

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN / Bob Jateff / 6-28-2012

Water: Little Beaver Lake

Management Type: Trout Only

Location: Located 18 miles NW of Republic. It is 5.5 acres in surface area. Section 30, Township 39 North, Range 30 East WM.

Size: 5.5 acres, average depth 6.5 feet, 35 acre-feet

Water Source: Underground springs, overflow from Big Beaver Lake during spring runoff

Outflow: Intermittent and it goes subsurface in summer/fall/winter

Management History: Little Beaver Lake is a year-round trout water that can provide good fishing for anglers interested in a small lake setting. Standard gear rules apply along with a five fish limit. Most of the fishing effort occurs from small boats or from the shoreline. Historic fingerling plants of eastern brook and cutthroat have normally produced yearling and older fish in the 11-13 inch range.

However, in recent years, the illegal introduction of yellow perch has seriously compromised the trout fishery. A recent survey at the lake noted a large number of juvenile and adult yellow perch, which indicates successful spawning activity. Fingerling trout plants have experienced reduced survival to yearling size and angler effort in the lake has dropped substantially. This is the major impact of introducing yellow perch on top of a fingerling-plant trout lake.

Current Management Objectives

Management at Little Beaver Lake should concentrate on a single species planting scheme using native westslope cutthroat trout. Good productivity plus a constant spring flow during the winter months should provide a lasting, quality trout fishery.

Fishery Objectives: Continue to manage Little Beaver Lake as trout-only water. Provide at least 2-3 cutthroat trout in the 10-12 inch range for every angler trip.

Angler use objective (# angler days): 250

Stocking Objectives: Fingerling cutthroat trout stocked at 250 fish per acre and 200 fish per pound annually.

Management Strategy

- Check age-2 average size in the spring. It should be about 10-12 inches. Adjust stocking rate and fish size as necessary to achieve that size-at-age goal.
- Monitor angling activity and catch rates periodically throughout the season.
- Closely monitor any invasive species and react immediately to control population by all means before treating with rotenone (angling, electroshocking, netting, and regulation changes).