



# Taylor Park Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

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**General Information:** Taylor Park Reservoir is a 2000 surface acre reservoir providing good opportunities for catching rainbow, brown, and lake trout as well as northern pike.

**Location:** Gunnison County. Taylor Reservoir is located 29 miles northeast of Gunnison. Take Hwy 135 north towards Crested Butte for 9 miles, then right at Almont 20 miles up the Taylor River Road. The reservoir can also be accessed over Cottonwood Pass from Buena Vista by car (summer) or snowmobile (winter).

**Recreational Management:** US Forest Service

**Fishery Management:** Coldwater angling managed for trophy lake trout and also stocked with catchable rainbow trout.

### Amenities

- Taylor Reservoir can be accessed by boaters from one marina and paved boat ramp as well as several additional access points
- Campground facilities and restrooms are available at several locations.

### **WARNING!!!**

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

- **Clean, drain, and dry your boat after each use.**
- Find additional local fishing info and a list of fishing guides at: **Gunnison - Crested Butte/Activities**

### Regulations

Bag and possession for lake trout is 3 fish. Only 1 can be longer than 26 inches.

Gaffs and tail snares prohibited.

Kokanee snagging permitted September 1-December 31

Bag and possession for kokanee is 10 fish

Bag limit for cutthroat, brook, brown, and rainbow trout is 4 fish with possession limits of 8 fish

### Previous Stocking

#### **2009**

58,000 catchable rainbow trout stocked

37,000 sub-catchable rainbow trout stocked

#### **2008**

62,000 catchable rainbow trout stocked

360,000 fingerling kokanee stocked

### Sportfishing Notes

#### **Rainbow Trout**

- Make up about 80 percent of angler catch. Rainbows are stocked as catchables. Look for some excellent fishing right after ice-off for overwintered rainbows

#### **Lake Trout**

- Lake trout provide opportunity for anglers to catch truly trophy proportioned trout, but lake trout fishing here is often overshadowed by the more productive and larger Blue Mesa Reservoir downstream.

#### **Brown Trout**

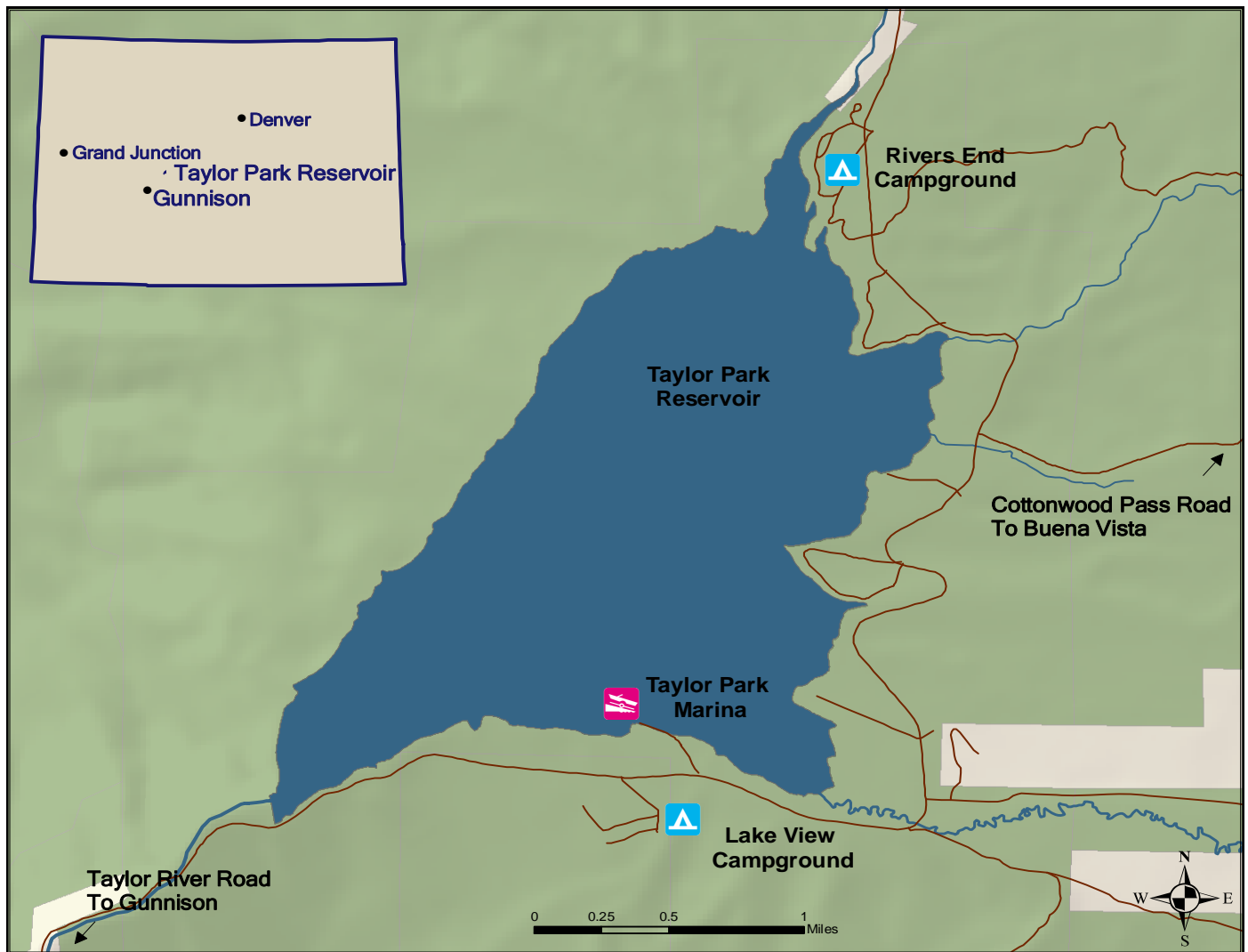
- Naturally reproducing brown trout make up a very small part of the overall catch

#### **Kokanee Salmon**

- Kokanee are stocked primarily to maintain a forage base for trophy lake trout, but do provide some opportunity for boat anglers and late season kokanee snagging (look near the dam)

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## MAP AND FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



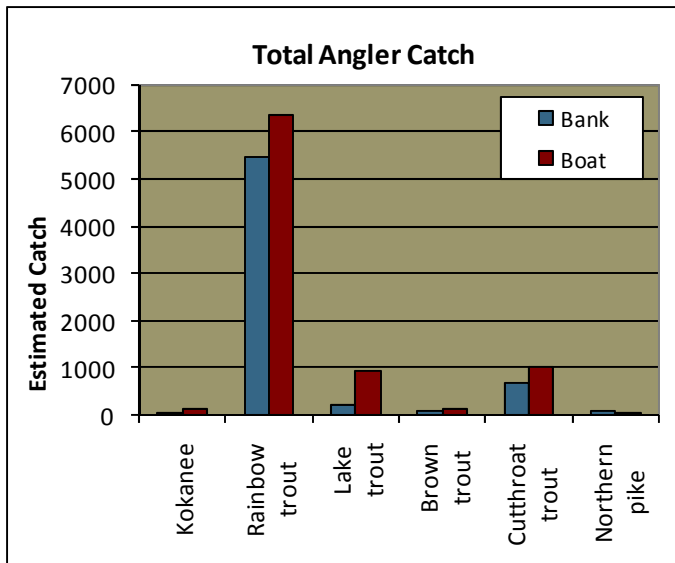
**Figure 1.** View of Taylor Park Reservoir from the Taylor Park Marina.

**Table 1.** Shoreline electrofishing results from shoreline areas, June 2008. Electrofishing was completed with boat electrofisher at night (to improve capture rates) to assess northern pike and trout distribution. Northern pike were stocked in 1973 and are now a naturally reproducing population, providing a unique opportunity for anglers in this high elevation reservoir.

Fish Species (listed in order of abundance)	# Caught	Average Length (Range) in inches	Average Weight in pounds
Northern pike	31	17.3 (7.2-31.3)	1.32
Rainbow trout	27	13.3 (9-16.8)	1.1
Brown trout	7	11 (4.5-20.6)	1.8 (1 yr old and older)
Kokanee	1	13	0.76
Lake trout	1	20.4	2.66

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## ANGLER CREEL SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION



**Figure 2.** Taylor Reservoir angler creel survey data from July and August, 1998 showing total estimated angler catch by species.

Species	Catch per hour	Size (inches)
Kokanee	0.002	12.9
Rainbow trout	0.236	12.4
Lake Trout	0.023	16.2
Brown trout	0.004	13.1
Cutthroat trout	0.033	13.6
Northern pike	0.002	23.8

**Table 2.** Taylor Reservoir angler creel survey data from July and August 1998 showing angler catch per hour by species and average length of harvested fish.

**Management Notes** — Taylor Reservoir provides a great fishing experience in the very picturesque Taylor Park, a high elevation basin surrounded by towering peaks. Taylor Reservoir is managed as a put and take rainbow trout fishery and a trophy lake trout fishery. Northern pike also provide some more diverse fishing opportunities and the chance to catch a trophy fish, particularly in the early summer time period. Kokanee are stocked to provide a forage base for trophy lake trout, but can provide additional opportunity for anglers who choose to target them. Mysis shrimp were introduced into the reservoir in the 1970's to provide an improved forage base for trout. This introduction did not meet its goals for the reservoir, as is the case at many places where mysis were introduced, due to the fact

that mysis feed on zooplankton prey during nighttime hours and then migrate to deeper portions of the reservoir during daylight hours—the time that trout would be most effective at preying on them. Because of this, Taylor Reservoir is recommended to be managed to maintain a thermal barrier to limit mysis exploitation of zooplankton, and, in turn, provide a zooplankton prey base for kokanee and small trout.



**Figure 3.** View of Taylor Park Reservoir looking north from the Taylor Park Marina