

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

April 20, 2017 – Bill Baker & Brian Walker

Water(s): Rocky Lake (Stevens Co.)

Location: Rocky Lake is located 5.3 miles south of Colville

	Size:	Max Depth:	Volume:
Rocky Lake	20 acres	28 ft	285 acre feet

Water Source: Mostly groundwater seep, with limited overland flow. There is a small, intermittent inlet stream on the east end of the lake.

Outflow: An intermittent outlet is shown on the lake's west side by DNR's GIS hydro layer, but outlet will be dry by time of treatment.

Management History:

Rocky Lake has been historically managed as a production Lowland Lake Trout Season fishery, which is popular with anglers in the Colville area. Due to its proximity to the city of Colville, Rocky Lake is a well-attended Opening Day fishery, and it sustains relatively high use throughout the fishing season. Rocky Lake has a split-season with statewide minimum size and daily limit from the 4th Saturday in April through May 31 and catch and release fishing under selective gear rules from June 1 through October 31.

The presence of undesirable species of fish is the greatest impediment to maintaining trout fisheries in this water. Historically, the lake has been largely free of problems with illegally introduced fish, requiring only a single previous rotenone treatment in 2004 to remove Pumpkinseed Sunfish *Lepomis gibbosus*. Currently, illegally introduced Redside Shiner *Richardsonius balteatus* are abundant in the lake.

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 eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* and golden eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* occur, although no nests of these two species are known in the area.

Current Management Objectives:

Rocky Lake is a Lowland Lakes Trout Season, 4th Saturday in April through October 31, production fishery. From Opening Day through May 31, it has a five trout limit with no size or gear restrictions. Selective gear rules are in effect and retention of trout is prohibited from June 1 through October 31. The target catch rate is 2-5 rainbow trout per angler trip with a carryover harvest rate of 10 to 15 percent. The fishery should generate a minimum of 900 angler-trips per season.

1. Fishery Objectives:

Species	Type	Category	Fish/Hour	Fish/Angler	Exploit. Rate
Rainbow	Production	Lowland Lakes Trout Season Opening Day	2	4 to 5	85%- 90% 1 yr cohort
Rainbow	Production	Remainder of season	1	2 to 3	85%-90% 1 yr cohort

2. Angler use objective (# angler days): Season – 900 angler days on water

3. Stocking Objectives:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Species</u>	Number of Fish Stocked			Planting Month
		Total	/Acre	/Pound	
Rocky	Rainbow	4,000	200	≤100	May 2018
	Rainbow	2,000	100	≤ 2.5	March-April, <i>first year post-rehabilitation</i>
Year 2	Rainbow	4,000	200	<100	May 2019
Year 3	Rainbow	4,000	200	<100	May 2020

Management Strategy:

- Plant rainbow fry and catchables in spring 2018.
- Check yearling growth; should be about 11 inches, adjust stocking rate as necessary.
- Harvest 85%-90% of yearling 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.