



Twin Lakes Reservoirs

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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General Information: Twin Lakes Reservoirs have a combined surface area of 2700 acres. They offer good fishing for brown, rainbow, and cutthroat trout with trophy lake trout potential. The reservoir has excellent amenities and is nestled at the base of Mt. Elbert and the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area. To view map go to <http://maps.google.com/maps>

Location: Chaffee County. Located at the mouth of Lake Creek northwest of Granite, Colorado.

Recreational Management: Colorado Division of Wildlife (719-530-5520) and USFS (719-486-0749).

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling for brown, rainbow, cutthroat and lake trout.

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

Amenities and General Info.

- Boat Ramps (2)
- Picnic Areas (1)
- Campgrounds (3)
- Restrooms at most sites
- Trail around most of lake
- Abundant fishing access

Regulations

- The bag and possession limit for lake trout is 1. Lake trout 22-34 inches long must be returned to the water immediately.
- Statewide bag and possession limits apply for other species (see CDOW Fishery Brochure).

WARNING!!!

**Prevent the Spread of Zebra
Mussels and other Aquatic
Nuisance Species**

- **Clean, drain, and dry your boat after each use.**
- **Twin Lakes Reservoirs require mandatory inspections before launching.**

Previous Stocking

2010

Rainbow Trout
Snakeriver Cutthroat Trout
Cutbow trout

2009

Rainbow Trout
Snakeriver Cutthroat Trout
Lake Trout

2008

Rainbow Trout
Snakeriver Cutthroat Trout
Lake Trout

2007

Rainbow Trout
Snakeriver Cutthroat Trout
Lake Trout

Sportfishing Notes

Rainbow/Cutthroat Trout

- Trout action has picked up in recent years. They average 12 inches with fish up to 20 inches taken. Catchable (10+ inch) are stocked from June through September.

Lake Trout

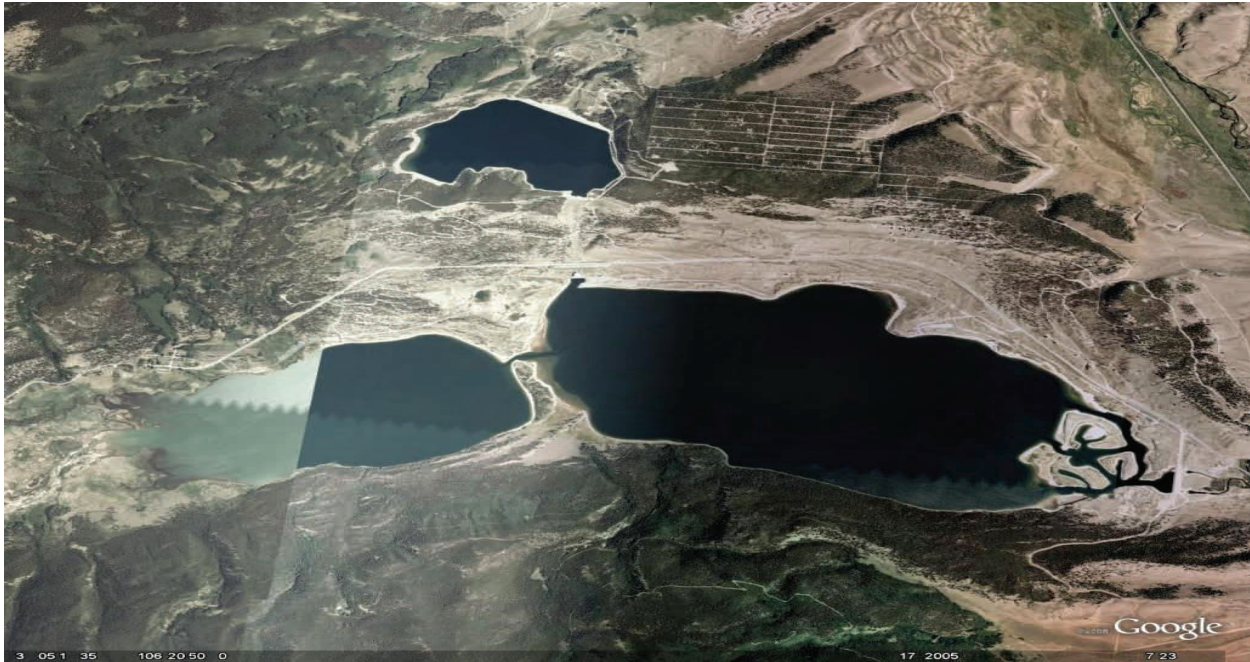
- Lake trout average 20 inches with fish approaching 40 inches more common in recent years. Some of the best action can be found casting large Rapallas at ice-out near the hydropower plant or where the upper lake enters the lower lake. Fishing from a boat with downriggers in the summer using lures or deep water jigs tipped with sucker meat works well. Ice angling is popular in the winter using jigs tipped with sucker meat.



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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.)
Longnose Sucker	12	9.0 (7.4-12.5)	0.4
Brown Trout	2	12.9 (12.6-13.2)	0.9
Lake Trout	56	20.2 (8.4-37.0)	4.9
Rainbow Trout	192	11.4 (3.0-20.7)	0.6
Snakeriver Cutthroat	6	11.8 (10.4-13.0)	0.5
White Sucker	161	15.5 (9.1-18.3)	1.4



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2011 FISHING FORECAST

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Twin Lakes were historically known for trophy lake trout, and although that reputation diminished in the 1990's that fishery is on its way back. Lake trout average 20 inches, but large lake trout approaching 40 inches have been more common in recent years. Some of the best action can be found at ice-out near the hydropower plant or where the upper lake enters the lower lake. Casting large Rapallas seems to work best. Fishing from a boat with downriggers produces the best catch as the summer progresses and mackinaw have moved to deeper water. Lures or deep water jigging with tube jigs tipped with sucker meat also works well at this time. Ice angling is popular in the winter using jigs tipped with sucker meat. Trout action has picked up in recent years and is consistent from ice-out well into the fall. They average 12 inches in early summer with a maximum size of nearly 20 inches. Catchable rainbow and Snake River cutthroat trout are stocked from early June through September. Twin Lakes offer good fishing in an exceptional mountain setting and are serviced by two concrete boat ramps (one in the upper lake and one in the lower) and two campgrounds. Water level should be normal in 2011 and fishing should be good. A watercraft inspection program was initiated at this reservoir in 2009, was expanded in 2010 and will continue in 2011. For a 2011 inspection schedule go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/MandatoryBoatInspections.htm>





Twin lakes Reservoirs MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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Twin Lakes Reservoirs are part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas water development project, which delivers large volumes of water from the west to the east slope of Colorado. A pump-back hydropower facility operates on the lower lake. Twin Lakes fluctuates considerably and experiences a high flushing rate. These reservoir operations appear to be adversely affecting the aquatic ecosystem. Primary and secondary production is relatively low in Twin Lakes resulting in limited food supplies for fish species from the base of the food chain all the way up to lake trout. Based on current conditions in Twin Lakes Reservoirs, the opportunity to manage the lakes for a lake trout sport fishery are limited both by reduction in carrying capacity of the ecosystem and constant disruption of the environmental factors that would contribute to increased productivity, i.e., non-fluctuating water surface elevation, less induced mixing of the euphotic zone, or increased hydraulic residence time.

Most lake trout are less than 22 inches long but several were collected over 30 inches in 2009. Fewer were collected in the upper lake but with a higher proportion reaching memorable to trophy size. Lake trout under 30 inches were thin for their length but individuals over 30 inches long were in good condition.

Trout gill net catch is closely tied to catchable stocking. Catch of fish longer than 12 inches has improved in recent years. Rainbow trout comprise 97% of the total



catch, demonstrating their importance to the fishery. An average of 70% of anglers at both lakes rated their overall satisfaction with the fishery as satisfied or very satisfied in 2006.