



# Red Dirt Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Jon Ewert - Aquatic Biologist (Hot Sulphur Springs)

**General Information:** Red Dirt Reservoir is a small (180 acres) irrigation impoundment in a remote setting.

**Location:** Approximately 13 miles northwest of Kremmling, CO.

**Recreational Management:** Routt National Forest

**Fishery Management:** Cold water species

### Amenities and General Info

- There are several primitive campsites in the vicinity of Red Dirt Reservoir. These are undeveloped in nature. Running water is not available. There is a single pit toilet.

### Regulations

- Standard harvest regulations for trout (4 fish daily bag/8 fish in possession).
- Forest Service regulations state that "internal combustion engines are prohibited," thus electric motors or hand-propelled watercraft are allowed.

### Previous Stocking

#### 2011

Species	Size	Number
Rainbow	10"	4,000
Rainbow	3"	6,000

#### 2010

Species	Size	Number
Rainbow	10"	2,000
Rainbow	3"	6,000

#### 2009

Species	Size	Number
Rainbow	10"	4,000
Rainbow	3"	6,000

### Sportfishing Notes

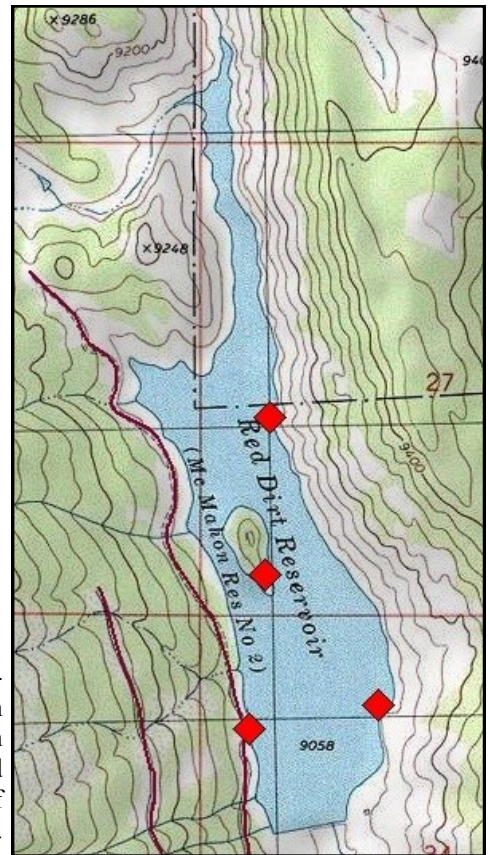
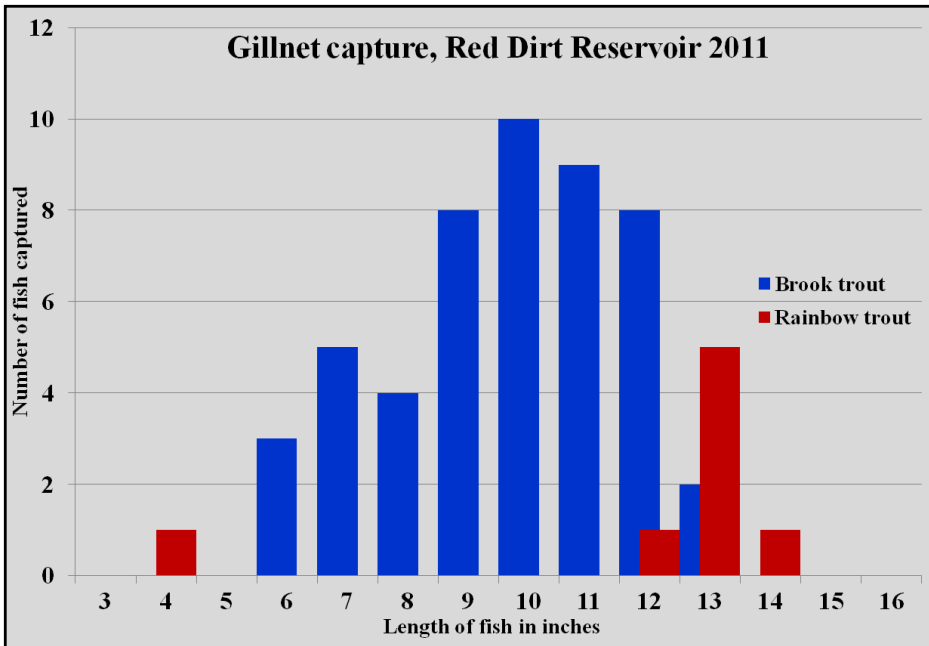
Red Dirt Reservoir is an irrigation-supply reservoir that is a good choice for anglers looking for an off-the-beaten-path destination. The lake is relatively productive and seems to grow fish well. However, because it is an irrigation supply, it is subject to drawdown in years that are drier than average. Most years, there is enough water in the reservoir for fish to overwinter well.

In addition to the stocked rainbow trout, there is a healthy population of naturally reproducing brook trout in the lake (see next page).

# Red Dirt Reservoir

gillnet survey data

Jon Ewert - aquatic biologist



We set four 75' gillnets overnight on June 27 & 28, 2011 in the locations pictured on the map at right. The size distribution of fish captured in the gillnets is shown above. At the time of this survey, no rainbow trout had been stocked in the lake yet in 2011. This gave us a good opportunity to assess overwinter survival among the stocked rainbow trout. We captured a total of 49 brook trout and 8 rainbow trout. The group of rainbows in the 13" range are likely fish that were stocked in 2010 as 10" catchables. While the numbers of these fish are low, it is encouraging to see that we do get overwinter survival and a healthy amount of growth from these fish. The one 4" rainbow that we captured was the result of the fingerling plant from 2010, which occurred on September 8. Fish this small are not effectively captured in gillnets, so the fact that we only captured one of them is not necessarily an indication that the 2010 fingerling plant was not successful. However, we have been stocking fingerlings annually, and the lack of any rainbow trout in the 7-8" range suggests that the 2009 fingerling plant was not successful. It is possible that the density of brook trout is high enough in the lake that fingerling rainbow trout have poor survival.

The figure to the right displays the relationship between fish size and body condition. The average body condition for brook trout was 92.2 (blue line). Rainbows had an average body condition of 91.5 (red line). Often in lakes this size with prolific brook trout populations, the fish tend to become stunted and exhibit poor body condition, especially at larger sizes (see Lower Cataract Lake). Anecdotal angler contact information suggests that there is a fair amount of harvest that takes place at Red Dirt Reservoir. This probably serves to keep the brook trout population in check and allows the fish that remain to maintain good body condition.

