

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Updated June, 2008 – C. Donley

Water: Ellen Lake (Ferry Co.)

Location: Ellen Lake is located 14 miles north of Ichelium. Ellen Lake has a seasonal intermittent drainage to Lake Roosevelt (Columbia River) through La Fleur Creek.

	Size:	Max. Depth:	Volume:
Ellen Lake	82 acres	31 ft	902 acre feet

Water Source: Mostly groundwater seeps, with limited overland flow.

Outflow: Ellen Lake has a seasonal intermittent drainage to Lake Roosevelt (Columbia River) through La Fleur Creek.

Management History:

Ellen Lake has been managed since the 1950s as a production rainbow trout water, and with a lowland lakes opener (last Saturday in April to October 31). This lake is known to have good growth rates for fingerling stocked rainbow trout. Growth rates and recruitment of rainbow trout are severely affected by the presence of undesirable species of fish in this lake.

Up until the mid-1980s the lake had not been treated with rotenone. Repeated illegal introductions of largemouth bass and other smaller compressed-form centrarchids has become commonplace, requiring rotenone treatment on a regular schedule. The lake has been treated with rotenone in 1989, 1994 and 2004. In an attempt to prevent repeated illegal stocking, WDFW has enacted a fishing regulation that precludes anglers from harvesting any species other than trout from this water. The intent of the regulation is to diminish the value of illegal introductions if the fish cannot be harvested.

T&E Flora and Fauna: Professionals from many resource agencies have visited this site countless times during the last 50 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:

Ellen Lake is a lowland lake opener, last Saturday in April to October 31, production fishery. Five fish limit, no size or gear restrictions. Provide 2 to 5 rainbow trout per angler trip with a carryover harvest rate of 0 to 5 percent. Fishery should generate a minimum of 2,500 angler-trips per season.

1. Fishery Objectives:

Species	Type	Category	Fish/Hour	Fish/Angler	Exploit. Rate
Rainbow	Production	Opening Day	2	3 to 5	90% 1 yr cohort
Rainbow	Production	Remainder of season	1	2 to 3	90% 1 yr cohort

2. Angler use objective (# angler days): Season – 2,500 angler days on water

3. Stocking Objectives:

<u>Lake</u>	Species	Number of Fish Stocked			Planting Month
		Total	/Acre	/Pound	
Ellen- year 1	Rainbow	8,000	98	≤5	March -April
Year 2	Rainbow	20,000	240	<100	April-May
Year 3	Rainbow	20,000	240	<100	April-May
Year 4	Rainbow	20,000	240	<100	April-May
Year 5	Rainbow	20,000	240	<100	April-May

Management Strategy:

- Plant rainbow trout catchable spring 2009 and spring fry during successive springs.
- Check yearling growth; should be about 11 inches, adjust stocking rate as necessary.
- Harvest 90% of age 1 fish by end of season.
- Monitor all fish species periodically by electrofishing or netting.
- Control undesirable species with rotenone when trout survival is inadequate to produce an acceptable fishery.