

Using This Guide

This fishing guide is intended to be used with the 2008 Flathead National Forest Visitors Map (USDA Forest Service) which can be purchased at the Supervisor's Office at 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, Montana, and at area Ranger Stations. The map shows land ownership by color, road number referred to in this guide and Section/Township/Range numbers used to locate lakes and streams as explained below. Other maps which may be helpful are the Swan Lake Ranger District Map, the current Open Road Map, and the Mission Mountains Wilderness Map available at the Swan Lake Ranger Station in Bigfork.

This fishing guide consists of four sections: Mountain Lakes, Valley Lakes, Tributary Streams and the Swan River. Fishing opportunities vary from worm dunkin' in small creeks to fly fishing in open river stretches, to trolling in lakes.

Two native game fishes may be of special interest to visiting anglers. Westslope cutthroat trout are found in many tributary streams, mountain lakes and the Swan River. Large bull trout from Swan Lake run up the Swan River system to spawn in tributary streams, most of which are closed to fishing; they may exceed 24 inches in length and weigh over 10 pounds.

Regulations

Anglers should acquaint themselves with the current fishing regulations for the Swan drainage established by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission. Please note special regulations pertaining to the Swan river and tributaries which are closed to the taking of bull trout. Fishing for bull trout is limited to Swan Lake only. Anglers are required to release all bull trout incidentally caught in all other waters. Efforts should be made to play fish quickly, not to exhaustion, and release fish without removing them from water. Other important regulations include: no fishing is allowed within a 150 yard radius of the Woodward Creek mouth from June 1 through September 30. The reach of river from Piper Creek Bridge to Swan Lake is catch and release for westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout.

Lake trout were first documented in the Swan Valley in 1998 and pose a considerable threat to native bull trout. Anglers are encouraged to keep lake trout caught in Swan Lake and Lindbergh Lake and in the Swan river. The daily limit for lake trout is ten fish. Anglers should be proficient in fish identification, as bull trout and lake trout can sometimes be mistakenly identified.

Copies of the regulations are available at stores selling

fishing licenses and at the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Office in Kalispell (490 N. Meridian Road). Visitors are reminded to seek permission to access fishing waters bounded by private land.

Using the Forest Visitors Map

Locations of fishing waters are described by a grid system using two major coordinates which appear on the borders of the Forest Visitors Map. Township designations run south to north while Range designations run east to west. A pair of Township and Range designations locates a block of 36 Sections arranged in six rows and six columns. Sections are numbered in continuous sequence from the northeast corner to the southeast corner of the block. The Sections are numbered and outlined on the map and are typically one square mile.

For instance, to locate a lake at T. 23N, R. 18W, S. 29 find the T. 23N indicator at the left or right margin of the map and the R. 18W indicator at the top or bottom. Run an imaginary line into the map along those two coordinates until they intersect in a block of 36 Sections. Then locate Section 29.

Mountain Lakes

Many mountain lakes are ice bound until mid-June or early July. Trails to some may not be cleared until mid-summer or later. Inquire at Swan Lake Ranger Station about high country conditions.

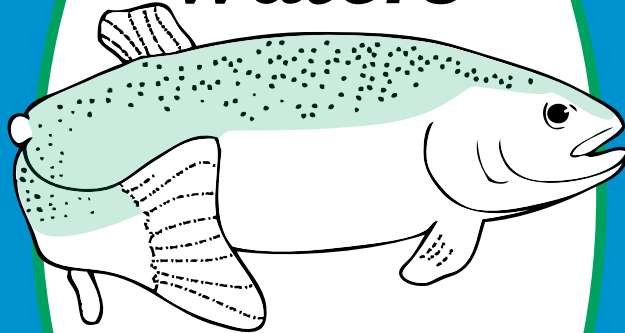
Visitors should be prepared for biting insects and unpredictable weather. Anglers are reminded that this is bear country and appropriate precautions are recommended.

Remember that mountain lake habitats are extremely sensitive to human disturbance and they recover slowly. Avoid trampling vegetation, cutting trees, leaving fire rings, camping on the shoreline and littering.

Whenever possible, clean your catch at home or pack out entrails of fish cleaned on site. On extended back country trips, entrails may be disposed of by throwing them out into deep water away from human use areas after breaking the air bladder. Burning or burying fish scraps invites bear trouble.

Mountain lakes may have perimeters that are brushy or steep with limited shoreline casting spots. Lakes without maintained trail access may require additional maps and route finding skills. Fishless lakes are not listed here. Other lakes are not listed because of their remoteness or access difficulty. Lakes in the Jewel Basin Hiking Area are listed in a separate brochure.

Fishing Waters



of the Swan Valley

A guide to mountain and valley lakes, tributary streams and the Swan River with information about locations, fish species, elevations, how to get there and some helpful comments.

Presented as a cooperative effort of the
Flathead National Forest, and the
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks



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Swan River

The Swan River originates in the Mission Mountain and the Swan Range and flows north to Flathead Lake at Bigfork. Boating on the river is risky during the spring runoff period when the water is high. There are no developed boat access sites upstream from Swan Lake although carry-on launching is possible at some of the road crossings indicated on the above map. By summer, much of the river is wadable if care is not taken to avoid fast runs and deep pools. The majority of bottomland along the Swan River is private land. However, fishermen may access the river at points indicated on the map and fish anywhere along the stream banks below the high water mark.

For discussion purposes, the river has been divided into four sections.

A. Between Swan Lake and Flathead Lake - Bigfork 6 to South Ferndale Dr. 1 The river from Electric Avenue Bridge up to Bigfork Dam contains a one-mile stretch of extreme whitewater that is popular with kayakers in the spring. Class V water exists and floating is not recommended for canoes or novices. The fishing is good for rainbow and cutthroat trout as well as occasional lake trout from Flathead Lake in the pools and runs that end below Bigfork Dam. Above Bigfork Dam to Wolf Creek, the river is quiet and meandering and northern pike and some trout may be caught from small boats. Bank fishing is not recommended due to access limitations. The river from Swan Lake down to Wolf Creek is a relatively large water floatable by experienced canoeists and rafters and wadable along the margins. Most adjacent land is private property. Rainbow and cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish are present but numbers tend to be low during the summer in this section due to warm water outflows from Swan Lake.

B. Lower Section - Porcupine Cr Rd 10 to Piper Cr Rd 7 The lower section of Swan River contains the greatest diversity with respect to depth, cover and water volume. Stream banks are fairly open after spring high water and there is some channel splitting. Experienced canoeists and rafters navigate this section, but caution must be exercised due to fallen trees and log jams. Catch and release regulations for rainbow and cutthroat trout apply from Swan Lake up to Piper Creek Bridge (see fishing regs).

C. Middle Section - Piper Cr Rd 10 to Condon 13 This section is characterized by smaller flows, a diversity of channel conditions and pools formed behind log jams and fallen trees. Good sized rainbow trout are common along with bull,

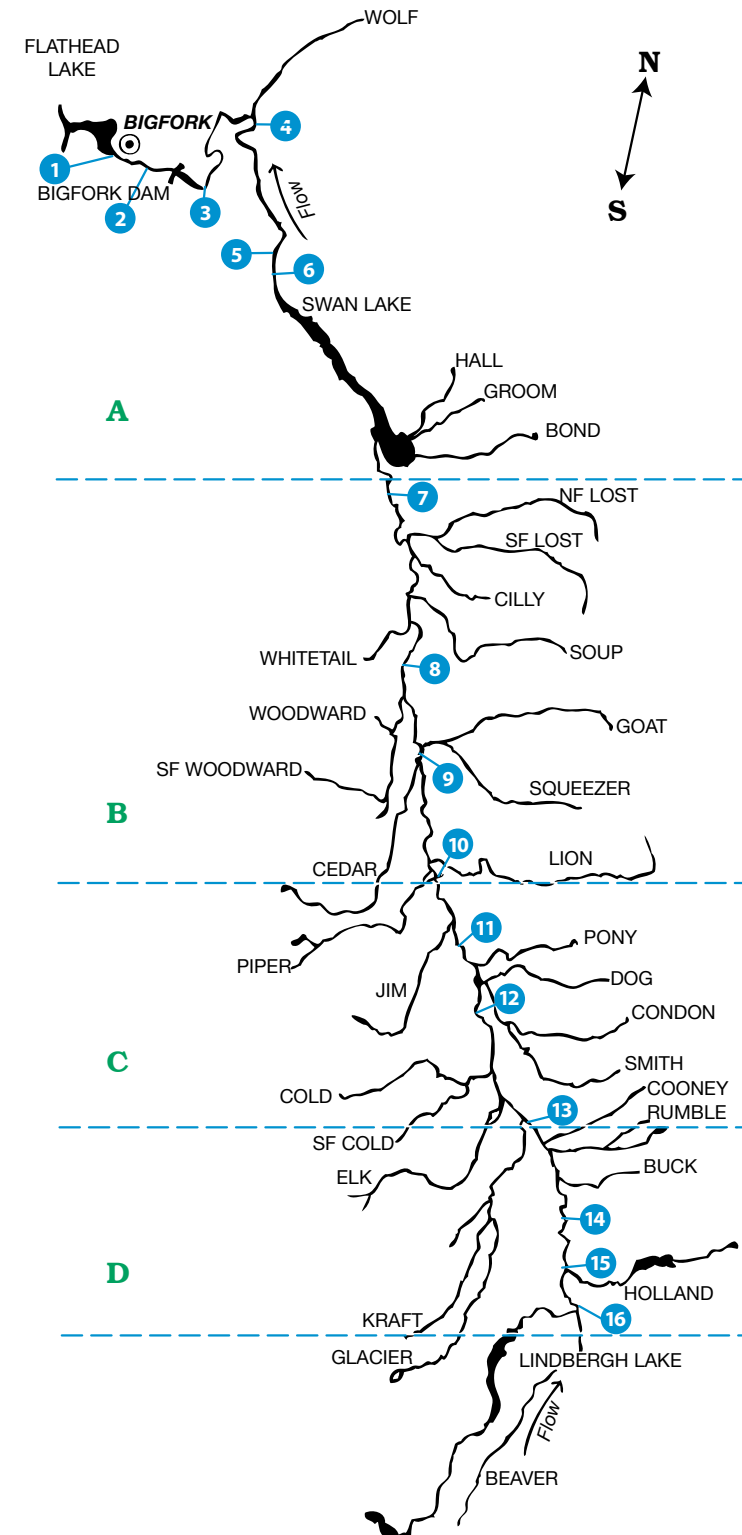
cutthroat and brook trout and abundant mountain whitefish. Log jams hamper floating above Cold Creek and skilled rafting is recommended only below this point. General stream regulations apply upstream from Piper Creek bridge (see fishing regs).

D. Upper Section - Condon 13 to Lindbergh Lk Rd 16 The upper river is relatively shallow and wadable, containing numerous riffles and runs. Water temperatures warm by mid-summer and the area is favored by smaller brook trout and rainbow trout. Floating is difficult due to low water, log jams and split channels on the lower end. General stream regulations apply (see fishing regs).

Swan River Access Points

1. Electric Avenue Bridge in Bigfork
2. Pacific Park River Access (off Hwy #209, Ferndale)
3. Swan River Road - Steel Bridge (small boat launch)
4. Hwy 83 pull-off (mile marker 85)
5. Swan River Fishing Access Site (off Hwy #209, Ferndale)
6. South Ferndale Drive Bridge (mile marker 82)
7. Porcupine Creek Road (mile marker 69)
8. Point Pleasant Campground (mile marker 64)
9. Fatty Creek Road (mile marker 59)
10. Piper Creek Road (mile marker 54)
11. Salmon Prairie (mile marker 51)
12. Cold Creek Road (mile marker 47)
13. Glacier Creek Road - Condon (mile marker 42)
14. Kraft Creek Road (mile marker 38)
15. Pine Ridge Road (mile marker 36)
16. Lindbergh Lake Road (mile marker 33)

This map shows the Swan River and all of the tributaries mentioned in this guide. Public access points are marked along the river with blue dots. 9 The Highway 83 mile marker nearest to each access point is indicated in the key list on the left (assuming travel from north to south).



TRIBUTARIES

STREAM	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	WIDTH (FT)	FISH SPE.	ACCESS FROM HWY 83	COMMENTS
BEAVER	19N	16W	8	13	WCT EB	BEAVER CR RD (#906)	
BOND	25N	18W	23	20	WCT EB	BOND CR TR (#21)	
BUCK	20N	16W	18	10	WCT EB RB	BARBER CR RD (#905)	
CEDAR	23N	17W	18	20	WCT RB EB	FATTY CR RD OR RD #10381	BEAVER DAMS, UNDEV CAMPGROUND
CILLY	24N	18W	12	12	EB	CILLY CR RD (#9521)gRD #9522	BEAVER DAMS
COLD	21N	17W	15	26	WCT EB	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #9568	BEAVER DAMS
CONDON	21N	17W	3	15	WCT EB RB	CONDON LOOP RD (3124)gRD #124AgRD #901gRD #10512	MANY BEAVER DAMS
COONEY	20N	16W	1	18	WCT EB	FALLS CR RD (#901)gRD #9550	
DOG	21N	17W	3	13	WCT	EBLION CR RD (#9769)gRD #899	
ELK	21N	17W	35	-	- - - - -	- - - - CLOSED TO FISHING	INCLUDING N & S FORKS
GLACIER	21N	17W	36	31	WCT RB EB	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gRD #9591 OR RD #561gTR #481	
GOAT	23N	17W	18	-	- - - - -	- - - - CLOSED TO FISHING	
GROOM	25N	18W	14	12	WCT	GROOM CR / HALL LK TR (#61)	
HALL	25N	18W	14	11	WCT EB	SWAN LK CAMPGROUND OR SIXMILE CR RD (#9508)	
HOLLAND	20N	16W	32	23	WCT RB EB	HOLLAND LK RD (#44) OR PINE RIDGE RD	CLOSED TO FISHING UPSTREAM OF HOLLAND LAKE
JIM	22N	17W	28	27	WCT EB	PIPER CR RD (#966)gRD #888 OR COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #8568	BEAVER DAMS
KRAFT	20N	17W	27	13	WCT EB	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gRD #9590	
LION	22N	17W	08	-	- - - - -	- - - - CLOSED TO FISHING	
LOST	24N	18W	01	29	EB RB	HWY 83	
N.F. COLD	21N	17W	20	14	WCT RB	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #9568gRD #9599	
N.F. LOST	24N	17W	06	17	WCT EB	LOST CR RD (#680)gRD #5206	
PIPER	22N	17W	08	21	WCT RB EB	PIPER CR RD (#966)gRD #119	
PONY	22N	17W	33	9	WCT EB	LION CR RD (#9769)gRD #899	
RUMBLE	20N	16W	6	15	WCT EB	RUMBLE CR RD (#560)	BEAVER DAMS, MOSTLY PRIVATE LAND
SMITH	21N	17W	11	9	EB	CONDON LOOP RD (#124) OR FALLS CR RD (#901)	BEAVER DAMS
SOUP	24N	18W	13	19	WCT EB	SOUP CR RD (#554)	BEAVER DAMS, CAMPGROUND
SQUEEZER	23N	17W	17	-	- - - - -	- - - - CLOSED TO FISHING	
S.F. COLD	21N	17W	27	16	WCT EB	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #10291	
S.F. LOST	24N	17W	06	24	WCT EB	LOST CR RD (#680)gRD #9521	
S. WOODWARD	23N	18W	13	38	WCT EB	FATTY CR RDgRD #888	
WHITETAIL	24N	18W	24	25	EB	PORCUPINE CR RD (#10229)gRD #9719	MARSHY
WOLF	27N	19W	22	15	WCT EB	BEAR CR RD (#5398)gRD #10319 (CLOSED GATE)	WALK-IN FROM CLOSED GATE
WOODWARD	24N	18W	01	38	RB EB	FATTY CR RDgRD #888	BEAVER DAMS, CLOSED TO FISHING WITHIN A 150 YD RADIUS AT CONFLUENCE WITH THE SWAN RIVER FROM JUNE 1 - SEPT. 30

Tributary Streams

Some streams with limited public access or few fish of catchable size are not included in this guide. Many of the tributary streams listed are relatively small (refer to width column above) and

generally offer trout ranging from six to twelve inches long. Small streams are often brushy and challenging to fish. the location given in the guide refers to the mouth of the stream.

FISH SPECIES KEY

WCT = Westslope Cutthroat
 RB = Rainbow Trout
 EB = Eastern Brook trout

VALLEY LAKES

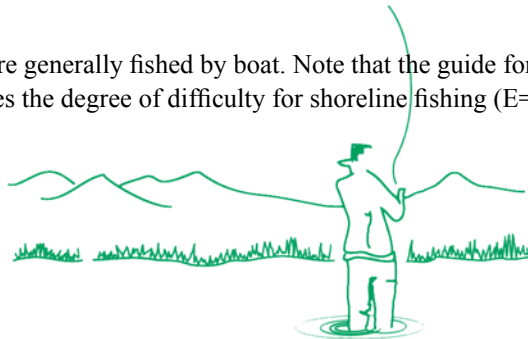
LAKE NAME	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	ACRES	ELEVATION	FISH SPECIES	SPECIES STOCKED	LAST STOCKED	SHORELINE FISHING ACCESS FROM HWY 83	COMMENTS
BUNYON	19N	17W	34	12	5700	WCT	NONE	WILD	E LINDBERGH LK RD (#79)	SHORT HIKE TO LAKE FROM CLOSED GATE BOAT RAMP ON N. SHORE
ECHO	27N	19W	05	725	3080	LMB NP LW RBW YP KOK	LMB KOK RB	2010	D ECHO LK RD	
FRAN	21N	17W	21	9	3662	RB	RB	2010	E COLD CR RD (#903)g2ND LAKE ON LEFT	NOT NAMED ON MAP, NORTH 12 SEC 21 CAMPGROUND, BOAT RAMP, SWIM BEACH
HOLLAND	20N	16W	35	416	4031	WCT KOK	WCT KOK	2010	E HOLLAND LK RD (#44)	
HOESHOE	26N	19W	15	50	3115	SMB	SMB	2009	D HWY #209gS FERNDAL RDg BUG CR RD (#129)gDIRT RD	ACCESS NW CORNER, NEED HI-CLEARANCE 4X4 ROUGH ROAD TO LAKE
JIM #2	21N	18W	14	17	5515	WCT	WCT	2009	E COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #9568	
LINDBERGH	19N	17W	14	723	4324	LT WCT KOK	WCT KOK	2009	D LINDBERGH LK RD (#79)	UNDEVELOPED CAMPGROUND, BOAT RAMP UNIMPROVED BOAT LAUNCH
LOON	26N	19W	10	44	3115	LMB SMB YP RB	SMB RB	2009	D HWY #209gS FERNDAL RDgLOON LK RD	
MEADOW	18N	17W	4	15	5704	WCT	NONE	WILD	E LINDBERGH LK RD (#79)	SHORT HIKE TO LAKE FROM CLOSED GATE ROUGH ROAD TO LAKE
PECK	22N	17W	32	22	3520	RB	RB	2010	D PIPER CR RD (#966)gRD #888gDIRT RD	
PIERCE	19N	16W	22	37	4310	WCT	WCT	2009	D PIERCE LK RD (#1030)	LEASED LAND, LIMITED ACCESS
RUSS	21N	17W	21	10	3620	WCT	WCT	2009	E COLD CR RD (#903)g3RD LAKE ON LEFT	NOT NAMED ON MAP, NORTH 1/2 SEC 21
SHAY	22N	17W	6	17	3476	RB	RB	2010	E FATTY CR RDg4 MI S ON DIRT ROADS (STAY RIGHT)	ROUGH ROAD, NEED HI-CLEARANCE 4X4 CAMPGROUND, BOAT RAMP, SWIM BEACH DAY USE AREA
SWAN	25N	18W	11	2680	3066	WCT RB EB LT KOK NP YP BULL	WCT KOK	2007	D HWY 83	
VAN	22N	17W	3	57	3639	RB	RB	2010	D VAN LK RD (#9882)gRD #558	ROUGH ROAD, NEED HI-CLEARANCE VEHICLE
S. WOODWARD #2	23N	18W	29	6	5900	WCT	WCT	2008	E FATTY CR RDgRD #888g5.5 MI W ON S WOODWARD CR RD	NOT NAMED ON MAP, SOUTH 1/2 SEC 29

(1) WILD denotes naturally reproducing populations

Valley Lakes

All of these lakes are accessible by road. they are open to fishing year-round and are usually ice-free by June. Some have undeveloped campsites nearby and may also have primitive boat launching sites. Swan, Holland and echo Lakes have developed campgrounds with improved boat launching facilities. Lindbergh Lake has an undeveloped campground with an improved boat ramp. these four large lakes have a wide variety of fish

species and are generally fished by boat. Note that the guide for Valley Lakes includes the degree of difficulty for shoreline fishing (E=easy, D=difficult).



FISH SPECIES KEY

BULL=Bull Trout	LW=Lake Whitefish
WCT=Westslope Cutthroat	LT=Lake Trout
RB=Rainbow Trout	KOK=Kokanee
LMB=Largemouth Bass	NP=Northern Pike
SMB=Smallmouth Bass	YP=Yellow Perch
EB=Eastern Brook Trout	

MOUNTAIN LAKES

LAKE NAME	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	WILDERNESS	ACRES	ELEVATION	FISH SPECIES	LAST	APPROX HIKING DISTANCE (MI)	ACCESS FROM HWY 83	COMMENTS
BEAVER	18N	16W	05	N	25	5755	WCT	2009	2	W. FK. CLEARWATER RD (#646) g RD #4354gTR #380	
BOND	25N	17W	10	N	5	5460	WCT	WILD	7	BOND CR TR (#21)	TRAIL ACCESS 30 FT OFF HWY 83
CAT	22N	16W	33	N	13	6720	WCT	2006	3	LION CR RD (#9769)gRD #899gRD #901gN 1/2 SEC 31 RD	NO TRAIL (3)
CEDAR	22N	18W	17	Y	46	6520	WCT	2007	4	FATTY CR RDgRD #888gRD #10182gRD #10381gTR #738	
COLD, LOWER	21N	18W	22	Y	56	5745	WCT	WILD	2	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #9568gRD #9599gTR #121	NO CAMPING AT LAKE
COLD, UPPER	21N	18W	22	Y	50	5873	WCT	WILD	3	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #9568gRD #9599gTR #121	NO CAMPING AT LAKE
CRESCENT	19N	18W	24	Y	24	6050	WCT	2008	3	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gTR #690	
CRYSTAL	18N	17W	08	Y	186	4750	WCT	WILD	3	LINDBERGH LK RD (#79)gRD #9552gTR #351	
DUCHARME LAKES	22N	18W	32	Y	3-17*	6462	WCT	2009	7	PIPER CR RD (#966)gTR #119	3 LAKES
FATTY	22N	18W	05	Y	21	5980	WCT	2006	2	FATTY CR RDgRD #888gRD #10182gRD #10382	NO TRAIL (3)
GLACIER	19N	17W	30	Y	1-4	5260	WCT	WILD	2	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gTR #69	NO CAMPING AT LAKE
GRAYWOLF	18N	17W	30	Y	334	6646	WCT	WILD	10	BEAVER CR RD (#906)gTR #365gTR #34gTR#413	
HALL	26N	17W	31	N	12	5080	WCT	2004	7	COUNTY RDgTR #61	
HEART	19N	18W	26	Y	23	6160	GT	2006	4	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gTR #690	
HEMLOCK	19N	18W	1	Y	30	6020	WCT	2009	3	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gRD #9576gTR #607	
HIGH PARK	18N	18W	13	Y	220	6377	WCT	WILD	7	LINDBERGH LK RD (#79)gTR #351	TRAIL PART WAY, HARD TO FIND, CLIFFS
ISLAND	19N	18W	26	Y	22	6570	GT	2006	4	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gTR #690	TRAIL PART WAY
JIM BASIN LAKES	21N	18W	09	Y	2-29*	6225	WCT	WILD	2	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #9568	10+ LAKES, SOME WITH FISH, NO TRAIL (3)
LACE	19N	18W	36	Y	18	6330	WCT	WILD	5	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gTR #690gTR #708	
LOST	18N	18W	11	Y	109	6227	WCT	WILD	7	LINDBERGH LAKE RD (#79)gRD #9552gTR #351gTR #696	TRAIL PART WAY, DIFFICULT TO FIND
MOLLMAN LAKES	20N	18W	19	Y	17-29*	6860	WCT	2008	8	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #10291gTR #301	2 LAKES, TRAIL PART WAY
N. HEMLOCK	20N	18W	36	Y	8	6800	WCT	WILD	5	KRAFT CR RD (#561)gTR #515	
PIPER	22N	18W	32	Y	83	6290	WCT	WILD	6	PIPER CR RD (#966)gTR #119	
PONY	22N	16W	28	N	17	6595	WCT	2008	2	LION CR RD (#9769)gRD #899gRD #901gN 12 SEC 31 RD	NO TRAIL (3)
RAINBOW	22N	18W	07	Y	8	6600	WCT	2009	3	FATTY CR RDgRD #888gRD #10182gRD #10381gTR #738	TRAIL PART WAY
RUMBLE CR LAKE	21N	16W	36	N	28	7890	WCT YCT	1993	5	RUMBLE CR RD (#560)gTR #192	TRAIL PARTWAY, DIFFICULT SCRAMBLE
S. WOODWARD #3	23N	18W	34	N	5	4200	WCT	2007	1	FATTY CR RDgRD #888gS WOODWARD CR RD	NO TRAIL (3), NOT NAMED ON MAP
S. WOODWARD #4	23N	18W	31	N	4	6400	WCT	2009	1	FATTY CR RDgRD #888gS WOODWARD CR RD	NO TRAIL (3), NOT NAMED ON MAP
SAPPHIRE	20N	15W	29	N	6	6950	WCT	2009	6	HOLLAND LK RD (#44)gTR #415gTR #35gTR #110 OR TR #415gTR #42	
S.F. COLD LAKES	20N	18W	10	Y	2-15*	6440	WCT RBT	WILD	4	COLD CR RD (#903)gRD #10291gTR #301	5 LAKES, TRAIL PART WAY, NOT NAMED
TRINKUS	25N	17W	10	N	12	6080	WCT	WILD	9	BOND CR TRAIL (#21)	
UPPER HOLLAND	20N	15W	28	N	35	6146	WCT	2007	5	HOLLAND LK RD (#44)gTR #415gTR #35	

* Range of acreage for group of lakes

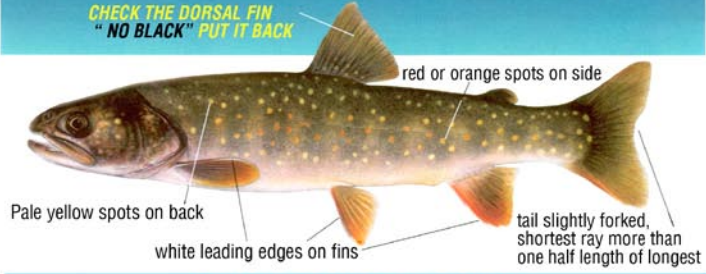
- (1) Y or N - Is it within the Mission Mountain Wilderness?
- (2) WILD denotes naturally reproducing population
- (3) NO TRAIL means no officially maintained trail

Fish Species Key

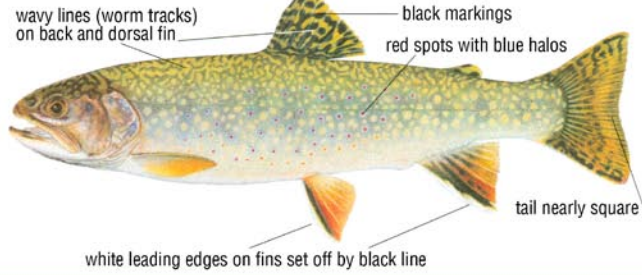
WCT = Westslope Cutthroat RB = Rainbow Trout YCT = Yellowstone Cutthroat
 GT = Golden Trout CT = Hybrid Cutthroat

BULL TROUT

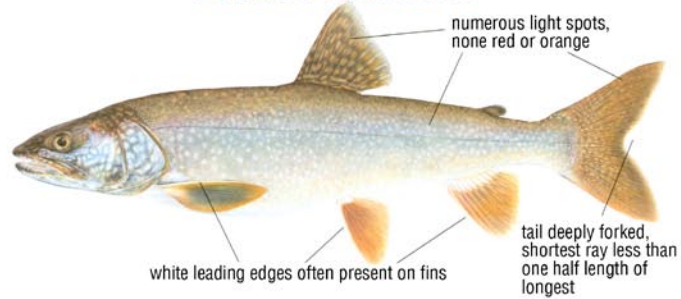
CHECK THE DORSAL FIN
"NO BLACK" PUT IT BACK



BROOK TROUT



LAKE TROUT



large adult BULL TROUT

CHECK THE DORSAL FIN
"NO BLACK" PUT IT BACK

