GMP

LAKES OF THE HIGH UINTAS

YELLOWSTONE, SWIFT CREEK, DRY GULCH, UINTA RIVER DRAINAGES

By

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INTRODUCTION

The Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah are unique in that they are the only major range of mountains in North America to lie in an east and west direction. King's Peak, Utah's tallest point of land, standing 13,498 feet, is hard to distinguish from its sister peaks, all of which stand over 12,000 feet. This is in country of snow-capped mountains, of green meadows, blue lakes, and tall trees. Four of Utah's major rivers, the Duchesne, Provo, Weber, and Bear, originate in the snowfields of these mountains.

Although a number of mountain lakes and basins have been investigated over the years, the first comprehensive lake study undertaken by the Utah State Department of Fish and Game began in the summer of 1955. The information that was gathered over the years may have changed somewhat by now. Each lake's physical and biological features are always changing from year to year, and so our findings must also change. This results in a changing management policy. This policy is simply to stock the right kind and number of trout in the proper lake so that the net result is a large healthy trout in the sportsman's creel.

The old means of utilizing pack animals for stocking these mountain lakes meant that only a few lakes could be planted each year. Since 1955, planes have been utilized for planting these remote lakes. Hundreds of lakes are now stocked each year with Eastern brook, cutthroat and rainbow trout. The more inaccessible lakes are stocked on three- and four-year cycles. The more heavily fished lakes are planted on one- and two-year cycles. Care is taken not to overstock these lakes because it usually results in small, poorly developed trout.

The trout that are stocked by plane are less than three inches in length. These fish are used to replenish the present populations in some lakes while other lakes that our surveys have found to be favorable for planting, are stocked for the first time. Because the growing season for the small trout is very short, June through August, growth is frequently quite slow. In most areas by the trout's third year he has reached 8 to 12 inches. The Eastern brook and cutthroat trout are the predominant species stocked. There are several reasons for this – brook and cutthroat have demonstrated an ability to grow and survive better in many mountain lakes, particularly where competition exists between species, and also because most of the lowland waters are managed primarily for a rainbow and brown trout fishery.

The use of brook and cutthroat in the mountain lakes where they seem to do well, provides variety in the angler's creel. Brook trout are also used in a number of lakes because of their ability to reproduce in spring and seep areas where tributaries are not present. The Arctic grayling can also be found in many Uinta lakes. This fine fish not only provides tremendous fly fishing, but its beauties are surpassed by none.

As most of our Uinta Mountain lakes lie in remote basins far from the nearest road, it is recommended that trips be well planned and adequate preparations made beforehand. Most of these lakes can be reached over well-marked U.S. Forest Service trails. Ordinarily, trips up to five miles can be made by foot when the fisherman plans to spend only one day on the lake before returning home that evening. However, back-packers who wish to stay overnight can easily reach farther lakes. Horses and pack animals are advisable for longer stays. Names of packers may be obtained from Conservation Officers or Forest Rangers. Reservations should be made well in advance. Because of the extreme altitudes and unpredictable weather, warm clothing and rain gear should always be carried. Snow showers are common all season at higher elevations. Bug repellant for camper and horse is a necessity until mid-August. It is usually after the first week of July before many of the higher lakes become accessible. Fishing may last through September. No attempt was made to list all the lakes in the Uinta Mountains in this publication. Only those that were found to contain populations of game fish and those which are under study are included.

Fishing is unpredictable, especially in the High Uintas. If one lake fails to produce, try another, there is usually one nearby. If you are one who likes elbow room to camp and fish, and to discover new scenic wonders, let us recommend the High Uintas.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER

This drainage contains 50 lakes and ponds of which 25 support populations of Eastern brook, cutthroat or rainbow trout. These lakes lie within the Uinta Primitive Area between 9,150 and 11,000 feet. Fish to 3 pounds can be taken in some lakes. The first fish producing lake, Swasey, lies 6 miles north along the Swasey Hole trail. The start of this trail sits on the end of Hell Canyon road which is south of the Yellowstone Ranger Station. To reach the ranger station proceed north on State Highway 134 from Duchesne to Mountain Home, then north a few miles to marked dirt road. The lakes that lie on the east side of the basin can be reached via Swift Creek Camp north along Yellowstone Canyon trail. Some 28 miles up this trail at the head of the basin sits North Star Lake. One day on the trail either coming or going should be allowed for any trips into this back country.

YELLOWSTONE DRAINAGE

BLUEBELL, X-110-57. 60 acres, elevation 9,300 feet, maximum depth 22 feet, average depth 18.8 feet. ¼ mile south of Spider Lake, 18 miles north on Swasey Hole trail. Eastern brook 6 to 12 inches. Presently stocked with brook and cutthroat trout. Camping places in timber along lake shore, some horse feed.

FIVE POINT, X-106-57. A large lake subjected to 10-foot fluctuations. Sits in mostly open country. 58 acres, elevation 9,500 feet, maximum depth 21 feet. Contains Eastern brook and cutthroat trout 8 to 14½ inches. Stocked. 20 miles on Swasey Hole trail.

HARTMAN (MILK), Y-25. 8 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 20 feet. ½ mile east off Yellowstone Canyon trail some 25 miles from start. A reservoir subject to some fluctuation. Stocked with Eastern brook for first time in 1962. Should produce some good fishing. Few camping sites and little horse feed.

LITTLE SUPERIOR, X-104-57. 8 acres, elevation 9,800 feet, maximum depth 24 feet. North of Superior Lake ¼ mile. Total trail distance 20 miles. Cutthroat trout 6 to 14 inches. Now stocked with Eastern brook. Open, rocky country.

MILK (DOLL), Y-16. 53 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 47 feet. Northwest of Five Points Lake 1 mile, 25 miles on poorly marked trail from Yellowstone Guard Station. Small population of Eastern brook trout 8 to 10 inches. Lake lies next to shale ridge. Little horse feed. Stocked.

NORTH STAR, X-108-57. 28 miles at head of basin on Swasey Hole trail. 15 acres, elevation 10,000 feet, maxi-

mum depth 15 feet, average depth 12 feet. Some of the largest cutthroat trout found in these mountains comes from this lake. Fish up to 3 pounds taken. A long, hard ride but well worth it. Little horse feed and marginal camping. Stocked.

SPIDER, X-109-57. 18 miles north on Swasey Hole trail just north of Bluebell. 15 acres, elevation 9,300 feet, maximum depth 31 feet, average depth 11.2 feet. Brook and cutthroat trout 7 to 13 inches. Some camping places on lake. Little horse feed. Stocked with brook trout.

SUPERIOR, X-103-57. 50 acres, elevation 9,800 feet, maximum depth 26 feet, low water depth 6.7 feet. Has a 15-foot dam across outlet. 20 miles north on Swasey Hole trail. Cutthroat and Eastern brook 8 to 14 inches. Stocked with Eastern brook. Lake sits in open, rocky country.

SWASEY, X-58-57. 40 acres, elevation 9,150 feet, maximum depth 30 feet, average depth 11.6 feet. 6 miles north on Swasey Hole trail. A large irregular-shaped lake with an island near the southeast corner. Contains cutthroat, Eastern brook and rainbow trout, 9 to 16 inches. A few camping sites on lake. Excellent fishing, restocked with Eastern brook.

TUNGSTEN, X-107-57. 8 acres, elevation 10,000 feet, maximum depth 13 feet, average depth 6.5 feet. 23 miles north on Swasey Hole trail. A long lake separated by a small, narrow channel. Predominantly Eastern brook – a few cutthroat may remain. Capable of producing large fish. Rough, rocky terrain. Little horse feed. Stocked.

X-57-57. 8 acres, elevation 9,250 feet, maximum depth 30 feet, average depth 15½ feet. 6 miles north on Swasey Hole trail to Swasey Lake, then northwest along creek one mile. Eastern brook to 10 inches common. Rocky-timbered terrain. Few places near lake for camping. Little horse feed. Stocked.

X-59-57. 6 miles north on Swasey Hole trail then west 1 mile. Lies in timbered rocky country. 4 acres, elevation 9,150 feet, maximum depth 11 feet, average depth 4.4 feet. Cutthroat and rainbow trout 10 to 12 inches. Stocked with cutthroat trout. Camping places on north end of lake.

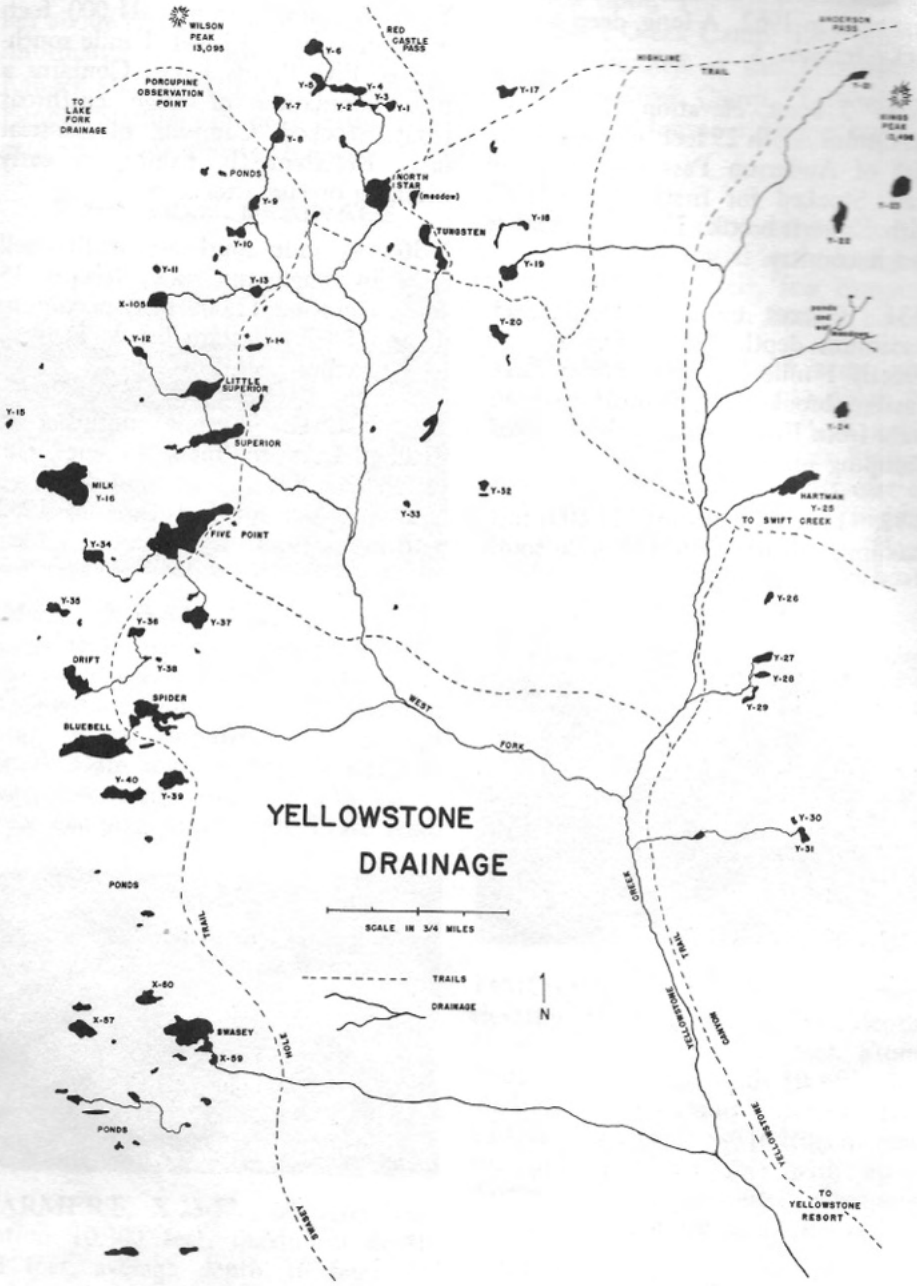
X-60-57. Sits next to ridge, 7 miles north on Swasey Hole trail to Swasey Lake then north to ridge ½ mile. 8 acres, elevation 9,250 feet, maximum depth 30 feet, average depth 12.9 feet. Fishless in 1957. Stocked since 1960 with cutthroat trout.

X-105-57. 1 mile northwest of Superior Lake, sits in open, rocky, windswept country. 6 acres, elevation 10,000 feet, maximum depth 14 feet. Capable of producing large cutthroat trout. Stocked with cutthroat.

Y-2. 2 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 20 feet. This isolated lake at the head of this basin ¾ mile northwest of North Star Lake. Total trail distance, approximately 30 miles. Stocked with Eastern brook for first time in 1962. Rocky, open country. Little horse feed.

Y-4. 5 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. A long, narrow lake sitting ¼ mile east of Porcupine Pass and ¼ mile north of trail. Approximate distance 30 miles on Hell's Canyon trail. Stocked for first time in 1962 with Eastern brook.

Y-19. 7 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 15 feet. ½ mile east of Tungsten Lake on poor trail some 25 miles from start of Yellowstone Canyon trail. Eastern brook 11 to 12 inches. Stocked.


YELLOWSTONE
DRAINAGE
SCALE IN 3/4 MILES
TRAILS
DRAINAGE
N
WILSON PEAK 13,095
RED CASTLE PASS
PORCUPINE OBSERVATION POINT
TO LAKE FORK DRAINAGE
HIGHLINE TRAIL
ANDERSON PASS
KINGS PEAK CLAIMS
PONDS
NORTH STAR (meadow)
TUNGSTEN
LITTLE SUPERIOR
SUPERIOR
MILK Y-16
FIVE POINT
HARTMAN Y-25
TO SWIFT CREEK
DRIFT
SPIDER
BLUEBELL
WEST FORK
GREEN TRAIL
YELLOWSTONE CANYON
YELLOWSTONE
TO YELLOWSTONE RESORT
SWASEY
SWASEY HOLE TRAIL
PONDS

Y-20. 4 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 20 feet. Southeast of Tungsten Pass one mile and 25 miles north of Yellowstone Guard Station. Stocked with Eastern brook for first time in 1962. A long, deep lake in rocky terrain.

Y-21. 7 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 25 feet. ½ mile southeast of Anderson Pass just south of trail. Stocked for first time in 1962 with Eastern brook. Lies in extremely rough country.

Y-31. 3 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 7 feet. Drains west directly 1 mile into Five Points Lake. Eastern brook and cutthroat that migrate from Five Points. Is not stocked. Camping places.

Y-32. 1 acre, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 15 feet. 1 mile south of Y-31 some 25 miles on Swasey Hole trail. Fishless. It is doubtful if this small lake could hold trout over the winter. Some lake fluctuation.

Y-34. 6 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 15 feet. 1 mile southeast of Five Points Lake. Contains a nice population of large cutthroat trout. Stocked. Camping places near lake. Excellent fly fishing in early morning or late afternoon.

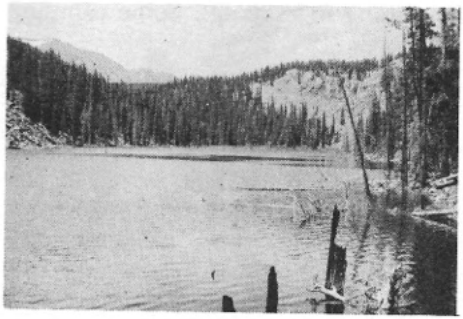
Y-36. ¾ mile southeast of Bluebell Lake in rough and rocky terrain. 15 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 15 feet. Eastern brook. Fish up to 10 inches plentiful.

Y-37 (GEM). ¾ mile southeast of Bluebell Lake, see map. 15 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. Stocked for first time in 1962 with brook trout.

SWIFT CREEK

Only 16 of the 40 lakes and ponds in this small drainage hold populations of trout. These lakes lie between 9,200 and 10,400 feet. The fish producing lakes contain either Eastern brook, cutthroat or rainbow trout. The head of this basin lies about 12 miles via Swift Creek Trail from Swift Creek Camp. Last minute information on present trail conditions can be acquired at the Yellowstone Ranger Station. Horses can be rented near Swift Creek Camp. Yellowstone Ranger Station can be reached via Duchesne and Mountain Home on dirt road after leaving State Highway 134.

SWIFT CREEK DRAINAGE



DEER, X-55-57. 7 acres, elevation 9,500 feet, maximum depth 47 feet, average depth 17 feet. 8 miles from Yellowstone Ranger Station on marked trail. Good population of Eastern brook. Dam across outlet. Deadfalls in lake, timbered down to lake front. Few camping areas, little horse feed.

FARMER'S, X-23-57. 60 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 24 feet, average depth 16 feet. 10 miles on marked trail from Yellowstone Ranger Station. Contains Eastern brook and cutthroat. 8 to 12 inches. Best fishing is early and late in season. No shelters, few camping places. Restocked with Eastern brook.

GRAYLING, X-56-57. 8 acres, elevation 9,200 feet, maximum depth 33 feet, average depth 19 feet. 8 miles north of Yellowstone Ranger Station on well-marked trail. Lake sits east of trail. Cutthroat trout to 12 inches. Lies in partly timbered country. Hard lake to fish without raft or rubber boat. Stocked with cutthroat trout.

TIMOTHY NO. 1, X-16-57. 5 acres, elevation 10,250 feet, maximum depth 35 feet, average depth 19 feet. From Swift Creek campgrounds 10 miles on marked trail. Contains cutthroat and Eastern brook trout 8½ to 16½ inches. Sits in scattered timber with open shores. Dam across outlet. Camping sites and some horse feed. Stocked.

TIMOTHY NO. 2, X-17-57. 20 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 7 feet, average depth 3 feet.

(See directions for Timothy No. 1.) Sits ¼ mile north of Timothy No. 1. Large population of cutthroat trout 6½ to 12½ inches. A few large Eastern brook may still populate the lake. Lies in an open, grassy depression. Camping places and limited horse feed. Stocked with cutthroat trout.

TIMOTHY NO. 5, X-20-57. 11 miles from Yellowstone Ranger Station. 20 acres, elevation 10,350 feet, maximum depth 18 feet, average depth 7½ feet. Lies ¼ mile south of Timothy No. 6. Recommended for stocking with Eastern brook. No trout in 1957. Few camping places.

TIMOTHY NO. 6, X-19-57. 45 acres, elevation 10,400 feet, maximum depth 45 feet, average depth 20 feet. Lies east of Timothy No. 2 ½ mile. Total trail distance from start 11 miles. Contains cutthroat trout 8½ to 12½ inches. Lies near rocky ridge in open country. Stocked with cutthroat trout. Camping on southern end, little horse feed.

TIMOTHY NO. 7, X-18-57. 65 acres, elevation 10,400 feet, maximum depth 48 feet, average depth 15 feet. 11 miles from Yellowstone Ranger Station on marked trail. Sits at head of basin. Few camping places and limited horse feed. Cutthroat trout 8½ to 10½ inches. Fishing excellent in evenings. Stocked with cutthroat trout.

TWIN, X-49-57. 11 acres, elevation 10,050 feet, maximum depth 16 feet, average depth 8 feet. Sits on west side of basin, west of White Miller ¼ mile. Cutthroat and Eastern brook to 12 inches. Restocked in 1960 with rainbow trout. Lies in a beautiful setting for a lake. Open shoreline. Rocky country limits camping sites.

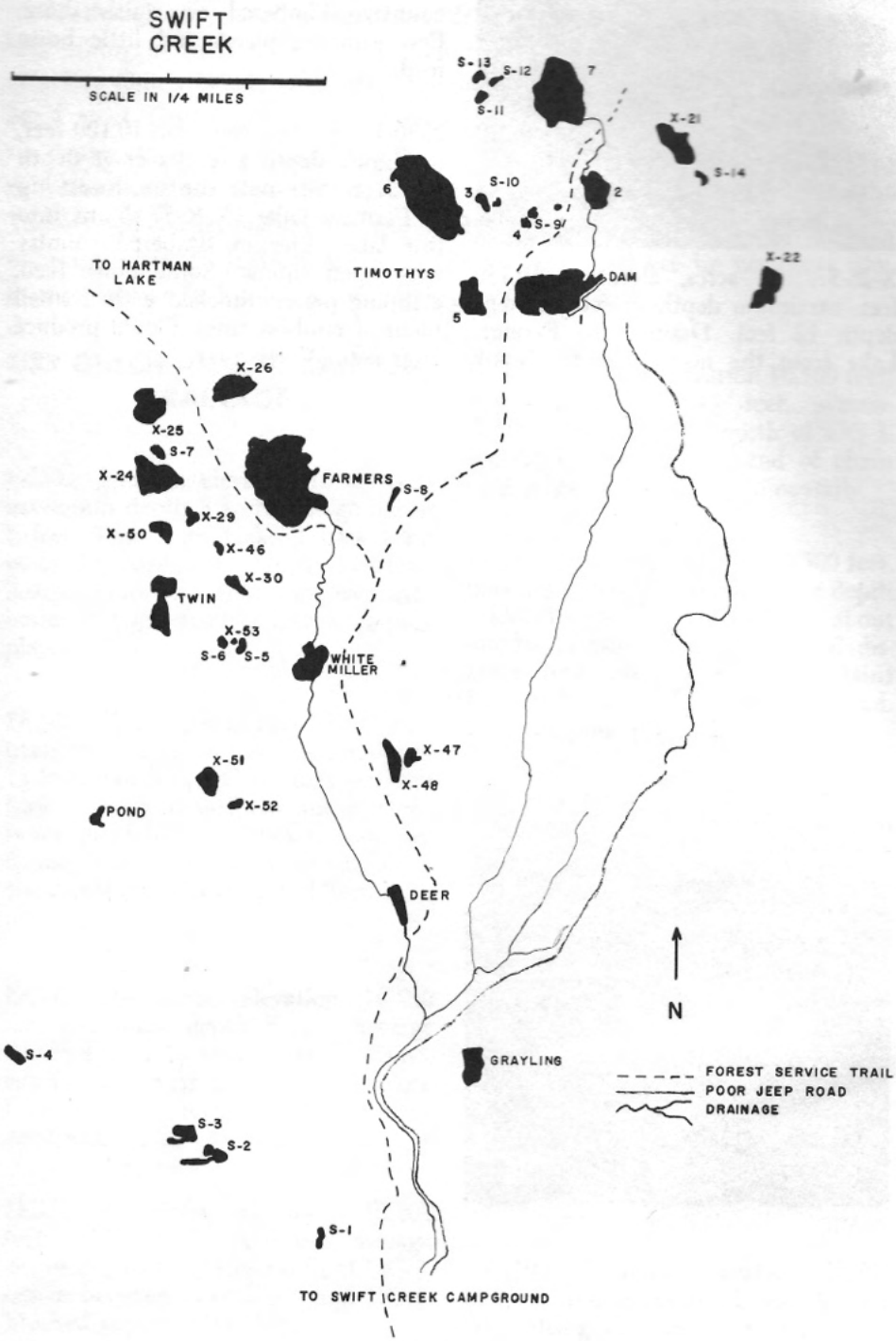
WHITE MILLER, X-54-57. 20 acres, elevation 9,800 feet, maximum depth 18 feet, average depth 6½ feet. North of Deer Lake ¾ mile, drains directly into Deer. Overstocked with Eastern brook in 1958. Open shores, excellent fly fishing in evenings. Some camping places.

X-21-57. Sits near head of basin 11 miles from Yellowstone Ranger Station. 20 acres, elevation 10,450 feet, maximum depth 19 feet, average depth 9½ feet. Contains large cutthroat trout to 20½ inches and weighing 4¾ pounds. Only a few of these large fish remain. Stocked with cutthroat. Open, rocky country with few camping places and little horse feed.

X-22-57. Lies near east rim of basin, 11 miles from Yellowstone Ranger Station. 8 acres, elevation 10,250 feet, maximum depth 8 feet, average depth 4 feet. Large population of cutthroat trout 4½ to 8½ inches. Taken easily on fly or spoon. Sits in open country with little protection from wind.

X-24-57. 18 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 30 feet, average depth 13 feet. Due west of Farmer's Lake ¼ mile. Stocked for first time in 1960 with rainbow trout.

X-25-57. 15 acres, elevation 10,150 feet, maximum depth 24 feet, average depth 11½ feet. Sits north ⅛ mile above X-24-57. Large population of Eastern brook 8 to 12 inches. Restocked in 1960 with rainbow trout. Few camping places and little horse feed.


SWIFT CREEK
SCALE IN 1/4 MILES
S-13
S-12
S-11
7
X-21
S-14
6
3
S-10
2
4
S-9
X-22
TO HARTMAN LAKE
TIMOTHYS
DAM
5
1
X-26
X-25
S-7
X-24
FARMERS
S-8
X-29
X-50
X-46
X-30
TWIN
X-53
S-6
S-5
WHITE MILLER
X-47
X-51
X-48
X-52
POND
DEER
N
S-4
GRAYLING
FOREST SERVICE TRAIL
POOR JEEP ROAD
DRAINAGE
S-3
S-2
S-1
TO SWIFT CREEK CAMPGROUND

X-26-57. 10 acres, elevation 10,150 feet, maximum depth 23 feet, average depth 12 feet. Drains into Farmers Lake from the north. Eastern brook 8½ to 15 inches. Restocked with rainbow trout in 1960. Sits in rocky, open country. Timbered on south shore. Few camping places and little horse feed.

X-30-57. 5 acres, elevation 10,100 feet, maximum depth 8 feet, average depth 3½ feet. Sits near the southwest tip of Farmers Lake. X-46-57 drains into this lake. Lies in timbered country with open shores. Some horse feed, camping places. Stocked with a small plant of rainbow trout. Could produce large fish. Worth a try.

DRY GULCH — CROW CANYON

Although very small compared with other Uinta drainages, some of the best fishing in these mountains is found here. Of the 24 lakes which drain into Dry Gulch Creek, 10 contain populations of either cutthroat or Eastern brook trout. Cutthroats up to 3 pounds have been taken. This area is reached via Roosevelt, north on State Highway 121 to Neola, then north on dirt road to second junction. Take dirt road west at junction where sign directs way to Yellowstone Ranger Station. Proceed on this road to Timothy Creek, then north following creek to Jackson Meadows. From here the lakes lie northeast, the furthest lake being 5 miles. All are reached by foot or horse.

DRY GULCH — CROW CANYON DRAINAGE

DG-1. 13 acres, elevation 10,350 feet, maximum depth 8 feet, average depth 4 feet. 9 miles to Jackson Park from main dirt road east from Yellowstone Ranger Station, then 1 mile east into basin. A large, fishless lake. Camping places.

DG-3. 21 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 26 feet, average depth 12 feet. North of DG-1 1 mile on poor trail. Contains cutthroat and Eastern brook to 18 inches. Stocked with cutthroat trout. Timbered except along the east shore. Camping and horse feed near.

DG-6. 2½ acres, elevation 10,500 feet maximum depth 8 feet, average depth 4 feet. ½ mile north of DG-3, sits furthest west of chain of 3 lakes. Lies in rocky terrain. Stocked with cutthroat trout.

DG-7. 4.9 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 4 feet, average depth 2½ feet. ½ mile north of DG-3, sits in between Lake DG-6 and DG-8. Stocked experimentally.

DG-8. 5.9 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 4½ feet, average depth 3 feet. ½ mile north of DG-3. Lies at extreme eastern end of chain of 3 lakes. Stocked experimentally.

DG-9. 6.3 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 27 feet, average depth 9 feet. 1 mile north of DG-3 in about middle of basin. Poor trail, total distance from road 3 miles. Contains Eastern brook to 13 inches. Stocked. Few camping places.

DG-10. 10 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. A large lake sitting near east rim of canyon.

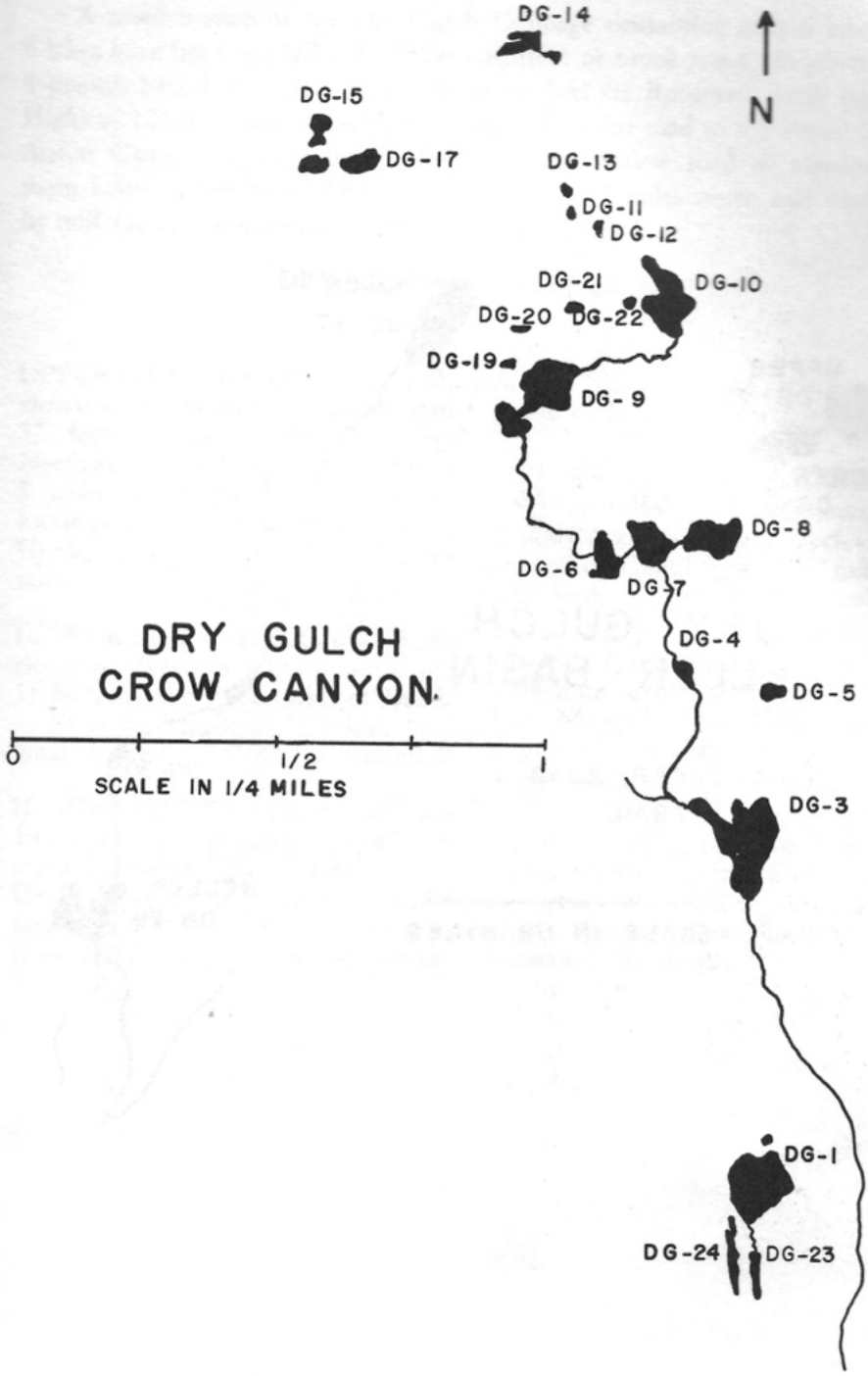
1 mile north of DG-3. Contains large Eastern brook and cutthroat trout 14 to 18 inches. Restocked with Eastern brook and cutthroat. Few camping places, little horse feed.

DG-14. 9 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 10 feet. Sits at head of canyon 2 miles north of DG-3. Contains a large population of small, 8 to 9½ inch cutthroat trout. Lies in rocky, rough terrain.

DG-15. 9 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 9 feet. Sits at base of west rim at head of canyon. Furthest of 3 lakes in small pocket. Cutthroat trout 9 to 11 inches. Stocked. Very rough country.

DG-16. 9 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 8 feet. Second lake, sitting against west rim of canyon 100 feet south of DG-15. Small population of cutthroat trout 8 to 11 inches. Stocked. Fine fly fishing lake.

DG-17. 10 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. Third lake, near west rim at head of basin. DG-17 sits furthest east of 3 lakes in this region, 2 miles northwest of DG-3. Contains cutthroat trout 8 to 10 inches.


DG-14
N
DG-15
DG-17
DG-13
DG-11
DG-12
DG-21
DG-10
DG-20
DG-22
DG-19
DG-9
DG-8
DG-6
DG-7
DG-4
DG-5
DRY GULCH
CROW CANYON
0
1/2
1
SCALE IN 1/4 MILES
DG-3
DG-1
DG-24
DG-23

DRY GULCH — HELLER BASIN

A small branch of the Dry Gulch Drainage containing only 6 lakes. All 6 lakes have been stocked with either cutthroat or brook trout. Brook trout to 4 pounds have been taken. This area is reached via Roosevelt north on State Highway 121 to Neola. From Neola northwest by dirt road to the Forest Service AnKar Guard Station, above Jonny Star Flat. Follow road to meadow and main fence. From here, the lakes lie from 1 to 5 miles north and northwest by trail. Good campsites and horse feed.

DRY GULCH — HELLER BASIN

UPPER LILY PAD (DG-25). 12 acres, elevation 10,400 feet, maximum depth 37 feet, average depth 18½ feet. Northwest from AnKar Guard Station 5 miles along poor trail. Contains brook and cutthroat trout to 4 pounds. Cyclic stocking. Timbered rough terrain.

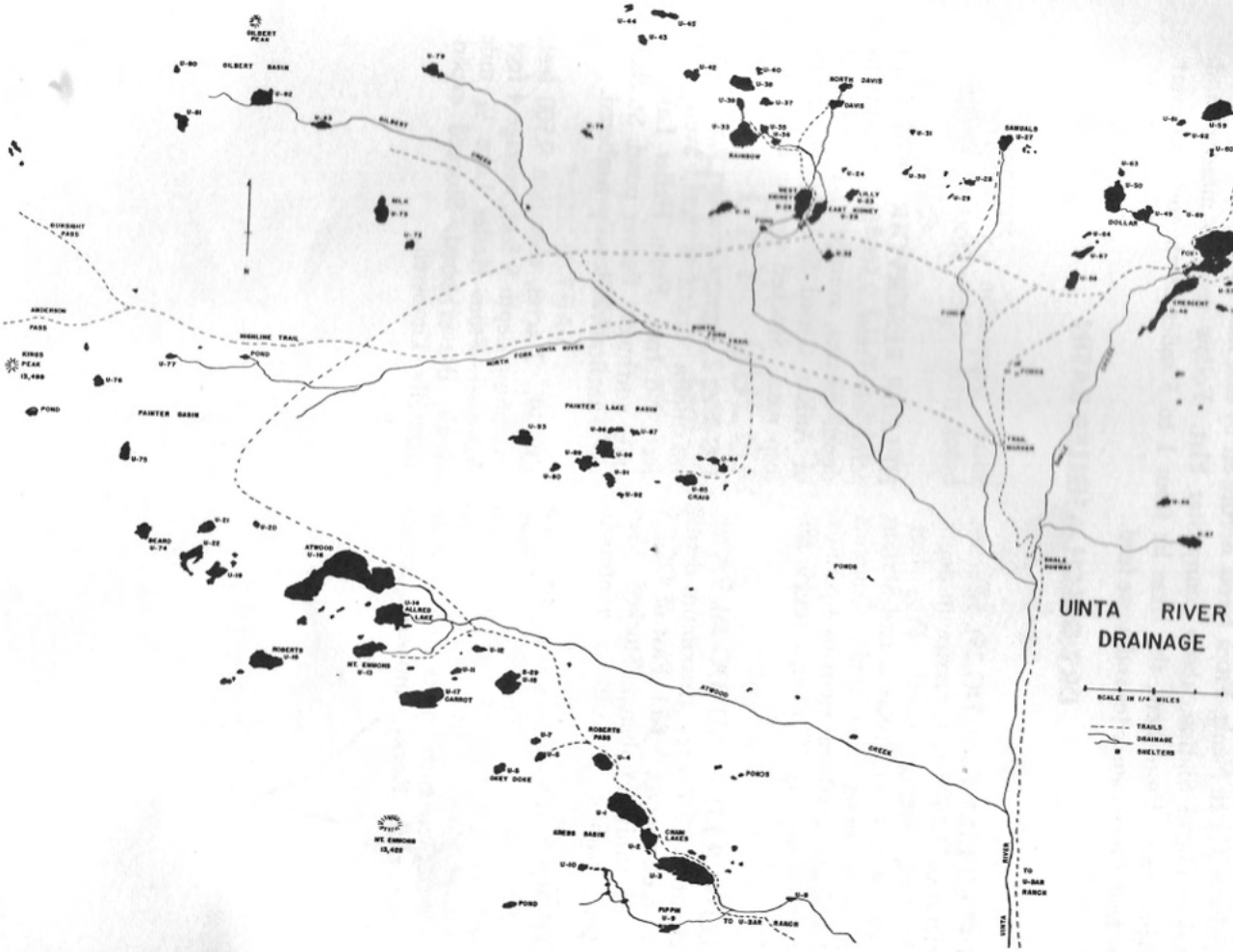
LOWER LILY PAD (DG-26). 9 acres, elevation 10,400 feet, maximum depth 11 feet, average 3 feet. East of DG-25 — 50 yards. Timbered. Stocked. Marginal habitat. Record of winterkill.

HIDDEN (DG-27). 12 acres, elevation 10,200 feet, maximum depth 37 feet, average 27 feet. North from AnKar Guard Station three miles to Heller Lake, then three miles northwest by poor trail. Rocky, timbered terrain. Small population of medium-sized brook trout. Cyclic stocking.

HELLER RESERVOIR (DG-28). 10 acres, elevation 9,500 feet, maximum depth 39 feet, average 17 feet. North of AnKar Guard Station 3 miles by jeep road. Stocked cyclic. Timbered.

DG-29. 2 acres, elevation 9,500 feet, maximum depth 8 feet, average 4 feet. No trail. From Heller Lake ½ mile northwest. Beaver pond. Stocked experimentally. Heavily timbered.

DG-30. 2 acres, elevation 9,500 feet, maximum depth 9 feet, average 4 feet. No trail. From Heller Lake ¼ mile north. Beaver pond. Stocked experimentally. Timbered.


UINTA RIVER DRAINAGE
SCALE IN 1/4 MILES
TRAILS
DRAINAGE
SHELTERS
GILBERT PEAK
GILBERT BASIN
GUNSIGHT PASS
ANDERSON PASS
KINGS PEAK 13,498
HIGHLINE TRAIL
POND
PAINTER BASIN
NORTH FORK UINTA RIVER
PAINTER LAKE BASIN
NORTH DAVIS
DAVIS
RAINBOW
WEST KINNEY
EAST KINNEY
DILLY
SAMUALS
DOLLAR
FOX
CRESCENT
TO ISLAND LAKE
TO CLEVELAND LAKE
TRAIL HOLLOW
SHALE RUNWAY
CRAIG
BEARD
ATWOOD
MILNED LAKE
ROBERTS
MT. EMMONS
CARROT
ATWOOD CREEK
ROBERTS PASS
GREY DOKE
MT. EMMONS 13,420
KREBS BASIN
CRANE LAKES
PUPPIE
TO U-BAR RANCH
UINTA RIVER
MILK
MILKY
POND

UINTA RIVER

The Uinta River Drainage with its 6 basins is one of the largest drainages of the Uinta Mountains. 93 lakes and ponds drain through numerous creeks into the Uinta River. These lakes lie between 10,000 and 11,600 feet. Access to this area is via Roosevelt on Highway 121 to Neola, then 20 miles on good dirt road along Uinta River to end of road. A fine well marked trail then heads into the country up the Uinta River Canyon. Cabins, horses and guide service are available by writing the U-Bar Dude Ranch, Neola, Utah. Good campsites can be found at the Uinta Park Campsite. Eastern brook, cutthroat and rainbow trout, as well as the Arctic grayling, are found in many of these lakes.

UINTA RIVER DRAINAGE

ALLRED, U-14. 12.3 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, average depth 15 feet. Lake sits 200 yards south of dam on Atwood Lake. Outlet drains into Lake Atwood Creek. Good population of Eastern brook 7 to 13 inches. Reported also to contain cutthroat trout and Arctic grayling. Good camping places near lake. Stocked with Eastern brook trout.

ATWOOD, U-16. Total distance from U-Bar Ranch, 18 miles on posted trail. A six-hour ride on horse. Maximum depth 33 feet, 60 acres, elevation 10,800 feet. Extreme fluctuation by mid-summer. U-Bar Ranch has cabin on lake. Good camping places, horse feed. Contains Eastern brook to 14 inches and Arctic grayling to 13 inches. Some bigger fish have been taken. Excellent fly lake. Very popular. Stocked with cutthroat since 1960. These fish should start showing soon.

B-29, U-18. 11.9 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 7 feet. East of Carrot Lake ¼ mile. No marked trail. 17 miles total distance from U-Bar Ranch on Atwood Trail. Cutthroat and Eastern brook 8 to 12 inches. Good population, very seldom visited. Stocked at regular intervals.

CARROT, U-17. 14.6 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 31 feet, average depth 20 feet. Total distance from start of trail 17 miles. Follow outlet to Mt. Emmons Lake ½ mile then south ½ mile to lake. Contains Eastern brook 10 to 16 inches. A beautiful mountain lake surrounded by timber. Camping places near lake, some horse feed. Stocked with Eastern brook.

CHAIN NO. 1, U-3. Total distance from U-Bar Ranch on well posted trail 12 miles. 29.3 acres, maximum depth 36 feet, fluctuation of 20 feet, elevation 10,000 feet. The first of the Chain Lakes which all drain into Krebs Creek. Rainbow and Eastern brook trout 6½ to 12 inches. Good fishing. Camping places, raft, some horse feed. Popular lake. Stocked with Eastern brook.

CHAIN NO. 2, U-2. ¼ mile up trail past Chain No. 1. (See directions to Chain No. 1.) Fluctuation of 6 feet. 6.8 acres, maximum depth 13 feet, elevation 10,000 feet. Eastern brook 6½ to 11½ inches. Camping places. Popular lake. Stocked.

CHAIN NO. 3, U-1. ½ mile up trail past Chain No. 2. (See directions to Chain No. 1.) 17 acres, elevation 10,000 feet, maximum depth 65 feet. Fluctuation of 25 feet. Eastern brook 8 to 10 inches common, larger fish to 18 inches. Camping places and horse feed. Good posted trail. Stocked.

CHAIN NO. 4, U-4. Furthermost Chain Lake, 1 mile up trail from Chain No. 1. 8.3 acres, maximum depth 31 feet, fluctuation of 7 feet, elevation 10,000 feet. Cutthroat trout 11 inches common, Eastern brook smaller. Camping places, some horse feed. Stocked.

CRAIG, U-85. 7.6 acres, elevation 10,800 feet, maximum depth 14 feet. 12 miles from U-Bar Ranch to Fox Lake sign then take middle fork trail west approximately 5 miles to large meadow, head south crossing creek 3 miles into Painter Lakes Basin. Poor trail. Large population of cutthroat trout. Camping places and horse feed. An excellent fishing lake. Seldom fished.

CRESCENT, U-48. 33 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 33 feet. ½ mile south of shelter on Fox Lake and 21 miles on posted trail from U-Bar Ranch. Excellent fly fishing in evenings off rocks for cutthroat trout to 12 inches. A fine, seldom fished lake. Stocked. Good camping places and horse feed.

DAVIS, U-34. 8.9 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 4 feet, 1 mile north of the Kidney Lakes, follow Kidney Lakes inlet to source, posted sign past Kidneys. A very shallow lake lying in open country. Fast fishing for small Eastern brook, lake overpopulated. Good camping place south of lake.

DAVIS, NORTH, U-46. 6 acres, elevation 11,050 feet, maximum depth 7 feet. North of Davis Lake ¼ mile over small ridge. 1 mile north of Kidney Lakes. Contains a large population of medium-sized Eastern brook. Hard to catch, best fishing in evenings. Trout move freely between the two Davis Lakes.

DOLLAR (DIME), U-49. 8.5 acres, elevation 10,900 feet, maximum depth 6 feet. 20 miles from start of trail, ¼ mile north where trail crosses outlet 1 mile from Fox Lake. Overpopulated with Eastern brook 7 to 10 inches. Lake sits in an open meadow near timber. Shelter near lake, camping place and horse feed.

FOX LAKE RESERVOIR, U-47. 82.9 acres, elevation 11,000 feet. Subjected to extreme fluctuation. Reached by well-marked trail 20 miles from U-Bar Ranch. Usually good for cutthroat trout throughout summer, excellent for Eastern brook near inlet. Stocked with Eastern brook. Good camping places around lake, one shelter on west shore near dam.

GEORGE BEARD, U-21. 4.7 acres, maximum depth 15 feet, elevation 11,000 feet. West of Atwood Lake 1½ miles on unmarked trail. No fish in 1959. Stocked now with Eastern brook. May only provide marginal fishing. No camping places or horse feed. Sits in open rocky country.

KIDNEY, EAST, U-25. 17 acres, average depth 7.4 feet, elevation 10,800 feet. 18 miles on posted trail from U-Bar Ranch. U-Bar maintains two cabins on south end of lake. A fine fly fishing lake. Rainbow, cutthroat, Eastern brook averaging 12 inches. Rainbows in outlet up to 12 inches very hard to catch. Good camping place between the two Kidneys. A very beautiful lake well worth the long ride. Stocked. Many mosquitoes till the first of August.

KIDNEY, WEST, U-26. 21 acres, elevation 10,800 feet, average depth 2.9 feet. 100 yards west of East Kidney. 18 miles on marked trail. A very shallow lake with large Eastern brook to 18 inches. Some rainbows in outlet.

Good camping places on lake. Best fishing near outlet.

LILLY PAD, U-8. 3.7 acres, elevation 10,000 feet, average depth 5 feet. First lake on trail to Atwood Basin, 8 miles total distance. Eastern brook and rainbow trout 7 to 10 inches. Good camping places. Stocked.

LILY, U-23. 9.5 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, average depth 7 feet. A small, beautiful mountain lake lying ½ mile northeast of East Kidney over small ridge. Total trail distance 18 miles. A 6 to 9 hour ride. Contains some of the largest Eastern brook, 18 inches, in this drainage. Fish average 12 inches. Fine camping places on south end of lake, some horse feed. Stocked.

MILK, U-73. 13 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 35 feet. Total trail distance 28 miles. Sits in Gilberts Basin in pocket at base of high ridge one mile off main trail. Hard to locate. Fishless in 1961. Stocked with Eastern brook beginning in 1962. No campsites or horse feed near lake.

MT. EMMONS (ALLEN), U-13. 6.3 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, average depth 15 feet. Total distance 17 miles. on trail 1 mile west of main trail to Atwood Lake. Small population of Eastern brook 8 to 12 inches. Good campsite near outlet. Horse feed. Stocked annually.

OKEY DOKE, U-5. 5.7 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 38 feet, fluctuation of 10 feet. Total distance 16 miles on top of Roberts Pass. Sits 1 mile west of main trail to Atwood Lake at head of basin. Excellent fishing for cutthroats to 12 inches. Camping places, some horse feed. A good lake in a popular area. Stocked.

PIPPIN (ISLAND), U-9. 3.2 acres, average depth 3 feet, elevation 10,100 feet. Drains into Krebs Creek. 10 miles distance, sits ½ mile south of main trail at southern tip of Chain No. 1. Small Eastern brook 6 to 10½ inches. A good fly fishing lake. Stocked.

RAINBOW, U-33. 38 acres, elevation 11,400 feet, maximum depth 20 feet, average depth 12.8 feet. Past Kidney Lakes 1½ miles northwest. Will not come into view until last 500 feet. Reportedly produces the largest brook in the Uinta Mountains. Specimens up to 5 pounds taken. Fish very wary and hard to catch. Also contains a population of 3-pound cutthroat. Best success from south rocky shore in evenings and early mornings. Sits in open windswept country. No camping places or horse feed. Annually stocked.

ROBERTS, U-15. 6 acres, elevation 10,900 feet, average depth 25 feet, maximum depth 38 feet. Slight fluctuation later in year. On unmarked trail 1 mile west past Mt. Emmons Lake and 2 miles from fork in trail to Atwood Lake. A high mountain lake lying in open rocky country at base of high ridge. No fish in 1959. Stocked since with Eastern brook. Should provide excellent fishing. No camping places near lake.

SAMUALS, U-27. 15 miles on Kidney Lake trail then north 1 mile at sign through large opening. 12 acres, maximum depth 7 feet, average depth 3.6 feet, elevation 11,300 feet. A large population of small Eastern brook and rainbow trout. Reproduction in lake. 5-inch brooks numerous in outlet. Fine camping place on lake, horse feed. Evenings best.

U-32 (BOWDEN). 4.4 acres, maximum depth 14 feet, average depth 6.9 feet, elevation 10,500 feet. South of East Kidney ¼ mile at last sign to Kidney Lakes. Total trail distance 18 miles. Very seldom fished. Large Eastern brook to 18 inches taken in 1960. Well worth the trip. Best fishing in evenings. Good camp and horse feed on lake. A fly fisherman's paradise. Stocked with Eastern brook.

U-35. 8 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, average depth 3 feet. 1½ miles northwest of the Kidney lakes, receives Rainbow Lake's outlet. There is free movement of fish between this lake and Rainbow. Contains large Eastern brook and cutthroat trout where fish have moved from Rainbow Lake. Excellent fly fishing. No camping places or horse feed. Stocked annually.

U-36. 6.3 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 7 feet, average depth 4.6 feet. U-35 drains southeast into U-36, 100 yards separates these lakes. An open lake, containing rainbow and a few cutthroat trout to 16 inches. No camping places or horse feed.

U-37. 7 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 12 feet, average depth 4.3 feet. Over small ridge northeast from Rainbow Lake, 1½ miles from Kidney and 20 miles from U-Bar Ranch. Diamond-shaped, reported to contain large cutthroat, few of these trout exist now. Restocked in 1961 with Eastern brook. No camping places or horse feed. Should produce some large fish.

U-38. 12.7 acres, elevation 11,100 feet, maximum depth 10 feet. Due north of Rainbow Lake ¼ mile over ridge, 2 miles from Kidney lakes and 21 miles from U-Bar Ranch. Lies in open, rocky country. Contains a large number of cutthroat trout 12½ inches. Extremely good fly fishing. This is a must when fishing this basin. Scheduled to be stocked in 1963.

U-39. 5.7 acres, elevation 11,400 feet, maximum depth 9 feet, average depth 5 feet. 2 miles northwest of Kidney lakes and 20 miles on posted trail from U-Bar Ranch. Drains directly into the north end of Rainbow Lake. Contains a small population of large rainbow trout. Very wary fish and hard to catch. Always worth a try. No camping sites or horse feed. Stocked.

U-41 (VERLIE). 8.9 acres, elevation 10,800 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. Southeast against point of ridge from Kidney lakes and 21 miles on posted trail from beginning. A hard lake to find. Last 300 yards has to be on foot. Contains cutthroat 11 to 14 inches. Very seldom fished. No camping places or horse feed.

U-42. 8.3 acres, elevation 11,500 feet, maximum depth 6 feet. Northwest along south ridge from Rainbow lake 1¼ miles. Contained no trout in 1960.

Stocked with Eastern brook in 1961. Should provide good fishing. Sits in open country, no campsites or horse feed.

U-45. 4.4 acres elevation 11,500 feet, maximum depth 5 feet. Sits next to base of northern ridge at head of basin, 2 miles northwest of Rainbow Lake, 22 miles from U-Bar Ranch. Contained no trout in 1960. Stocked with cutthroat in 1961. No camping sites or horse feed. May provide exceptional fishing.

U-50. 17.8 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. 22 miles on posted trail to Fox Lake Basin. At crossing of outlet to Dollar Lake, 1 mile from Fox Lake, U-50 sits 1 mile northwest in heavy timber. No fish in 1960. Stocked in 1961 with cutthroat trout. Camping places by lake.

U-54 (BROOK). 10.2 acres, maximum depth 4 feet, elevation 11,300 feet. I mile east on Fox Lake. Follow small stream to lake. Contains Eastern brook. Campsites, horse feed. Stocked.

U-59 (DIVIDE). 15 acres, elevation 11,060 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. 2½ miles north from Fox Lake on trail to Island and Spirit Lakes. Fishless in 1960. Stocked in 1961 with cutthroat trout. One of the highest lakes in the Uinta Mountains. Lies in open windswept country. May provide excellent fishing.

U-67 (WILD GOOSE). 11.5 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 43 feet. South of Crescent Lake 3 miles. Poor trail past Crescent. Fishless in 1961. Stocked with cutthroat in 1962. No campsites or horse feed near lake. May produce large fish.

U-74. (Confused with George Beard Lake, U-21). 4.4 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 15 feet. ⅛ mile west of trail after crossing Trail Riders Pass into Painters Basin. Total distance 30 miles via middle fork trail. No fish in 1961. Stocked with brook in 1962. Windswept, barren country. No camping places or horse feed.

U-75. 8.2 acres, elevation 11,500 feet, maximum depth 18 feet. At head of Painters Basin ⅛ mile west of Atwood-Middle Fork trail. No fish. Planned for stocking in 1963. No campsites or horse feed. Very windy and cold most of season.

U-76. 5.7 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 15 feet. At head of Painters Basin 1 mile west of Atwood-Middle Fork Trail. No fish in 1961. Planned for stocking in 1963. Fish may not survive.

U-82. 14.6 acres, elevation 11,000 feet, maximum depth 20 feet. At head of Gilbert Basin 1½ miles west of main Middle Fork-Atwood trail. No fish, planned for stocking in 1963. Horse feed nearby and camping places.

U-88. (See directions to Craig Lake). 14 acres, elevation 10,800 feet, maximum depth 18 feet. Largest lake in basin. No fish. Stocked with brook in 1962. Camping places and horse feed. Should be an exceptional lake.

U-89. (See directions to Craig Lake). 11.4 acres, elevation 10,800 feet, maximum depth 15 feet. No fish in 1961. Stocked with brook in 1962. Potentially a fine lake.