



# Wolford Mountain Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Jon Ewert - Aquatic Biologist (Hot Sulphur Springs)

**General Information:** Wolford Mountain Reservoir, a 1550- acre storage reservoir, is owned and operated by the Colorado River Water Conservation District. It provides good fishing for rainbow and brown trout, kokanee salmon and a few other assorted species. 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. For park hours, fees, and other information: [http://www.crwcd.org/page\\_21](http://www.crwcd.org/page_21)

**Location:** Approximately 5 miles north of Kremmling, CO on US highway 40.

**Recreational Management:** Colorado River Water Conservation District (see link above)

**Fishery Management:** Cold water species

### Amenities and General Info.

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

### Regulations

- Standard harvest regulations for trout (4 fish daily bag/8 fish in possession) and kokanee salmon (10 fish).
- Snagging for kokanee salmon is not permitted.

### Previous Stocking

#### 2011

Species	Size	Number
Brown trout	1.9"	41,600
Snake River cutthroat	4.7"	10,000
Rainbow trout	3"	110,800
Rainbow trout	10"	8,000
Kokanee	2"	100,000

#### 2010

Species	Size	Number
Brown trout	3"	20,000
Snake River cutthroat	4.8"	10,000
Rainbow trout	3"	100,000
Rainbow trout	10"	11,000
Kokanee	2"	50,000

#### 2009

Species	Size	Number
Brown trout	2"	40,000
Snake River cutthroat	5"	10,000
Rainbow trout	3"	80,000
Rainbow trout	10"	15,100
Kokanee	1.5"	50,000

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Rainbow trout

- Fishing is generally good year round using traditional baits.

#### Brown trout

- Once fish reach approximately 14", the brown trout in Wolford appear to switch to feeding on mostly crayfish, which are abundant in this lake. As a result, their body condition improves as they get larger.

#### Kokanee Salmon

- Angers have been finding spawning kokanee in the fall in coves along the west side of the lake.
- Trolling in the open-water portion of the lake for kokanee during the summer has been successful in recent years.
- Post-spawn ice fishing for kokanee can be good as well.

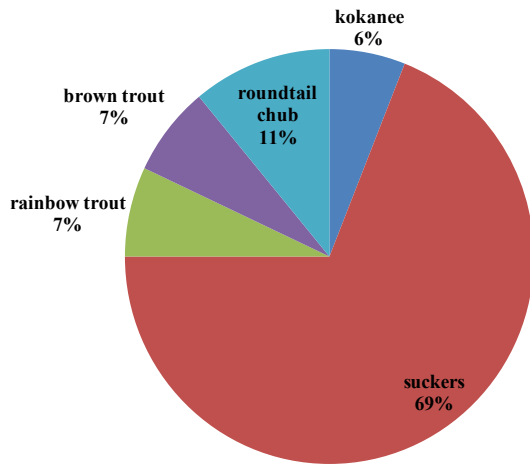
#### Northern pike

- Northern pike appear to have been illegally introduced to the lake in recent years
- The River District is offering a \$20 harvest incentive for any pike caught in the lake.

# Wolford Mountain Reservoir

Annual lake survey data  
Jon Ewert - aquatic biologist

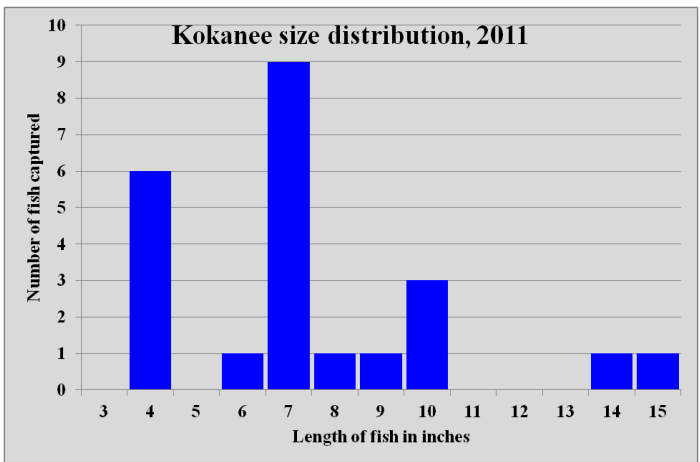
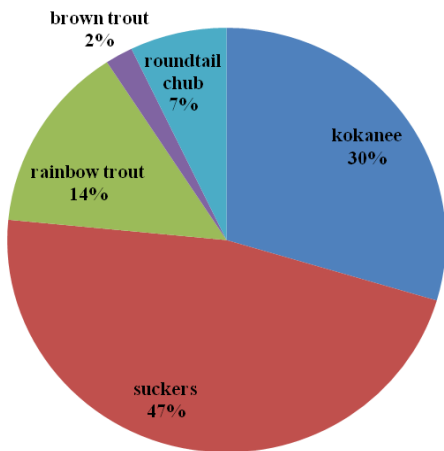
**Wolford Gillnet Catch, 2009**



The graphs on the left display the species composition of annual spring gillnet sampling in Wolford. The biggest change apparent over the past three years has been the increase in kokanee capture in the gillnet surveys beginning in 2010. Kokanee fingerlings have been stocked annually since 2006. Wolford continues to develop into one of the most productive kokanee fisheries in the state.

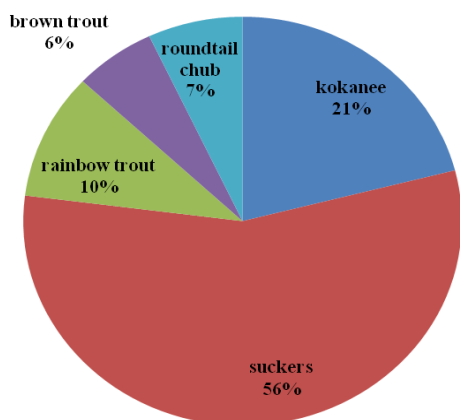
Developing a high density of brown trout in the reservoir continues to be a struggle, but the ones that are there can grow to large sizes using the abundant crayfish in the lake as forage. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked annually.

**Wolford Gillnet Catch, 2010**



A healthy number of small kokanee were captured in the gillnets for the second consecutive year in 2011. Kokanee are notoriously difficult to capture in gillnets and the appearance of this many small kokanee bodes well for the population. Summer kokanee angling was particularly good in 2011, with good catches of adult fish taken by boat anglers. Because of the promise Wolford has shown as a kokanee lake in recent years, in 2011 the number of kokanee stocked in the reservoir was increased from 50,000 to 100,000. This stocking level will be maintained for the foreseeable future, as long as the fish are available.

**Wolford Gillnet Catch, 2011**



Roundtail chub

Wolford is also home to the only known reservoir-dwelling population of roundtail chub (pictured above) in the state. This is a native species of the minnow family, with a range extending far down the Colorado River beyond the Grand Canyon. Anglers are encouraged to release roundtails caught in Wolford, so the species can continue to persist there.