



# Miramonte Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Dan Kowalski, Fish Biologist  
Montrose Service Center

**General Information:** Miramonte Reservoir provides quality fishing for rainbow and brown trout. This reservoir, located on Dan Noble Sate Wildlife Area, covers 405 surface acres at full capacity and is open year round to angling. Trapping crayfish is also very popular at this productive reservoir.

**Location:** From Norwood, go 1.5 miles east on Hwy 145 to USFS Rd 610 (Dolores-Norwood Rd); then 17 miles south to reservoir.

**Primary Management:** Coldwater Optimum Management Category 405 (Put and Grow)

### Amenities

- Boat Ramps (2)
- Campground
- Restrooms
- Parking Areas
- Docks
- Bird Watching Areas

### **WARNING !!!**

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

- Clean, drain, and dry your boat after each use.
- Adult mussels can attach to any surface and can live several days out of water in moist, shaded areas. Microscopic mussel larvae, known as veligers, can be transferred in water contained in live wells, bilge, ballast tanks or minnow buckets

### Previous Stocking

#### 2009

Rainbow Trout: 56,184

Brown Trout: 15,018

#### 2008

Rainbow Trout: 59,668

Brown Trout: 11,699

#### 2007

Rainbow Trout: 49,999

Brown Trout: 10,740

#### 2006

Rainbow Trout: 85,000

Brown Trout: 19,996

Snake River Cutthroat: 17,938

#### 2005

Rainbow Trout: 79,997

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Rainbow Trout

- Good spots include Barnes Point, the south shore, and both boat ramp coves
- Best fishing times include from ice out to late June and the first month after ice up. During warmer months, trolling from a boat is effective
- Good baits include black wooly buggers, beadhead nymphs, crawfish imitations, Mepps spinners, and worms

#### Brown Trout

- Good spots include both boat ramp coves
- Best fishing times include ice out and early October to ice up
- Fishing is best in early evening and at night
- Good baits include streamers, crawfish imitations, marabou jigs, and minnow imitations

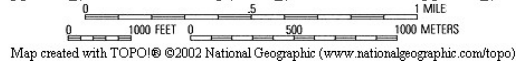
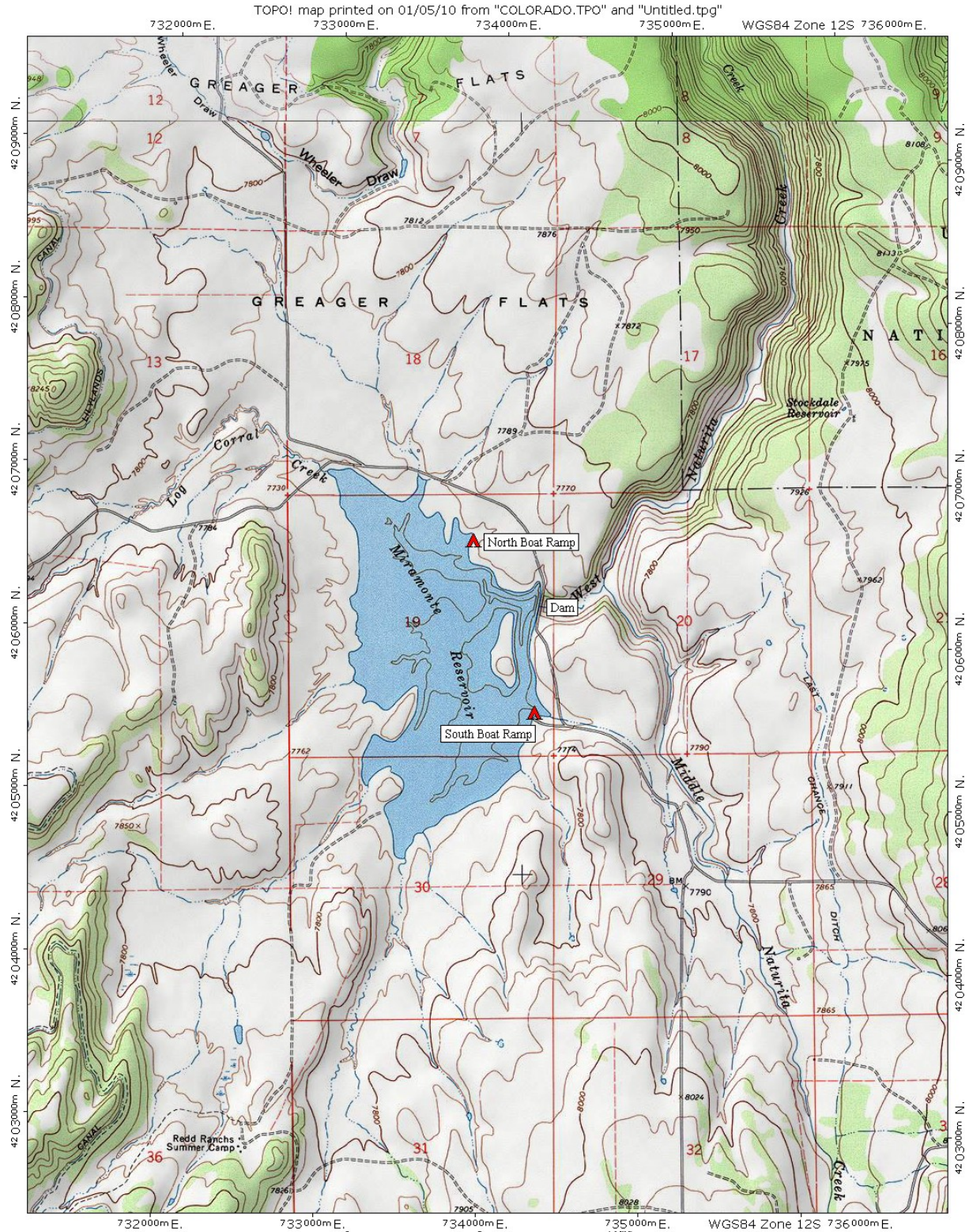


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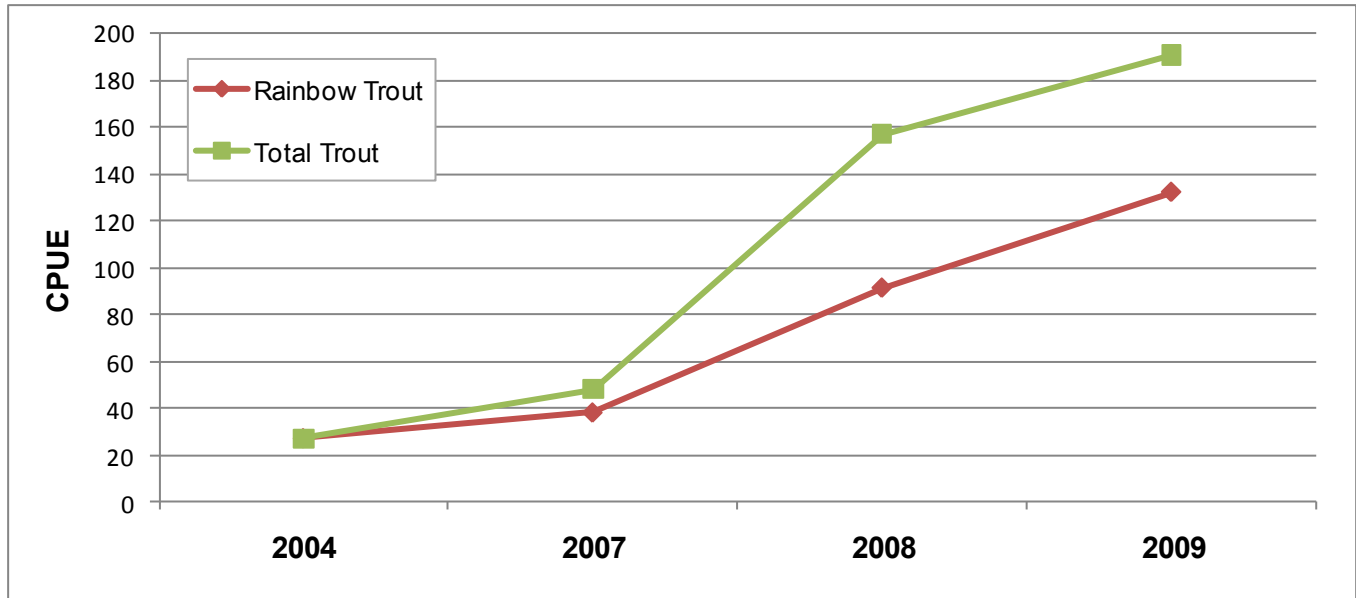


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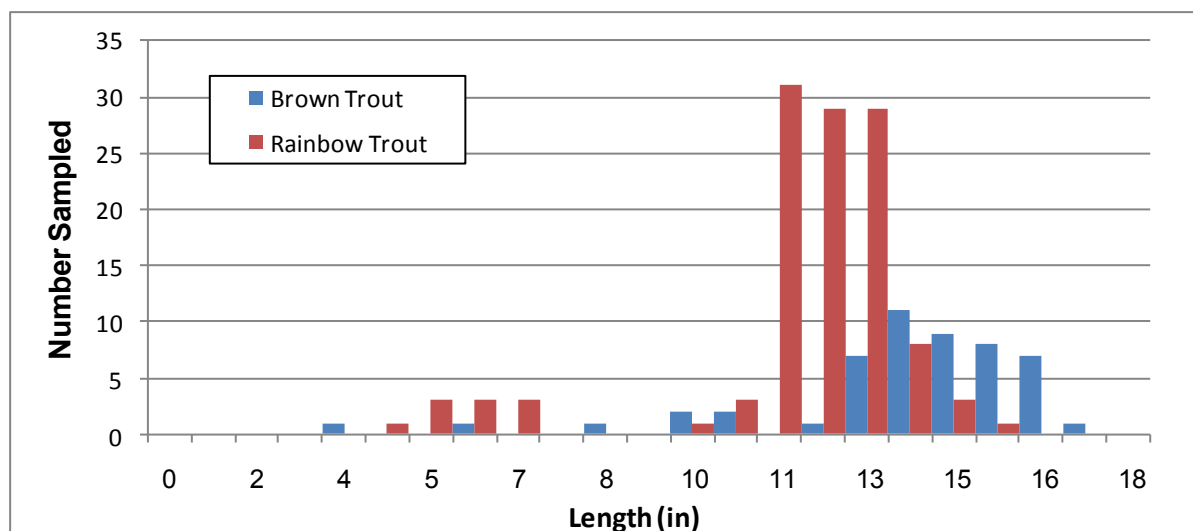


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**FISH SURVEY DATA**  
**Dan Kowalski, Fish Biologist**  
**Montrose Service Center**



**Figure 1.** Electrofishing catch per unit effort (fish per hr) for trout in Miramonte Reservoir 2004-2009. Drought and whirling disease impacts reduced numbers of rainbow trout 2002-2007, but fish populations have rebounded well and there are more total trout in Miramonte than in any previous sampling. Brown trout, which were introduced into the reservoir in 2006, have grown and survived well and now provide a new opportunity for anglers.

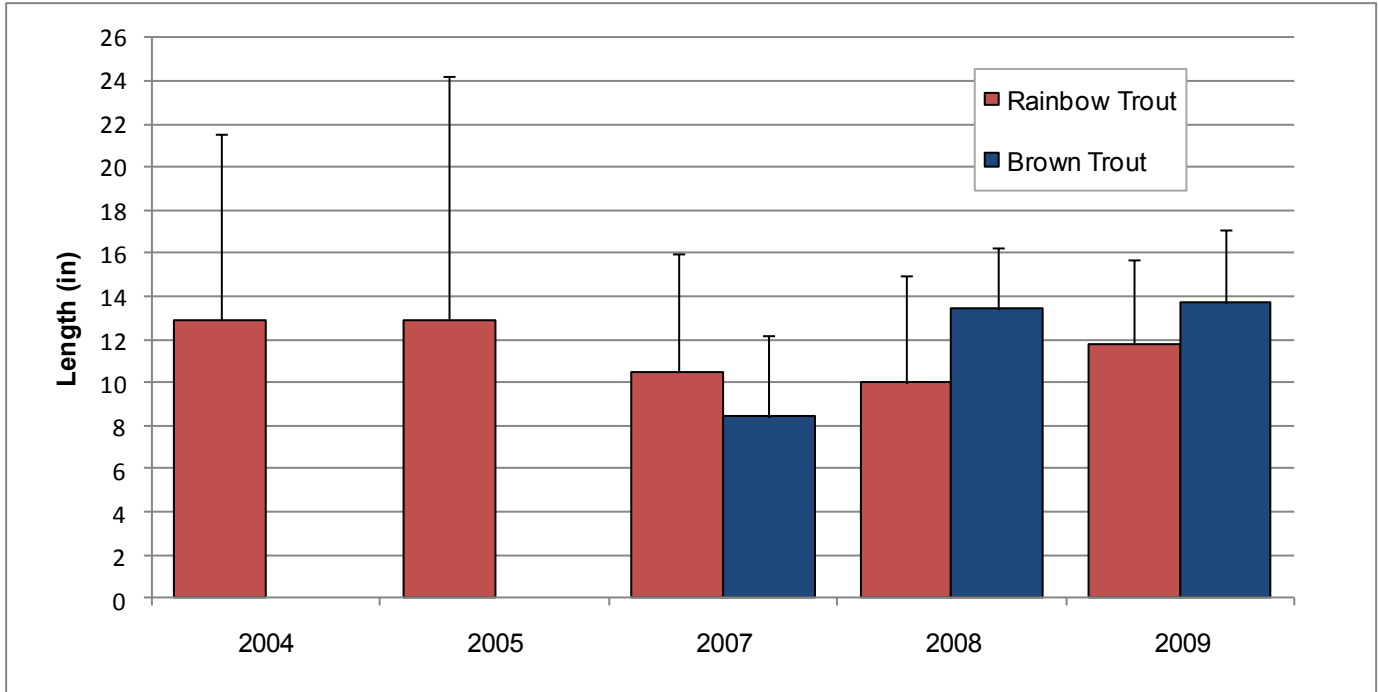


**Figure 2.** Length frequency histogram for rainbow and brown trout sampled in Miramonte Reservoir in 2009. There were four age classes of brown trout in the reservoir in 2009 and two age classes of rainbows. Generally, rainbow trout are stocked as fingerlings in May and reach catchable size (10-15 in) by their second summer in the reservoir when the majority of them are harvested by anglers, very few rainbows survive until their 3rd year in the reservoir.



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**Figure 3.** Mean length for rainbow and brown trout in Miramonte 2004-2008. The upper error bars are the maximum length for each species sampled that year. As rainbow trout numbers have increased, the average size and maximum size has decreased.



## Management Summary

Trout populations at Miramonte are doing very well and recent sampling indicates the rainbow population has rebounded well from some low numbers 2002-2007. In 2009 anglers found excellent numbers of 12 to 15 inch rainbows. There are fewer large (> 5 lbs.) rainbows than a few years ago, but the catch rates are higher. The brown trout introduced into the reservoir in 2006 are growing well and they currently make up about 31% of the sport fish in the reservoir. The browns appear to be utilizing the abundant crayfish and minnow forage and body conditions and growth rates are very good. They should be providing anglers with good opportunity at trophy fish in the near future.