

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Updated July, 2010

Water(s): Upper Caliche, Lower Caliche, West Caliche, and Drainage (Grant County)

Location: The Caliche Lake Chain is located approximately 5 miles southwest of the town of George, WA (T18N R23E, S22, 23, 27)

Water Source: Springs drain into Upper Caliche Lake

Outflow: None, water flow ends at West Caliche

Management History:

The Caliche Lake Chain, located just southwest of George, has been a popular trout fishery since the 1960's. For most of its fish management history, the Caliche Lake Chain has been managed as a seasonal water. Opening dates for the Caliche Lake Chain have changed from April 1st in the 1970's to its current March 1st opener in the 1980's. Angler success during the opener ranges from 3-5 fish per angler for 9-12 inch yearling rainbow trout.

The Caliche Lake Chain and associated drainages have been rehabilitated a total of five times in the past. Upper Caliche was rehabilitated in 1979, 1983, 1988, and 1992. Lower Caliche Lake was treated in 1975, 1983, and 1995. West Caliche Lake and associated drainage was rehabilitated in 1995. Target species for each of the rehabilitations was yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, and bass.

T&E Flora and Fauna: Professionals from many resource fields have visited this site countless times during the last 40 years. No known report exists of any threatened or endangered species habitually found in or near these lakes. Occasional visits from both bald and golden eagles occur, although no nests of these two species are known in the area. Protected species of waterfowl and other birds frequently are found here at times, as well.

Current Management Objectives:

March 1st through July 31, production type fishery. Five fish limit, no size or gear restrictions. Provide ~ 4 yearling rainbow trout per angler trip for 3-4,000 anglers on opening day, and 3 trout per angler for the remaining part of the season for at least 10,000 additional angler trips.

1. Fishery Objectives:

Species	Type	Category	Fish/Hr	Fish/Ang	Exploit. Rate
Rainbow	Production	Opening Day	2-3	3-5	90% yearlings
Rainbow	Production	Rest of Season	2	3	90% yearling

2. Angler use objective (# angler days): Opening Day - 3-4,000; Season - 15,000

3. Stocking Objectives:

Lake	Species	Total Number of Fish			Plant Month
		Planted	Per Acre	Per Pound	
Upper Caliche (Year 1)	Rainbow	5-6,000 fry	400	100	April
		4-5,000 catchables	300	2.5	February
Upper Caliche (Year 2)	Rainbow	~5-6,000 fry	400	100	April

E. Management Strategy:

- Plant rainbow fry in spring.
- Check yearling growth; should be about 11 inches, adjust stocking rate as necessary.
- Harvest 90% of yearling fish by end of season.
- Monitor all fish species periodically by electrofishing or netting.
- Substitute fall fingerlings for at least a portion of the spring fry when competing species begin to impact trout fry survival.
- Control spiny-ray species with rotenone when trout survival is inadequate to produce an acceptable fishery.