

Memorandum

Date: June 20, 2007

To: Ivan Paulsen
Department of Fish and Game
Post Office Box 1858
Portola, California 96122

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: Lake Davis Creel Census-2006

This memorandum summarizes and documents a survey of fishing at Lake Davis, Plumas County in 2006 by the Department of Fish and Game. The survey was conducted to monitor angling use and catch following rediscovery of illegally introduced northern pike in the lake in 1999.

California Department of Fish and Game employees Lilla Thomason, Patrick Moeszinger, and Jason Roberts surveyed anglers at various locations around the lake (See USFS Description and Map of Lake Davis Recreation Area). They censused 403 anglers during 16 days of the 201-day Sierra Trout Season, April 29 to November 15. All of the days surveyed were late in the season. No use counts were collected on the opening weekend, April 29-30, Memorial Day Weekend (May 27-29), or May – June weekdays (Table 1). Although Lake Davis can be legally fished all year, angling use in winter and early spring is greatly reduced by inclement weather and ice and snow conditions on and around the lake.

The 403 anglers interviewed had fished 1,268.5 hours with an observed catch (fish kept) of 107 rainbow trout, 93 brown bullhead, and three northern pike. In addition, 66 rainbow trout and 32 other fish were reported to have been caught and released (Table 2).

Boat anglers totaled 138 and fished 557.25 hours with a recorded catch of 43 rainbow trout, 49 brown bullhead, and three northern pike. Boat anglers reported catching and releasing an additional 64 rainbow trout and five other fish. Four float tube anglers had fished 10.25 hours, but caught no fish.

Shore anglers totaled 261 and fished 701 hours with a recorded catch of 64 rainbow trout and 44 brown bullhead. They also reported catching and releasing two additional rainbow trout and 27 other fish.

About 58 percent of the anglers censused at Lake Davis in 2006 said they lived in California and 42 percent were from Nevada.

Angler success varied among the several surveyed locations around the lake. Most of the boat anglers interviewed during 2006 were at Honker Cove and all of the observed rainbow trout. The few boat anglers censused at other locations had caught and released a few trout, but kept none (Table 3). The highest catch rates for shore anglers

Lake Davis Recreation Area

Beckwourth Ranger District

Lake Davis is located seven miles north of Portola, California. This lake was created in 1967 for recreational opportunities. The Lake Davis Recreation Area offers a wide variety of summer outdoor experiences including: camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting, boating, mountain biking, swimming and wildlife viewing. Water-skiing and jet skis are not permitted. Frequent strong winds can cause the lake to become very hazardous for small craft. In the winter, ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are favored activities.



Camping

A concessionaire manages three campgrounds around Lake Davis. Grizzly, Grasshopper Flat and

Lightning Tree Campgrounds have approximately 144 family camping sites, 21 double sites and 1 group site. Campsites may be reserved through Reserve USA (1-877-444-6777 or on-line at www.ReserveUSA.com).

Grizzly and Grasshopper Campgrounds have piped water and flush toilets. Coin-operated showers are available at Honker Cove Boat Ramp. Trailers of up to 35 feet can be accommodated. No hookups are provided. Facilities are usually open from late April through late October. Lightning Tree Campground has vault toilets and is open year-round except when closed by snow.



Fishing

There are twelve fishing accesses on Lake Davis. Some have toilets and picnic tables are available at Coot

Bay Fishing Access. Fishing is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game with a five trout limit and tributary restrictions. If any of the invasive species Northern Pike are caught immediately cut off its head. Below Lake Davis, almost three miles of Big Grizzly Creek is open to fishing for day use on a public access strip. Native and stocked trout occur in the lake.

Varieties include Rainbow, German Brown and Eagle Lake Trout as well as Largemouth Bass and Brown Bullhead.



Boat Launching

Camp Five, Honker Cove, Mallard Cove, and Lightning Tree Boat Ramps all have paved launching ramps, floating boat docks, toilets and paved parking lots. Camp Five Boat Ramp also has a universally accessible Fishing Levee 100 feet long for deeper water fishing.



Hunting

Mule deer, black-tailed deer, waterfowl, quail, and some small game may be hunted in-season in the Lake Davis Recreation Area. The California Department of Fish and Game regulates hunting seasons and permits. Discharging a firearm within 150 yards of a campsite, across or on a Forest road or body of water is prohibited.



Area Interests

Smith Peak Lookout, located about seven miles southwest of the dam, provides a good view of the lake and an opportunity to learn about the job of a fire lookout. It is operated full time during fire season and visitors are welcome. Lake Davis is also home to several interesting species of birds. Eagles and osprey can be seen at different times of the year, as well as hawks and owls.



Supplies

Supplies can be purchased in the town of Portola, seven miles south of Lake Davis.



Drinking Water

Only water from developed recreation sites is maintained for safe drinking. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, and streams should be properly treated before drinking.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Plumas National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas

Beckwourth Ranger District
Box 7, Blairsden, Ca. 96103
Phone: (530) 836-2575
Revised 05/15/06

Lake Davis Recreation Area Plumas National Forest

In Case of Emergency

Fire / Medical / Sheriff:

Call 911

A pay telephone is located in
Grasshopper Flat Campground

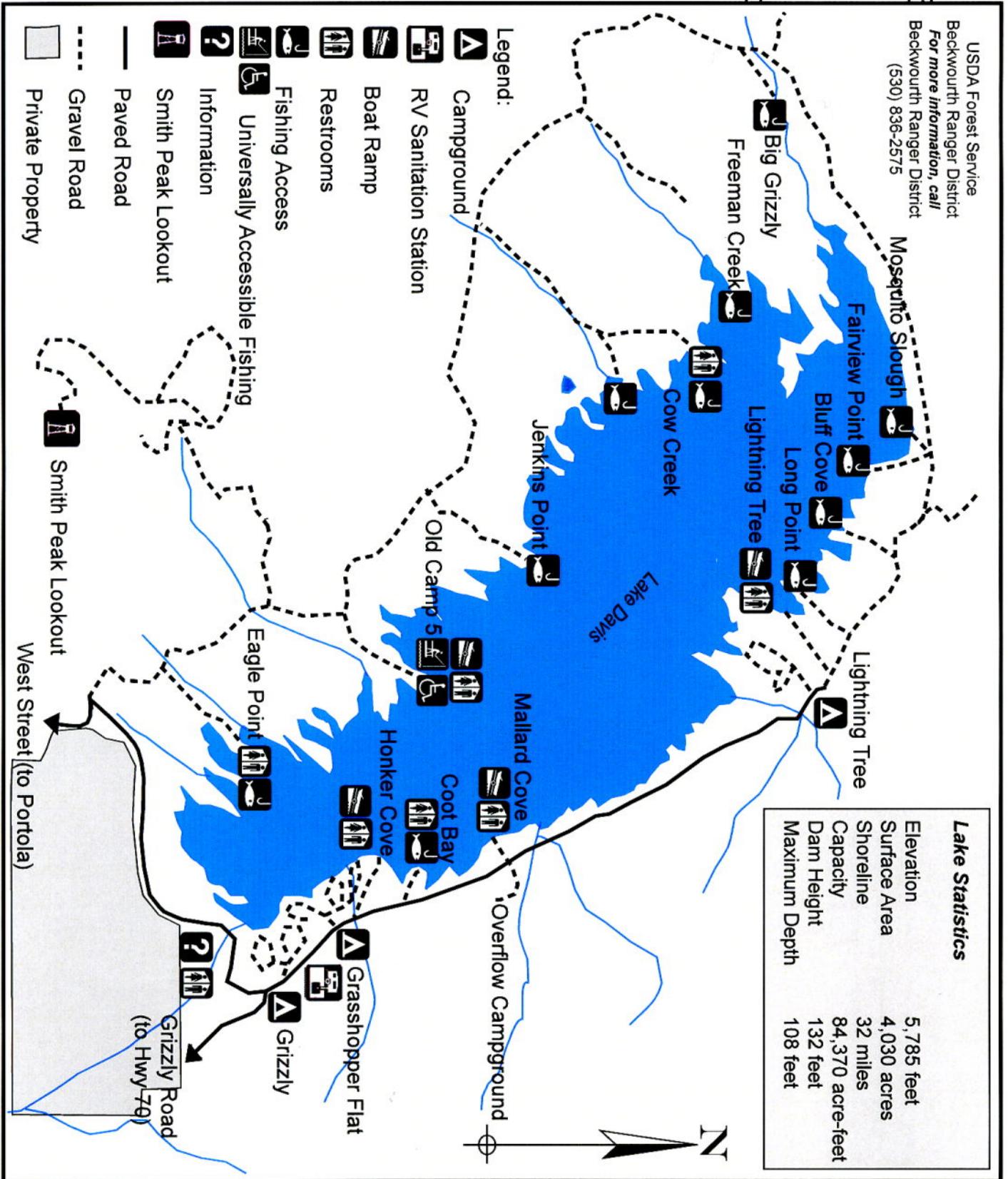


TABLE 1. 2006 RECREATION SEASON STRATA AT LAKE DAVIS

STRATA	PORTION OF ANGLING SEASON	DAYS IN STRATUM	ANGLERS INTERVIEWED	DAYS SURVEYED	VEHICLE COUNTS
I	April 29-30 (Opening Weekend)	2	0	0	0
II	May 27-29 (Memorial Day Weekend)	3	0	0	0
III	May - June Weekends	14	24	1	1
IV	May - June Weekdays	44	0	0	0
V	July - August Weekends	16	98	3	3
VI	July - August Weekdays	42	35	3	3
VII	September-October-November WE	20	168	7	7
VIII	September-October-November WD	53	0	0	0
IX	July 4 and Labor Day Weekends	7	78	2	2
Totals for Season		201	403	16	16
Census Clerks:					
Lilla Thomason = 13 Days					
Patrick Moeszinger = 2 Days					
Jason Roberts = 2 Days					

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF ANGLER CENSUS AT LAKE DAVIS, 2006

Type of Angler	Anglers Interviewed	Hours Fished	Rainbow Trout Kept	Kept Trout Catch/Hr	RT & BN Trout C&R 1/	All trout Catch/Hr	Brown BH Kept
Boat Anglers <u>2/</u>	138	557.25	43	0.08	64	0.19	49
Shore Anglers <u>3/</u>	261	701.00	64	0.09	2	0.09	44
Float Tube Anglers	4	10.25	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
All Anglers	403	1,268.50	107	0.08	66	0.14	93
1/ C&R = Caught and Released							
2/ plus 3 northern pike kept and 5 other fish C&R.							
3/ plus 27 other fish C&R							

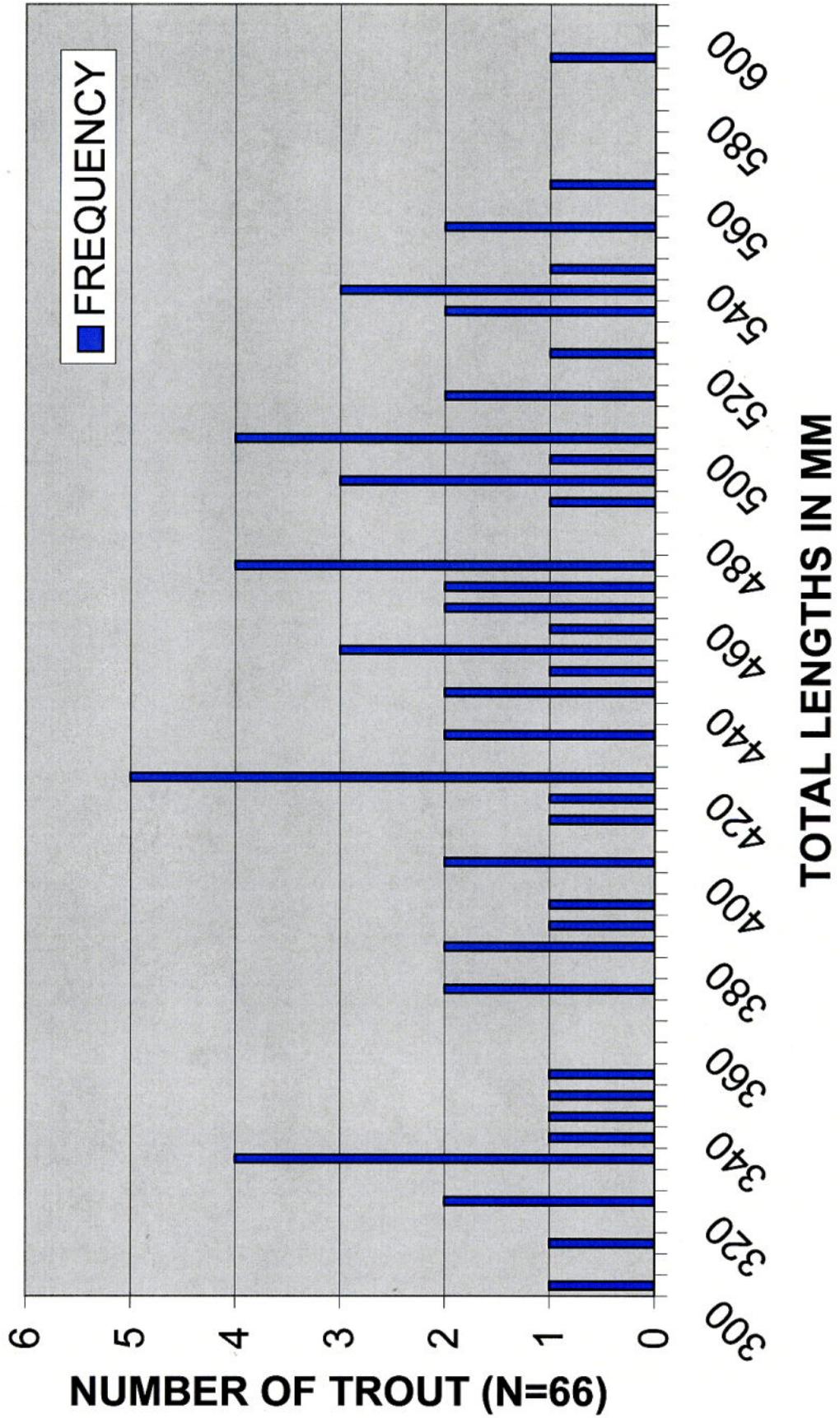
TABLE 3. CATCH OF TROUT BY BOAT ANGLERS AT LAKE DAVIS BY LOCATION, 2006

Location	Anglers Interviewed	Hours Fished	Rainbow Trout Kept	Kept Trout Catch/Hr	RT & BN Trout C&R	All Trout Catch/Hr	Brown BH Kept
Honker Cove <u>1/</u>	124	487.75	43	0.09	57	0.21	49
Fairview Point <u>2/</u>	1	2.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Camp 5 <u>3/</u>	12	62.00	0	0.00	5	0.08	0
Eagle Point	2	7.50	0	0.00	2	0.27	0
Jenkins Point <u>4/</u>	3	8.25	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Totals	142	567.50	43	0.08	64	0.19	49
1/ plus 2 northern pike kept and 5 other fish C&R.							
2/ Float Tube angler.							
3/ plus 1 northern pike.							
4/ Float Tube anglers.							

TABLE 4. CATCH OF TROUT BY SHORE ANGLERS AT LAKE DAVIS BY LOCATION, 2006

Location	Anglers Interviewed	Hours Fished	Rainbow Trout Kept	Kept Trout Catch/Hr	RT & BN Trout C&R	All Trout Catch/Hr	Brown BH Kept
Mallard Cove <u>1/</u>	74	210.75	26	0.12	1	0.13	4
Honker Cove <u>2/</u>	24	73.75	8	0.11	0	0.11	4
Fairview Point <u>3/</u>	69	214.00	21	0.10	1	0.10	7
Camp 5	21	40.75	3	0.07	0	0.07	4
Coot Bay	13	21.50	1	0.05	0	0.05	0
Eagle Point <u>4/</u>	60	140.25	5	0.04	0	0.04	25
Totals	261	701.00	64	0.09	2	0.09	44
1/ plus 8 other fish C&R.							
2/ plus 2 other fish C&R.							
3/ plus 4 other fish C&R.							
4/ plus 13 other fish C&R.							

FIGURE 1. LENGTHS OF RAINBOW TROUT MEASURED AT LAKE DAVIS IN 2006



were at Mallard Cove, Honker Cove, and Fairview Point. The lowest catch rates were at Camp 5, Coot Bay, and Eagle Point (Table 4).

The average total length of 66 measured rainbow trout was 441 mm (17.4 inches) with a range of 300 to 590 mm (11.8 to 23.2 inches) (Figure 1). The brown bullheads and northern pike were not measured. During the 2006 season the total lengths of trout were measured to the nearest millimeter.

From June 15 to July 21, 2006, DFG planted 42,700 catchable-sized Eagle Lake rainbow trout in Lake Davis (Table 5).

On 16 survey days, the census clerks also counted boat trailers, vehicles with cartop boats, other vehicles, and shore anglers at Honker Cove, Coot Bay, Mallard Cove, and Lightning Tree boat ramps and occasionally at other locations. This information was intended to provide estimates of boat and shore fishing and total catch for the season.

However, the boat ramp counts made during 2006 were very irregular, erratic, and all were made late in the fishing season. None of the 16 survey days appeared to be complete counts for the day. The first partial counts were made June 24 and the remaining survey days were all after July 1. For these reasons, estimates of fishing use and catch could not be calculated for 2006.



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TABLE 5. TROUT PLANTING SUMMARY FOR LAKE DAVIS, 2006				
Species	Date	Number	Pounds	Number/lb.
Eagle Lake Rainbow	06/15/06	5,280	2,200	2.4
Eagle Lake Rainbow	06/15/06	10,800	4,500	2.4
Eagle Lake Rainbow	06/15/06	4,920	2,050	2.4
Eagle Lake Rainbow	06/28/06	9,300	3,000	3.1
Eagle Lake Rainbow	07/21/06	12,400	4,000	3.1
Totals		42,700	15,750	2.7