



North Delaney Buttes Lake

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Kurt Davies - Aquatic Biologist (Fort Collins)

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General Information: North Delaney Butte Lake(160 acres) is a coldwater impoundment on the Delaney Buttes State Wildlife Area. Gold medal fishing for brown and rainbow trout available.

Location: Jackson County, North Park. From Walden, go 1/2 mile west on HWY 14 to CR 12; then go 5.3 miles west to CR 18. Go 4.5 miles west to CR 5 then 1/2 mile north to the SWA.

Recreational Management: Colorado Division of Wildlife

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling

Purchase a Fishing License: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/>

<u>Amenities</u>	<u>Previous Stocking</u>	<u>Sportfishing Notes</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat Ramp • Pit Restrooms • Camping 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2010</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brown Trout Cutthroat/Rainbow Hybrid</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2009</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brown Trout Cutthroat/Rainbow Hybrid</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Spring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish midge patterns to rising fish at ice out • Crawdad and minnow imitations are good early
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bag and Possession for trout is 2 fish • Artificial flies and lures only (scented flies or lures must be 1.5" or longer) • Brown Trout 14-20" long must be returned to the water immediately • Rainbow and cutthroat trout 18-22" long must be returned to the water immediately • From Sept. 15-Nov. 15, fishing is prohibited from the dam and 100ft of dam • Fishing is prohibited in the inlet upstream of the standing water line • Wakeless boating only • Ice fishing allowed 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2008</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brown Trout Cutthroat/Rainbow Hybrid</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2007</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brown Trout Rainbow Trout</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2006</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brown Trout Cutthroat/Rainbow Hybrid</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damselfly hatches start in the early summer • Target fish early and late in the day • Fish will tend to be in deeper water midday • Callibaetis hatches occur mid to late summer <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg patterns become effective, especially for rainbows • Target browns cruising shorelines <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Winter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use small jigs and flies • Find the depth fish are in



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Management Notes

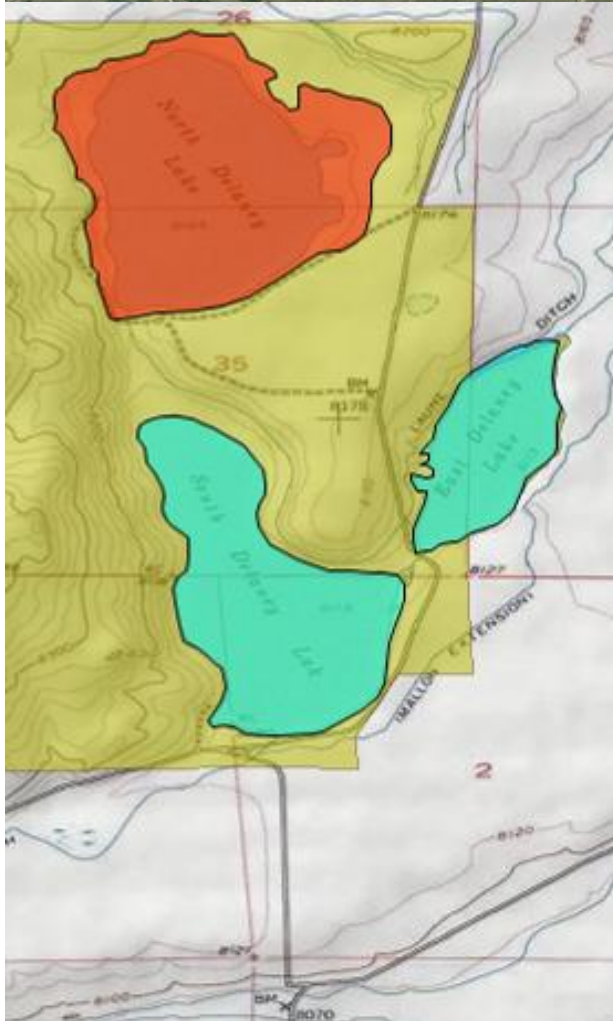


North Delaney is one of three gold medal lakes in Colorado (Spinney Reservoir and Steamboat Lake are the others). The lake is managed as a wild brown trout egg source for the entire state. Each year we take up to 1,000,000 eggs from trout in North Delaney to raise in hatcheries for stocking waters around the entire state.

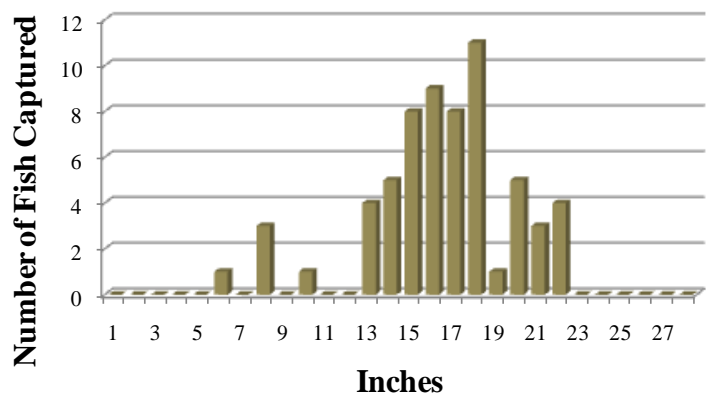
Fishing regulations are in place here to protect brown trout in their prime spawning size and age. With the high productivity in the lake, this also provides a great opportunity to catch trophy sized fish that range up to 25 inches and over 8 pounds.

North Delaney is a highly productive body of water and trout grow very quickly here. They prey on a variety of forage including crayfish, minnows, damselflies, mayflies, and chironomids. Browns comprise the majority but about 15% of stocked fish are rainbows or cuttbows. There is no significant naturally occurring reproduction in the lake.

The 2010 survey below shows a very strong age 2 year class in the 13-18 inch range. Expect a large number of these fish to push past 20 inches in the 2011 fishing season.



**Length-Frequency for Brown Trout
Electrofishing Survey 2010**





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Brown Trout Spawn



Every October the Division of Wildlife sets up a tent on the shores of North Delaney to spawn brown trout. The tent is our headquarters for the operation and keeps us out of the wind, rain, snow and sunlight while we take eggs.

The fish are collected from the lake using nets called fyke, or trap nets. As fish cruise the shore they encounter a



net that funnels fish into the opening. Here they pass through a series of hoops that allow the fish to go in, but not out. We will set around a dozen nets around the lake, focusing on the inlet and dam.



In the morning, we collect the fish from the nets by boat and bring them back to a few holding cages near the tent. Here they are sorted by male and female. Fish not ready to spawn, or already past spawning, are released back to the lake. The fish are brought up to the tent and anesthetized for a few minutes to calm them down, lower their stress level, and make it easier to strip the eggs from the females.

Inside the tent, the females are gently squeezed and the eggs are collected into a dry pan. The males are squeezed and their milt is added to the eggs. Water is added to the pan, activating the sperm in the milt. The sperm are only active for a short period of time so the pans are stirred with a feather for ninety seconds to maximize the chances of an egg becoming fertilized.



When this time is up, the eggs are rinsed repeatedly and cleaned to reduce the possibility of fungal infection. Finally they are placed into coolers and shipped to the hatcheries.