



Skaguay Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Skaguay Reservoir, a 114 acre impoundment, offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout with an occasional large northern pike taken. To view map go to <http://maps.google.com/maps>

Location: Teller County. Nestled in a quant valley about 7 miles east of Victor, Colorado via Cty Rd 861.

Recreational Management: Colorado Division of Wildlife (719-530-5520).

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling for rainbow and brown trout, and northern pike.

Detailed Fishery Information: See additional pages. **Note:** This lake was not surveyed in 2010.

Amenities and General Info.

- CDOW State Wildlife Area
- Boat ramp (1) with rest-room
- Primitive camping allowed, no hook-ups, pack out your trash
- Wakeless boating only

Regulations

- No bag or possession limit for northern pike
- Statewide bag and possession limits apply for other species (see CDOW Fishery Brochure).

Previous Stocking

2010

Rainbow Trout
Cutthroat Trout

2009

Rainbow Trout
Cutthroat Trout

2008

Rainbow Trout

2007

Rainbow Trout

WARNING!!!
Prevent the Spread of Zebra
Mussels and other Aquatic
Nuisance Species
• Clean, drain, and dry your
boat after each use.

Sportfishing Notes

Trout

- Good fishing for trout that average 12 inches and range in size from 10-14 inches. Catchable (10+ inch) trout are stocked from May through September. Brown trout have become more prevalent in recent years, comprising 27% of the total catch and reaching lengths over 14 inches.

Northern Pike

- Though scarce, this reservoir supports a population of northern pike that average 24 inches with fish exceeding 40 inches in length. Anglers are encouraged to catch and harvest these toothy predators. This will help to minimize trout predation while maximizing northern pike growth (more food for fewer fish).



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2009 LAKE SURVEY DATA

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2009 Gillnetting Survey

Fall 2009 Survey Species	#Caught	Average Length and (Range) in Inches	Average Weight (lbs.)
Brown Trout	22	11.1 (6.6-14.3)	0.5
Rainbow Trout	47	12.3 (9.4-14.2)	0.7
Northern Pike	12	23.7 (12.0-41.3)	5.1



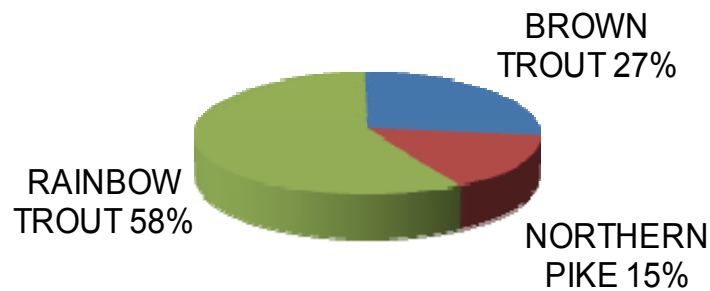
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2009 LAKE SURVEY DATA

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Percent Relative Abundance



LENGTH IN INCHES

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30+	T
BROWN TROUT							1		1	3	7	9		1																	22
RAINBOW TROUT									1		7	18	17	4																	47
NORTHERN PIKE											1	2	1					1			1					1	2	3		12	



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2011 FISHING FORECAST

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This lake should be full in 2011. Catchable trout are stocked throughout the summer providing good action for anglers. They range in size from 10-14 inches. Brown trout have become more prevalent in recent years, reaching lengths over 14 inches. Though scarce, this reservoir supports a population of northern pike that average 24 inches with fish exceeding 40 inches in length. There is no limit on northern pike. Anglers are encouraged to catch and harvest these toothy predators. This will help to minimize trout predation while maximizing northern pike growth (more food for fewer fish). The inlet area offers the best habitat for northern pike. Angler facilities are good at Skaguay Reservoir and include a concrete boat ramp, parking, and restrooms. Wakeless boating is required. Beaver Creek below the reservoir offers good brown trout fishing for the stream fishing enthusiast.





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MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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The sportfish population has changed little since 1981 with one exception. Numerous brown trout of various sizes were collected in 2009. There is no record of their stocking. Evidently, they moved downstream from Beaver Creek. Northern pike density has increased moderately since 1994, but remains low. There are quality-sized northern pike present. Northern pike over 40 inches are consistently captured during gill net surveys. Spawning habitat for northern pike (flooded terrestrial vegetation) is abundant in Skaguay Reservoir. Reproductive success is probably good, however survival and recruitment is likely poor. Trout and sucker density is also low. Sucker numbers have continuously dropped since 1981 in fact, none have been collected since 1999, likely a result of northern pike predation. Trout stocking was extremely low in 2002 (drought year and associated water level concerns) and well below average in 2003 (poor availability). Total fish abundance was extremely low in 2003 (5.3 per net-night). Stocking has been near normal since 2005. Trout gill net catch responded accordingly. Trout abundance is a function of stocking rate and non-stocked fish abundance (northern pike and suckers) is directly related to lack of available or useable habitat. Skaguay Reservoir becomes anoxic in the summer (extremely low oxygen) forcing fish to inhabit the upper 4 meters of the lake. Competition and predation also result in a high mortality rate for all species, including predation of northern pike by their own kind.



In cold water lake habitats, where trout are the primary species being managed for, a low density pike population is preferred. Over-populated pike fisheries can decimate a trout fishery. Habitat conditions and prey abundance determine pike survival. The unique habitat/fishery balance at Skaguay Reservoir should not be disrupted, even though fish abundance is low. Rainbow trout catch rate is probably satisfactory in years where sufficient numbers can be stocked but no more than 250/acre (30000 fish) should be planted. Increased trout stocking, of any size, could artificially enhance northern pike survival in the reservoir by providing more food for northern pike. If their numbers increased, the present predator/prey balance would be disrupted. Because northern pike prefer rainbow trout for food, sucker abundance may rise as well with increased rainbow trout stocking. The result would be an unbalanced fishery favoring northern pike and suckers. Trout mortality would continually raise forcing more to be stocked to try to maintain angler satisfaction.