



Green Mountain Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Jon Ewert - Aquatic Biologist (Hot Sulphur Springs)

General Information: Green Mountain, a 2,125- acre storage reservoir, is operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as part of the Colorado-Big Thompson project. It provides good fishing for, lake trout, rainbow, cutbrow, and brown trout, and kokanee salmon. Boats need to pass an Aquatic Nuisance Species inspection prior to launch. To expedite this process, be sure your boat is clean, drained and dry when you arrive.

Location: Approximately 13 miles south of Kremmling, CO. Colorado Highway 9 runs along the east side of the reservoir.

Recreational Management: U.S. Forest Service, Dillon Ranger District. Forest Service user fees do apply at Green Mountain. For more information, visit: <http://www.dillonrangerdistrict.com/index.htm>

Amenities and General Info.

- Boat Ramps (1)
- Picnic Areas
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Marina

Regulations

- Standard harvest regulations for trout (4 fish daily bag/8 fish in possession) and kokanee salmon (10 fish).
- The bag and possession limit for lake trout is 8 fish. This is in addition to the normal 4-fish bag limit for other trout species.
- Snagging of kokanee salmon is permitted September 1 through December 31 in the reservoir and in the Blue River from the point it enters the reservoir going upstream to the Highway 9 bridge crossing.

Previous Stocking

2011		
Species	Size	Number
Rainbow	10"	28,000
Rainbow	4"	102,000
Snake River cutthroat	6"	20,000
Kokanee	1.5"	300,000

2010		
Species	Size	Number
Rainbow	10"	10,000
Rainbow	5"	95,000
Snake River cutthroat	5"	20,000
Kokanee	1.4"	306,000

2009		
Species	Size	Number
Rainbow	10"	39,000
Rainbow	4"	90,000
Snake River cutthroat	5"	20,000
Kokanee	2"	300,000

Sportfishing Notes

Rainbow trout

- Green Mountain offers a wide array of rainbow, rainbow/cutthroat hybrid, and Snake River cutthroat fishing.

Kokanee salmon

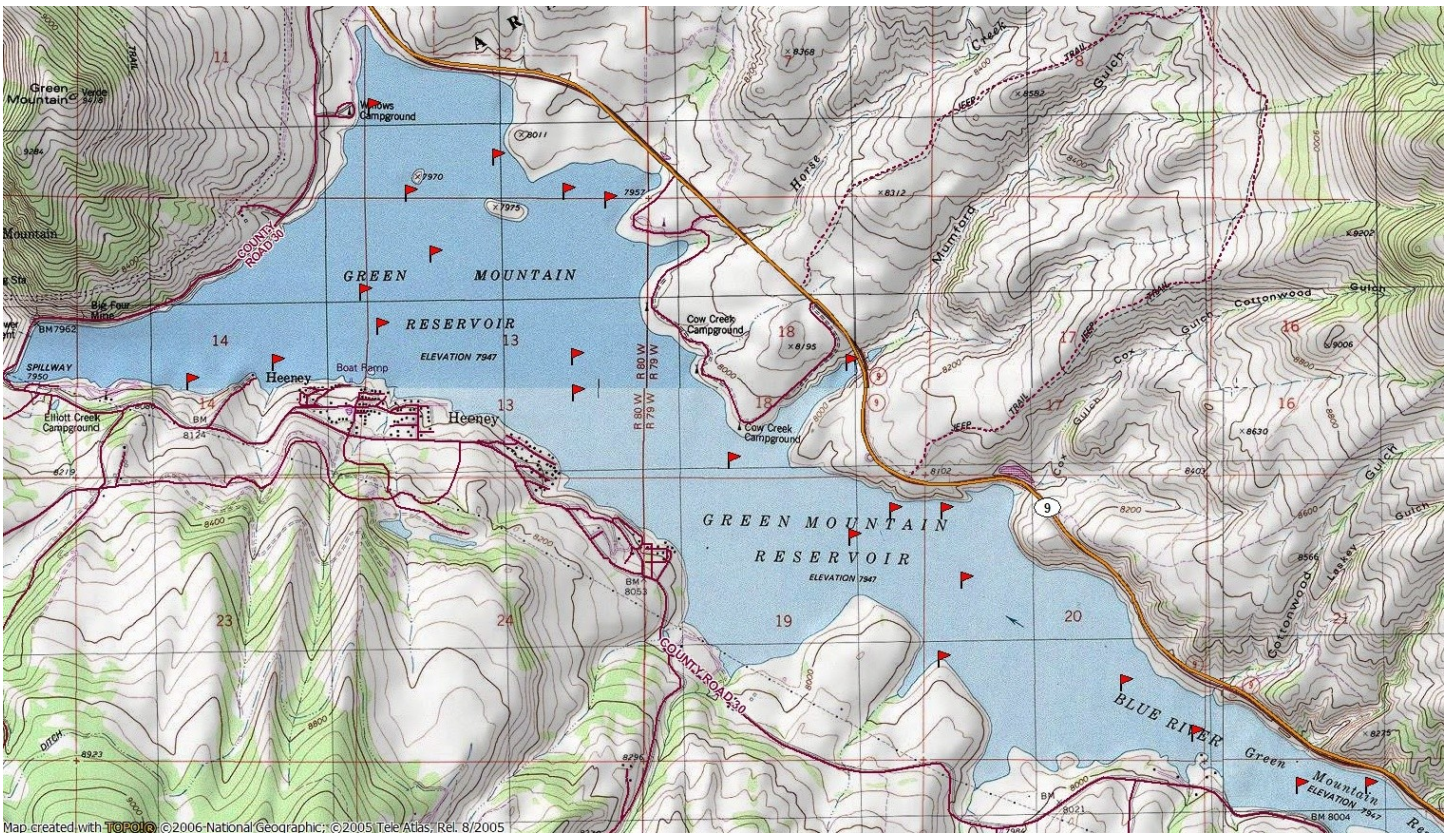
- Kokanee populations have experienced difficulty in recent years despite generous stocking of fry in the spring. Gill lice, an external parasite, have been seen in the fish beginning in 2007. This parasite is cyclical in nature and has hopefully run its course in the kokanee.

Lake trout

- Green Mountain is currently home to a large number of small lake trout. Trophies can be had as well. The small lake trout (12-16") are overabundant and in relatively poor condition. These fish need to be thinned in order to restore a better balance of populations in the reservoir. To encourage this, the bag limit on lake trout was increased in 2011 to 8 fish, which is in addition to the normal daily bag of 4 trout.

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Fish survey information
Jon Ewert, Aquatic Biologist



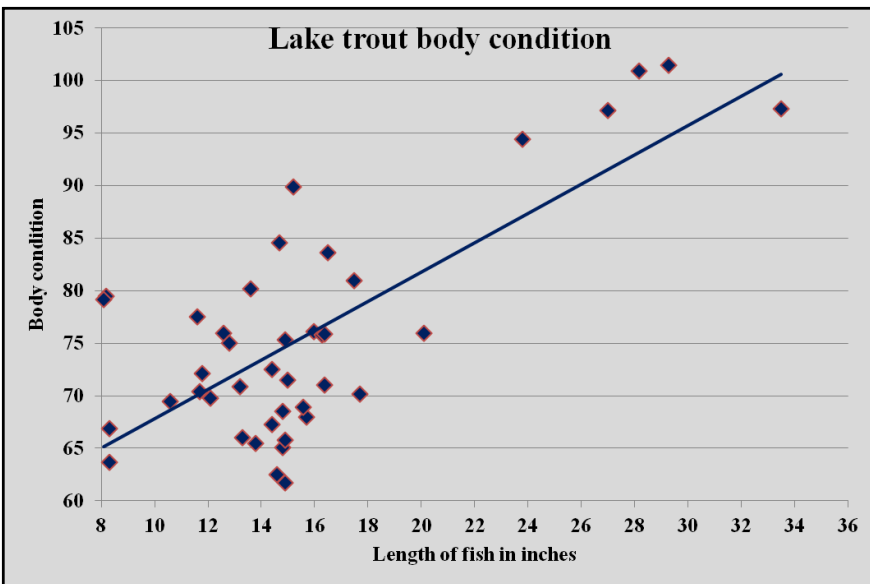
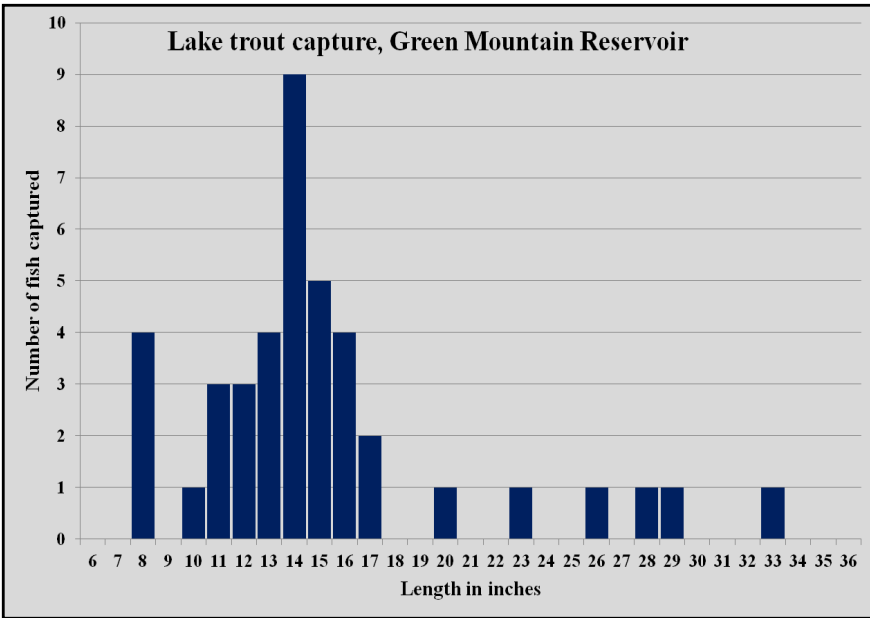
Gillnet capture

Species	Number caught	Average length (range)	Average weight (range)
Arctic char	1	15	0.93
Rainbow	8	7(6-10)	0.17 (0.1-0.4)
Brown	10	12 (9-15)	0.5 (0.2-1.0)
Lake trout	41	16 (8-34)	1.9 (0.1-16.4)
Longnose sucker	103	12 (7-14)	N/A
White sucker	107	15 (9-18)	N/A

Gillnets were set for six hours apiece in 24 randomly selected locations (above) on June 17, 20, & 21, 2011 to assess fish populations. Depth of net sets ranged from 0 (shoreline) to 187 feet, with an average of 57 feet. Average surface water temperature at netting locations was 53.4 degrees F, with a range of 52.1 to 54.5.

Results of the gillnet survey are shown in the table at left. This was the first time an arctic char has been captured in Green Mountain Reservoir. This species has been stocked annually in Dillon Reservoir since 2007, and this fish was likely a migrant which moved downstream from there.

This survey is designed mainly to monitor population trends in lake trout. Most of the net locations are away from the shoreline and in deeper water. Therefore, rainbow and brown trout are under-represented in the total catch.



A quality Green Mountain lake trout



A more typical Green Mountain harvest. The perfect size for eating.

The size distribution of the lake trout capture in the gillnets is presented at left. By far the most common size of lake trout captured was 14". Body condition of those same fish is presented in the graph below. Average body condition of lake trout smaller than 20" was 72 on a scale of 100 — somewhat poor but a slight improvement over 2010 body condition in this group, which averaged 69. This is an indicator that forage for these smaller lake trout is scarce. This is the main reason the bag limit was increased—to encourage anglers to harvest these small lake trout, thin their population, and reduce competition for forage among the fish that remain. For lake trout greater than 20", body condition averaged 95. This is an indication of prey switching occurring among the larger fish to a vertebrate forage base. However, it appears that only a small fraction of the lake trout population is successfully making this prey switch.