destination. Total distance from the trailhead is 4.0 miles along a well-marked trail. Queant Lake is 57 acres, 10,652 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 44 feet. Campsites and horse feed are abundant near the lake. A few springs are also present, primarily along the lake's northern shore. Fishing pressure is heavy for stocked brook trout.

**RASMUSSEN 1, WR-35.** Rasmussen 1, the slightly larger of the two Rasmussen Lakes, is located in a rocky, timbered basin 1.8 miles west of the West Fork Trailhead. There is no trail to the lake, and access is cross-country from the trailhead up a steep, rocky slope covered with thick stands of pine. You might also follow the main drainage stream of Rasmussen Lakes Basin (see Eric Lake access) and follow the outlet of Rasmussen 2 to that lake. Rasmussen 1 lies a few hundred yards to the northwest through a brushy swale. Rasmussen 1 is 17.0 acres, 10,473 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of only 5 feet. Campsites are fairly

numerous, primarily on the eastern side of the lake. There is no spring water, however, and little horse feed. Fishing pressure is light for stocked brook trout.

**RASMUSSEN 2, WR-36.** This irregularly-shaped, natural lake sits a short distance southeast of Rasmussen 1 in Rasmussen Lakes Basin. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is cross-country 1.6 miles. Access is as described for Rasmussen 1. The lake is 15.6 acres, 10,620 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 8 feet. A few campsites can be found around the lake, but there is no horse feed or spring water. Brook trout are stocked cyclicly. Fishing pressure is light.

**R.C. No.1, WR-2.** R.C. No.1 is located on the north side of the West Fork of the Whiterocks drainage, 2.6 miles from the West Fork Trailhead. The topographic map indicates that a short spur trail leads from the West Fork Trail directly to the R.C. lakes; however, the existence of this spur trail could not be verified during our survey. Access is, nonetheless, relatively easy. The outlet stream of the R.C. lakes crosses the West Fork Trail at a point 1.6 miles from the trailhead, where the trail breaks out of the trees into a large meadow. Follow the outlet up through a rocky, tree-lined draw to the lakes. R.C. No.1 is 10.2 acres, 10,630 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 16 feet. Campsites and old firepits are numerous, but there is no spring water or horse feed. Rock slides, which abut the lake's north side, provide the only open shoreline. Fishing pressure is light for stocked cutthroat trout.



Queant, WR-4



Rasmussen 2, WR-36

**R.C. No.2, WR-3.** A small, shallow pond located west of its much larger brother, R.C. No.2 provides only marginal fish habitat. Access and camping amenities are as described for R.C. No.1. The lake is 1.7 acres, 10,620 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 7 feet. The lake is stocked on occasion with cutthroat trout and may also receive fish which travel from R.C. No.1 via the small stretch of connecting stream.

**READER LAKE, WR-66.** Reader Lake is a shallow pond located at the head of Reader Lakes Basin. The Reader Basin Trail passes by the lake before climbing the divide. Total distance from Chepeta Lake and the Reader Creek Trailhead is 4.2 and 3.8 miles, respectively. The lake is 10 acres, 10,960 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 10 feet. Campsites and spring water are found at the lake, while horse feed is located along Reader Creek. Reader Lake has winterkilled in the past and is not actively managed as a fishery. The few fish found in the lake are likely upstream migrants from Reader Creek. Fishing pressure is light.

**ROBB LAKE, WR-1.** This shallow, cirque lake is located along the trail at the head of the West Fork of the Whiterocks drainage just below Fox-Queant Pass. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is 5.7 miles. Robb Lake is surrounded by talus slopes and boulder fields, and the shoreline is open in most spots. The lake is 4.2 acres, 11,060 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of only 5 feet. There are no decent campsites or spring water. Horse feed is found along the West Fork. Robb Lake is stocked with brook trout but, due to the lack of deeper water and poor water exchange, may winterkill from time to time. Fishing pressure is light.



Robb, WR-1

**SAND LAKE, WR-42.** Sand Lake is an extremely shallow pond lying at the bottom of a talus slope 0.6 miles northeast of Ted's Lake in the East Fork of the Whiterocks drainage. Sand Lake sits at the head of a winding meadow which begins at the upper end of Ted's Lake (see Ted's Lake access). Total distance from the Chepeta Lake Trailhead is 4.9 miles. Sand Lake is 4.9 acres, 10,435 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 4.5 feet. The lake is encompassed on three sides by open meadows, which make for excellent fly fishing. Much of the shoreline is quite wet, and it may be prudent to pack a pair of hip boots. The area around Sand Lake is relatively flat and good campsites are abundant. Horse feed is excellent and a small spring is located near the outlet of the lake. Sand Lake supports large populations of pan-size brook and cutthroat trout sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing should be fast. Pressure is light to moderate.





Sharlee, WR-57

**SAUCER LAKE, WR-41.** This lake is a small, shallow pond located on a heavily timbered bench 0.4 miles east of Ted's Lake on the East Fork drainage (see Ted's Lake access). Saucer is 4.5 acres, 10,500 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 4.5 feet. A number of springs are located around the lake, but the best campsites are found at Ted's Lake or Sand Lake, 0.3 miles to the north. Saucer may exhibit at least partial winterkill due to its shallow depth. The lake is stocked with brook trout and sustains very light fishing pressure.

**SHARLEE LAKE, WR-57.** Sitting in a shallow basin surrounded by open meadows, Sharlee Lake is prime fly casting water. This pretty lake is located on a high bench on the north side of Reader Lakes Basin, 1.9 miles by well-maintained trail across a timbered knoll west of Chepeta Lake. The lake is 9.4 acres, 10,740 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of just over 4 feet. Campsites and horse feed are abundant, but springs are uncommon. Sharlee Lake supports populations of both brook and cutthroat trout. The fishery is sustained solely by natural reproduction. This is another lake where a set of hip boots or waders can be invaluable. Fishing pressure is moderate.

**TAMARA LAKE, WR-73.** Tamara is a picturesque, remote lake which sits at the very head of the Rasmussen Lakes Basin in the West Fork of the Whiterocks drainage. From Eric Lake (see Eric Lake access), continue up the bottom of the basin, past Nellie Lake and up a steep, rocky slope

through downed timber. Total distance from the West Fork Trailhead is 4.2 miles, all of it is cross-country. Horseback access is, at best, very difficult and not recommended. Tamara Lake is triangular in shape with talus slopes forming two of the sides. Large boulders make up the entire perimeter of the lake, and the footing is treacherous. The lake is 6.9 acres, 10,960 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 18 feet. Campsites are absent due to the rough terrain, and there is no spring water. All camping amenities and horse feed are found in the bottom of Ramussen Lakes Basin. Fishing pressure is light for stocked cutthroat trout.

**TAYLOR LAKE, WR-8.** Taylor Lake is a fairly large, deep lake located above timberline in an open, rocky cirque 2.2 miles north of Queant Lake in the West Fork of the Whiterocks drainage. The trail comes within a few hundred yards of the lake. Taylor can also be reached via the Chepeta Lake Trailhead across a high, shallow saddle west of Reader Lakes Basin. Total distance from Chepeta Lake and the West Fork Trailhead is 4.0 and 6.3 miles, respectively. Taylor Lake is 22.4 acres, 11,220 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 53 feet. Campsites are scarce in the rough terrain surrounding the lake, and there is no horse feed. A cluster of springs are located along the northwest shore. Fly fishing is relatively easy, given the lack of large trees which would tend to inhibit backcasting. The large rocks and low scraggly bushes along the shore, however, make for difficult walking. Watch your step. Taylor Lake sustains moderate fishing pressure for stocked brook trout.



Taylor, WR-8



Ted's, WR-44

**TED'S LAKE, WR-44.** This popular lake lies in the middle of a series of meadows in the East Fork of the Whiterocks River drainage. Travel east from the Chepeta Lake Trailhead on the Whiterocks Lake Trail to a point just south of Rose Peak, the knobby mountain just east of Chepeta. An old jeep trail cuts off the main trail to the south, eventually crossing the East Fork. Continue up the slope until you reach a trail junction at the base of a wet meadow. Ted's Lake sits 0.3 miles to the northeast. The lake can also be reached from Paradise Park and Cliff Lake (see Cliff Lake access). Approximately 0.5 miles below Cliff Lake, an old jeep trail cuts north, eventually reaching the trail junction alluded to above. Vehicular access is possible only as far as Cliff Lake. Access by vehicle to Ted's Lake was at one time possible from both Chepeta and Cliff lakes. Severe damage to sensitive alpine meadows by vehicles has justifiably forced the Forest Service to limit access of this type. See the **Forest Travel Plan** for current regulations. Ted's Lake is 13.9 acres, 10,336 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 20 feet. Campsites and horse feed are plentiful, but good spring water can be hard to find. Most of the shoreline is open and fly casting is nearly hassle-free. The relatively wide expanses of shallow water close to shore tend to make trout a bit wary. Most people agree that late evening is the most productive time for angling. Ted's Lake is stocked with brook trout but also yields an occasional cutthroat. Fishing pressure is moderate to heavy.

**UPPER ROCK LAKE, WR-14.** This lake, which sits in a shallow depression on a high, flat bench northwest of Pole Creek Lake, is the largest of the three Rock Lakes. Access is as described for both Lower and Middle Rock lakes. Upper Rock lies 0.3 miles north of Middle Rock Lake across boulder fields. The lake is 33.4 acres, 10,592 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 33 feet. The lake is almost completely encompassed by ankle-eating boulders and rock slides. Campsites and horse feed are nonexistent in the vicinity of the lake, and there are no obvious sources of spring water. The water level of Upper Rock Lake fluctuates rather dramatically during some years, and the lake winterkills regularly. Everything considered, Upper Rock Lake provides a rather inhospitable environment for both fish and people. The lake is stocked with cutthroat trout. Fishing pressure is light.



Walk-up, WR-55

**WALK-UP LAKE, WR-55.** Walk-Up is a classic example of a glacially-formed, cirque lake. Located 2.7 miles northwest of Chepeta Lake, Walk-Up sits in a deep bowl with surrounding cliffs towering a thousand feet above the surface of the lake. This striking lake can be reached by horseback from Papoose Lake through steep, rocky meadows. A rocky cleft also leads from Figure-Eight Lake due north to Walk-Up. Some steep climbing is involved, and you should be in half-decent shape before attempting it. Things get easier after the initial ascent. Follow the base of

the mountain northwest to the lake. Walk-Up Lake is 18.4 acres, 11,114 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 55 feet. Despite the abundance of rocks in the area, a few decent campsites can be located in small, grassy openings above the lake. Horse feed is very scarce, but there is spring water in the general area. The shoreline is open, but footing is extremely treacherous on large, unstable boulders. Be cautious. Fishing pressure is quite light for stocked brook trout.

**WATKINS LAKE, WR-48.** This irregularly-shaped lake is located in the East Fork of the Whiterocks drainage 100 yards southeast of Cliff Lake. Access is as described for Cliff Lake. Watkins is 18.4 acres, 10,390 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 36 feet. The lake's southwest side is composed of rock slides. Campsites are few and far between in rough terrain, and there is very little horse feed. A few springs are located on the lake's northeastern shore where the lake narrows considerably. Fishing pressure is light for stocked brook trout.

**WHITEROCKS LAKE, WR-46.** Whiterocks Lake lies at the head of the East Fork of the Whiterocks drainage, 3.5 miles east of Chepeta Lake. The lake is used primarily for irrigation storage and experiences severe drawdown during the course of the summer. Stocking has been discontinued due to the inability of the lake to overwinter fish; however, a few trout may migrate into the reservoir from the inlet stream. The size of Whiterocks Lake varies between 30 to 67 acres, depending on season and water demand. Campsites, horse feed and spring water are located in the vicinity. Fishing pressure is light.

**WIGWAM LAKE, WR-54.** Wigwam is a long, narrow, impounded water northeast of Chepeta Lake which sits at the bottom of a talus slope 150 yards north of Moccasin Lake. The outlet of Wigwam flows into Moccasin at the lake's extreme northern tip. Wigwam Lake is 13.5 acres, 10,607 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 11 feet near the dam. Most of the lake is not much over 5 feet deep. A number of passable campsites can be found on the west side of the lake, while springs are located along the rock slides on the northeastern shore. There is very little horse feed due to the rocky terrain. Wigwam is stocked with brook trout but also holds a few cutthroat. Fishing pressure is moderate.

**WOOLEY LAKE, WR-40.** This pretty lake lies at the head of a rough, rocky, heavily timbered basin in the East Fork of the Whiterocks drainage, cross-country 0.9 miles east of Workman Lake (see Workman Lake access). Wooley Lake is surrounded by talus slides, boulder fields and rock-strewn pines. Total distance from Paradise Park Reservoir and the trailhead at Chepeta Lake is 14.2 and 5.0 miles, respectively. Wooley Lake is 20.5 acres, 10,680 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 42 feet. Campsites and horse feed are located in the meadows between Workman and Wooley Lakes. A number of springs are found against the foot of the

mountain. A self-sustaining population of brookies inhabit the lake. Fishing pressure is light.

**WORKMAN LAKE, WR-50.** Workman is a relatively shallow, natural lake located 0.7 miles south of Ted's Lake in the East Fork drainage. The lake is accessible from both Paradise Park Reservoir and Chepeta Lake. Access from Chepeta Lake is as described for Ted's. Once you reach the trail junction, however, turn south along the trail for 0.2 miles. An old jeep trail cuts off the main trail, trending upslope and southeast. Continue along this trail 0.6 miles until you cross Wooley Lake's outlet, a short distance downstream from the lake itself. Access from Paradise Park Reservoir is as described for Cliff Lake. Approximately 0.5 miles below Cliff, an old jeep trail cuts north. Follow this old road north 1.5 miles until you cross the outlet of Workman Lake. Vehicles are not allowed beyond Cliff Lake. Total distance from Chepeta Lake and Paradise Park Reservoir is 4.1 and 13.0 miles, respectively. Workman Lake is 16.3 acres, 10,460 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of only 12 feet. Despite heavy timber, a few campsites are found around the lake. A marginal spring is located between the lakes two inlets along the southeast shore. Best horse feed is found in the meadows further east. Workman supports populations of both brook and cutthroat trout sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing pressure is light to moderate.

**WR-37.** Located one mile east of the West Fork Trailhead, WR-37 has historically winterkilled. It is shown on the map as a landmark.



Wooley, WR-40

**An equal opportunity employer, 5M, 6/87**

This program receives Federal aid in fish restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information regarding Title VI, please write to The Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240

PLEASE LEAVE THESE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS  
AND LAKES THE WAY YOU WOULD LIKE  
TO FIND THEM WHEN YOU RETURN.

KNOW AND OBEY STATE AND FISH AND GAME LAWS.

DUMP WASTE WATER A MINIMUM OF 150  
FEET FROM SPRINGS, LAKES AND STREAMS.

BURN COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS.  
USE EXISTING FIRE RINGS WHEN POSSIBLE.

PACK OUT UNBURNABLE TRASH,  
INCLUDING PLASTICS AND METAL FOIL.

PACK OUT LITTER LEFT BY THOSE  
LESS COURTEOUS THAN YOURSELF.

LEAVE A CLEAN CAMP AND A DEAD FIRE.

A GOOD WILDERNESS TOILET IS MADE BY DIGGING  
A "CAT HOLE" NO DEEPER THAN 8 to 10 INCHES AND  
AT LEAST 200 FEET FROM SPRINGS, LAKES AND  
STREAMS. COVER THE WASTE WITH 4 to 6 INCHES OF  
TOPSOIL.





