

**LAKES
OF THE
HIGH UINTAS**

Smiths Fork, Henrys Fork and Beaver Creek Drainages

1986

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INTRODUCTION

The Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah are unique in that they are the highest mountain range in Utah and the only major range of mountains in the contiguous United States to lie in an east and west direction. Kings Peak, Utah's tallest point of land, standing at 13,528 feet, is hard to distinguish from its sister peaks, all of which stand over 13,000 feet in elevation. This is a country of snow-capped mountains, large alpine basins dotted with lakes, steep rocky slopes, green meadows and tall trees. Four of Utah's major rivers, the Duchesne, Provo, Weber and Bear, originate in the snowfields of these mountains. There are well over 1,000 natural lakes in the headwater regions of the Uinta Mountains, and more than 650 of these lakes support populations of game fish.

Although a number of these lakes and basins have been investigated from time to time over the years, the first comprehensive lake study undertaken by the Utah Department of Fish and Game began in the summer of 1955. Much of the information gathered during that study is now outdated. The physical, chemical and biological features of each lake may change from year to year; therefore, management schemes must also change. A second comprehensive lake study was initiated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 1971 to evaluate past management efforts and stocking programs to recommend appropriate changes. This booklet contains information from studies completed on the Smiths Fork, Henrys Fork and Beaver Creek Drainages between 1983 and 1985. No attempt was made to list all the lakes in the respective drainages for this publication. Only those which were found to support populations of game fish are included. In some cases fishless lakes are incorporated on maps to serve as landmarks or orientation points.

In early days, the use of pack animals for stocking mountain lakes meant that only a few lakes could be planted each year. Since 1955, aircraft have been used for planting these remote lakes, greatly increasing the number of waters stocked each year. Brook and cutthroat trout are the predominant species stocked as they have demonstrated an ability to grow and survive well in these alpine lakes. However, rainbow and golden trout, as well as arctic grayling, can also be found in several Uinta Lakes, adding variety and beauty to the fisherman's experience.

Aerial stocking is designed to replenish populations or introduce fish into lakes that Division surveys have found suitable to receive experimental stocking. Care is taken not to overstock these lakes because it usually results in small, poorly developed fish. Because the optimum growing season for trout at this elevation is very short (June through August), growth is relatively slow and trout will reach only 8 to 12 inches by the third year of life. The more inaccessible lakes are stocked on a 3-to-5-year cycle to encourage growth, and the heavily fished lakes are planted on a 1-to-2-year cycle to maintain population levels.

A trip into the High Uintas can be very enjoyable, but may also be uncomfortable or hazardous to unprepared travelers. As most of the lakes lie in remote basins, it is recommended that trips be well planned and adequate preparations made beforehand. Always leave word with a friend or relative on your approximate destination and when you plan to return. Most of these lakes can be accessed on well marked U.S. Forest Service trails. Other lakes can only be reached by going cross-country. However, cross-country travel should be avoided unless the user is familiar with this type of travel. While the trails have been updated in this booklet, it is a good idea to carry a topographical map for reference. These can be purchased from the U.S. Geological Survey. Ordinarily trips up to 5 miles can be made on foot when the fisherman plans to spend only one day on the lake and return home that evening. However, backpackers who wish to stay overnight can easily reach the more remote lakes. Those wishing to use horses in the Uintas should study available pastures and plan their trip accordingly. Information concerning the availability of horse rentals may be obtained from Division offices, conservation officers or forest rangers. Reservations should be made well in advance.

Because of the altitude and unpredictable weather of the Uintas, users should take steps to prevent possible hypothermia. Warm clothing (layered wool and down) and good rain gear should be carried at all times. Remember that snow showers are common all season at these high elevations, and the temperature can drop 20 to 30 degrees in a matter of minutes. Carry instant energy food, such as candy and fruit, and avoid exhaustion. If you get hot, ventilate to dispel body heat and moisture. Avoid drinking large quantities of cold water when chilled. Be sure to carry plenty of insect repellent for camp and horse, at least until mid-August.

You may also wish to bring suntan lotion and lip balm to protect the skin from the intense sunshine of high elevation. Users should be cautioned that drinking untreated water in backcountry areas may cause giardia, a parasitic infection which can make you very ill. Symptoms, which include chronic diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bloating, fatigue and weight loss may not appear until 2 to 3 weeks after contact. Recent studies have shown that water purifiers will not kill the parasite. As a safeguard against giardia, boil all drinking water 3 to 5 minutes before using it.

Of major concern is maintaining the aesthetic beauty and wilderness appeal of the Uinta Mountains. Since the second study began, camping, hiking and fishing use appears to be increasing. Excessive recreational pressure can quickly damage this alpine habitat if conscious efforts are not made to preserve its beauty. Those entering the High Uinta country should minimize their impact and leave these mountains the way they would like to find them when they return. Remember to burn all combustible material and pack out everything that is nonburnable. **DO NOT** bury any litter. Pack out refuse left by those less courteous than yourself. Dump waste water a minimum of 150 feet from springs, lakes and streams and use biodegradable soap. Select a campsite carefully and avoid clearing the vegetation or ditching around a tent. It is a good idea to utilize previously constructed fire rings whenever possible. Avoid camping in one spot longer than 5 days. **Horse packers** should carefully select suitable pasture away from lakes and streams, avoiding wet and boggy areas. It is recommended that **horses be hobbled or picketed** during the evening to allow grazing over a large area. Picketed animals should be moved frequently to prevent trampling and beat-out circles in meadows. A good wilderness toilet is made by digging a "CAT HOLE" no deeper than 8 to 10 inches and at least 200 feet from water sources. Cover human waste with 4 to 6 inches of lightly compacted topsoil.

Large groups encroach upon the solitude of others and have a greater impact upon the wilderness environment than the same number of users scattered among several parties. In an effort to control this problem, the forest supervisors for the Ashley and Wasatch national forests have implemented group size restrictions. Parties using the Wilderness Area are not to exceed 15 people and 20 horses, and smaller group restrictions are being considered. Boy Scout and other leaders should remember to check with U.S. Forest Service officials for guidelines and helpful suggestions. Scout groups may wish to take part in the "Leave No Trace" wilderness training programs offered by their local Boy Scout councils.

Fishing is unpredictable, especially in the High Uintas. If one lake fails to produce fish, try another; there is usually one nearby. If the lakes are slow, try fly fishing the numerous streams. If you like elbow room to camp and fish, and enjoy discovering new scenic wonders, let us recommend the High Uintas.

SMITHS FORK DRAINAGE

The Smiths Fork Basin is a small drainage system on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains situated near the center of this 100-mile-long range. The drainage is diverse and characterized by steep glacial cirques in headwater regions to the south, by narrow river valleys between broad truncated ridges, and by gently sloping timbered plateaus to the north. The natural beauty and scenic appeal of this basin is unsurpassed in the region. The highest point of land is Wilson Peak which stands at 13,095 feet in elevation.

The Smiths Fork Basin is composed of two major tributary systems including the West Fork and East Fork drainages. Most of the more than 60 lakes, reservoirs and beaver ponds lie within the larger East Fork Basin. These waters range in elevation from 9,210 feet at Grahams Reservoir to 11,542 feet at Upper Red Castle. The majority of the more remote lakes in this basin are situated above 10,600 feet in elevation. Twenty eight of these waters currently contain fish populations, or are under experimental fisheries management.

Brook and cutthroat trout commonly occur in the backcountry lakes of the Smiths Fork Basin. Fish populations are supplemented by occasional aerial stocking of fingerling as needed. In addition, rainbow trout fingerling are stocked in Lower Red Castle and arctic grayling are planted at China to add variety to the anglers creel. Due to the road access provided and the heavy fishing pressure directed to the popular Bridger and Marsh Lakes, these waters receive periodic stockings of rainbow and/or albino rainbow catchables to supplement these fisheries.

The Smiths Fork Basin is located some 20 miles south of Mountain View, Wyoming, on Highway 410 and the China Meadows Forest Service Road. Access is also provided by the North Slope Road east from the Bear

River Drainage and U-150. A few lakes are directly accessible to vehicles, but the vast majority are situated in remote terrain and are accessible only by trail or cross-country travel. Major trails providing access to the backcountry include the East Fork Smiths Fork Trail which originates at the China Meadows Trailhead, and the West Fork Smiths Fork Trail which begins at the end of the Mansfield Meadows Road south of the Hewinta Guard Station. Access can also be obtained from the Cache Trailhead in the Blacks Fork Drainage to the west or the Yellowstone Drainage to the south on the Bald Mountain - Smiths Fork Pass Trail. The interbasin Highline Trail, the Big Meadows Trail and the Sargent Lake Trail provide access to the lower basin. Trails are posted, generally well maintained and identified on the Smiths Fork map by trail number.

Although the Smiths Fork Drainage contains some of the most popular and well known lakes in the Uinta Mountains, many of the smaller and more remote lakes are seldom visited. Greater than 75 percent of the fish producing waters in this basin are subject to moderate or light angling pressure. The heaviest fishing and camping activities occur at accessible waters such as Bridger, Marsh and China although substantial angler use also occurs at the popular Hessie, Red Castle and Lower Red Castle Lakes. Full service Forest Service campgrounds are available at Bridger and Marsh Lakes as well as China Meadows.

The Utah Wilderness Act of 1984 greatly expanded the size of the High Uintas Wilderness Area to include a large portion of the Smiths Fork Drainage. The use of motorized or mechanized equipment within the wilderness area is, of course, prohibited.

U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps applicable to the Smiths Fork Drainage include the Mount Lovenia, Mount Powell, Gilbert Peak NE, Bridger Lake and Lyman Lake quadrangles. The High Uintas Primitive Area Map available at local ranger stations of the Wasatch and Ashley national forests may also be of some use.



Bald, G-63

BALD, G-63. This natural cirque lake is situated in rugged timberline terrain at the base of Bald Mountain in the West Fork Smiths Fork Drainage. Bald is 6.4 acres, 11,030 feet in elevation, with 23-foot maximum depth. The immediate watershed is composed of steep talus slopes to the west and low stunted conifers in the glacial moraine to the north and east. Camping areas are available without horse feed or spring water sources. Access is 2 1/2 miles south of the Hewinta Guard Station on the Mansfield Meadows Road to the Wilderness Boundary and then 2 1/2 miles further south on the West Fork Smiths Fork Trail to the junction with the Highline Trail. Leave these trails and continue southwest for an additional 1 1/2 miles overland following the drainage system to the head of the basin and Bald Lake. Bald sustains moderate to light angling pressure and contains a large population of brook trout produced by natural reproduction.

BRIDGER, G-20. Bridger is a productive sub-alpine water situated in timbered terrain with open shorelines in the lower Smiths Fork Basin. This natural lake is 21.0 acres, 9,350 feet in elevation, with 15-foot maximum depth. Bridger is located 25 miles south of Mountain View, Wyoming, on Highway 410 and improved Forest Service Roads. The route is well marked with signs. The Forest Service maintains a full service campground with 25 units at the lake and a summer guard station is located nearby. Bridger is a popular lake and receives substantial levels of fishing pressure.

Shore fishing is difficult due to extensive beds of yellow pondlily growing in shoal areas around much of the lake's perimeter. Bridger is most effectively fished with a small boat or inflatable raft. There are no launching facilities for larger boats. Bridger Lake receives periodic stocking of rainbow trout catchables throughout the summer, and annual plants of brook trout fingerling.

CHINA, G-21. China Reservoir is a scenic sub-alpine water situated in thick timber in the lower Smiths Fork Basin. It is 31.2 acres maximum, 9,408 feet in elevation, with 45-foot maximum depth. The lake has been enlarged by a dam at the northern end. Reservoir operation is capable of annual fluctuation of up to 9 feet and surface area reduction of about 39 percent. Access to China Lake is 1/8 mile north of the North Slope Road on foot following an old timber road which has been closed to vehicular access. This route begins at a small turnoff and parking area 1/2 mile west of China Meadows. Primitive camping is available with no sources of spring water. China Lake experiences moderate to heavy levels of angling pressure. This lake was previously managed to produce cutthroat trout, but is presently scheduled to receive annual stocking of brook trout supplemented by occasional plants of arctic grayling.

G-13. G-13 is an elongated natural lake located in a heavily timbered basin directly east of Lower Red Castle Lake. It is 7.9 acres, 10,860 feet in elevation, with 17-foot maximum depth. Trail access is 1 mile southeast of the footbridge immediately below Lower Red Castle Lake on the Bald Mountain-Smiths Fork Pass Trail. G-13 lies to the south of and within sight of the aforementioned trail. Adjacent campsites are available with a limited amount of horse feed in wet meadows to the north. Running water is not present in the lake vicinity. G-13 is subject to occasional winterkill and fishing success can be quite variable. The lake receives frequent stocking of brook trout to compensate for winterkill losses and sustains moderate to light angling pressure.

G-30. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-31. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-34. This small reservoir lake is located near the junction of the China Meadows and North Slope Roads at the lower end of China Meadows. It is 1.0 acre in size, 9,390 feet in elevation, with 6-foot maximum depth. G-34 is fed by a large spring to the south and contains dense growths of aquatic vegetation. Camping opportunities are provided at the nearby China Meadows Campground. G-34 receives heavy recreational use due to the access afforded by improved Forest Service roads. The lake contains populations of brook and rainbow trout.



G-13

G-36. G-36 is an abandoned beaver pond located in a natural glacial depression in thick timber in the lower Smiths Fork Basin. It is 4.7 acres, 9,430 feet in elevation, with 11-foot maximum depth. The lake is easily accessible and located 1/8 mile east of the bridge at the lower end of China Meadows. Potential camping areas are available with no source of spring water. Experimental stocking was accomplished during 1985 to evaluate the potential of G-36 to sustain a fishery. At present G-36 experiences light recreational pressure.

G-45. G-45 is a small glacial lake situated above timberline 1/8 mile northwest of Smith Fork Pass Lake. It is 3.1 acres, 11,220 feet in elevation, with 12-foot maximum depth. The lake is irregular in outline and composed of 2 arms connected by a narrow and shallow channel. Campsites and horse feed are not available in the immediate lake vicinity due to the rugged and windswept nature of the surrounding terrain and lack of fuelwood. However, camping areas with adequate pasture are available in timbered country to the north. Spring water sources are available at the lake. G-45 is stocked with brook trout, but fishing can be unpredictable due to a potential for occasional winterkill.

G-46. This lake does not sustain a resident fish population. It is shown on the map as a landmark only.

G-47. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is included on the map as a landmark.

G-48. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-49. G-49 is a small narrow lake which abuts a steep talus shoulder of Red Castle Peak in the East Fork Smiths Fork Basin. This lake is 3.9 acres maximum, 10,830 feet in elevation, with 11-foot maximum depth. G-49 is subject to natural water level fluctuation of 7-8 vertical feet which in turn reduces the size of this lake to only 30 percent of maximum area by late summer. G-49 is located 100 yards east of the East Fork Smiths Fork Trail from the stream crossing 1/2 mile south of Lower Red Castle Lake. G-49 is located on the major drainage system between Red Castle and Lower Red Castle lakes. Good campsites and horse feed can be located in the general area, but spring water is not available. This small fluctuating lake contains a varied population of brook, cutthroat and rainbow trout which is able to overwinter in the small minimum pool and adjacent drainage system. G-49 receives light angling pressure and is often overlooked by anglers.

G-50. This small glacial lake is situated on a timbered ridge directly west of Broadbent Meadow in the Smiths Fork Drainage. G-50 is 3.7 acres in size, 10,639 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. The lake is shallow in overall depth and subject to limited fluctuation in water level. Access is 6 1/4 miles southwest of the China Meadows Trailhead on the East Fork Smiths Fork Trail to Broadbent Meadow and then 1/2 mile west up the steep ridge to the lake. The lake is situated in thick timber some distance from access trails and can be difficult to locate. Several campsites are available for small groups with a limited amount of boggy horse pasture. A good spring water source is not immediately available. G-50 contains a population of brook trout sustained by natural reproduction.

G-51. G-51 is a scenic natural lake situated in thick timber at the western flank of Flat Top Mountain in the Smiths Fork Basin. It is 8.1 acres, 10,620 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. Access is 7 1/4 miles southwest of the China Meadows Trailhead on the East Fork Smiths Fork Trail to the second footbridge. Without crossing this footbridge, follow an obscure trail south and east around the timbered ridge and across an open meadow for about 1 mile to the lake. Excellent campsites are available with abundant horse feed in the large riparian park to the west. Spring water is present at the lake. G-51 sustains moderate to light fisherman use and contains a population of brook trout.

G-52. G-52 is a small glacial lake located at the top of the steep bare ridge 1/8 mile northwest of G-53. The lake 2.6 acres, 11,340 feet in elevation, with 4-foot maximum depth. G-52 is situated above timberline and the surrounding terrain is composed of alpine tundra with scattered patches of

willow and stunted conifers. Campsites are not available in the immediate lake vicinity, but good sites are present to the southeast in the vicinity of G-53 and G-96. G-52 is extremely shallow and contains marginal fish habitat. The lake is stocked with cutthroat but fishing is unpredictable due to a potential for winterkill. Angling pressure at G-52 is very light.

G-53. G-53 is a scenic alpine lake situated in partly open timberline terrain in a small cirque basin. It is 5.5 acres, 11,180 feet in elevation, with 17-foot maximum depth. Access is 8 1/2 miles southwest of the China Meadows Trailhead on the East Fork Smiths Fork Trail to the junction with the Bald Mountain-Smiths Fork Pass Trail. Proceed 1 mile northwest on this trail to a point where it crosses over a timbered ridge, and then leave the trail heading southwest for another 1/2 mile to the lake. G-53 is located immediately west of G-96. Excellent camping areas are available with a good source of spring water. Pasturage is present in the general lake vicinity and to the east. G-53 contains a naturally reproducing population of cutthroat and brook trout and sustains moderate fisherman utilization.

G-55. This small lake is not capable of sustaining a fishery. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-56. This small alpine lake sits well above timberline, 1 1/2 miles southwest of Lower Red Castle Lake in the Smiths Fork Drainage. G-56 is 1.5 acres, 11,460 feet in elevation, with 12-foot maximum depth. Follow the East Fork Smiths Fork Trail south from Lower Red Castle for 1/2 mile to the stream crossing, and then head west up the sparsely timbered ridge to the small glacial depression encompassing the lake. The surrounding terrain is open and windswept in nature and not suitable for camping activities. In addition, horse feed and spring water are not available in the lake vicinity. G-56 is seldom visited and contains a brook trout population. Fishing is reported to be both hot and cold.

G-58. G-58 is a small natural lake situated in thick conifers 25 yards east of and below Hessie Lake on the outlet stream. It is 1.3 acres, 10,620 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. G-58 is very shallow in overall depth, but inlet flows are sufficient to sustain a cutthroat trout population in this lake. This fishery is sustained by migration from Hessie. Campsites are available at G-58 and adjacent to Hessie, but fuelwood is scarce due to the heavy camping activity in the vicinity. Spring water can be located at Hessie, and horse feed is present in wet meadows to the east.

G-59. G-59 is a small pothole lake situated in rocky, timbered terrain 1/2 mile south of Hessie Lake along the base of the talus ridge. It is 3.2 acres maximum, 10,740 feet in elevation, with 24-foot maximum depth. G-59 is located in a glacial catch basin without inlet or outlet sources and experiences annual water fluctuation of up to 8 feet. Good camping area are present in the lake vicinity with some horse feed in parks to the east.

Spring water sources are unavailable. G-59 receives light recreational use and provides a good opportunity for those anglers and hikers seeking solitude. G-59 is stocked with brook trout, but is known to experience winterkill and does not consistently provide fish to the angler.

G-60. G-60 is a small meadow lake situated at the foot of a timbered ridge southeast of Hessie Lake in the East Fork Basin. It is 2.5 acres, 10,500 feet in elevation, with 9-foot maximum depth. This lake is a remnant of a much larger beaver dam impoundment which was reduced in size by past breaching in the dam. G-60 is located 250 yards south of the stream crossing in Hessie Lake Basin some 5 1/4 miles south of the China Meadows Trailhead on the East Fork Smiths Fork and Highline Trails. Excellent camping areas are available with an abundant supply of horse feed. Spring water can be obtained from any one of several sources at the lake. G-60 is stocked with brook trout and sustains moderate to light angler use patterns.



G-53

G-61. G-61 is a small, shallow lake situated in partly timbered country at the northern extremity of Flat Top Mountain. It is 3.1 acres, 10,669 feet in elevation, with 6-foot maximum depth. The lake is characterized by a long shallow arm to the east. G-61 is located 1/8 mile south of G-60 up the steep timbered ridge following G-60's major inlet stream. Campsites are available with ample horse feed in large parks to the west and north. Spring water is limited in supply, particularly late in the season. G-61 sustains light angling pressure and may be subject to winterkill. Experimental brook trout stocking was undertaken in 1984 to further evaluate the potential of this water.

G-64. G-64 is a small meadow lake situated at the top of the timbered ridge 1/4 mile south of the junction of the West Fork Smiths Fork and Highline Trails in the West Fork Drainage. It is 3.4 acres, 10,470 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. The total distance from the Hewinta Guard station is 5 3/4 miles. From the Cache Trailhead in the East Fork Blacks Fork Drainage it is 4 1/2 miles. Campsites are readily available at G-64 with wet meadow horse feed and early season spring water sources. This lake is seldom visited and provides a good opportunity for users seeking solitude. G-64 is stocked with cutthroat trout, but fishing can be unpredictable due to a potential for winterkill.

G-92. This large beaver pond does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-93. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-94. This beaver pond does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-96. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-97. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

GRAHAMS, G-32. Grahams is a moderately sized reservoir lake located in timbered terrain in the lower Smiths Fork Basin. It is 18.5 acres maximum, 9,210 feet in elevation, with 25-foot maximum depth. Grahams straddles the state line with portions of this reservoir in Utah and Wyoming. The lake is highly stained and is coffee brown in color due to an accumulation of suspended organic material. The best route of access is on foot, 3/4 mile northwest of the China Meadows Road across the Stateline Reservoir dam and along the timbered ridge. Grahams is also accessible on a rough jeep road which begins 1/2 mile north of Stateline Reservoir. Follow this road north and west for 1 1/4 miles through a difficult river

ford to the lake. Campsites are available at Grahams, but running water is not present in the lake vicinity. This lake is productive in nature, and does not sustain a fish population at present due to low oxygen concentrations and winterkill problems. The Forest Service has installed a water circulator on the surface of Grahams Reservoir in an attempt to improve wintering conditions, and stocking may be undertaken at some future time.

HESSIE, G-18. This natural moraine lake is located in heavily timbered terrain at the base of a rocky point in the East Fork Smiths Fork Drainage. Hessie is 13.2 acres, 10,620 feet in elevation, with 18-foot maximum depth. Access is 3 1/2 miles southwest of the China Meadows Trailhead on the East Fork Smiths Fork Trail to the junction with the Highline Trail heading east. Follow the Highline Trail south and east for 1 1/2 miles to the Hessie Lake Cutoff, and proceed west for an additional 1/4 mile to the lake. There are several well used campsites along the eastern and southern lake perimeters. Fuelwood is scarce due to the heavy camping activity at Hessie, but spring water is available. Horse feed can be located in boggy meadows to the east. Hessie Lake contains a population of cutthroat trout maintained by aerial stocking. Remember to pack out your refuse and exercise minimum impact camping.



G-61

MARSH, G-19. Marsh is an elongated reservoir lake located in dense timber in the lower Smiths Fork Basin. It is 33.6 acres maximum, 9,335 feet in elevation, with 35-foot maximum depth. The annual water level fluctuation at this reservoir is about 4 feet. Marsh is accessible on an improved Forest Service road, 26 miles south of Mountain View, Wyoming. There are 2 Forest Service campgrounds developed at Marsh with a combined capacity of 38 units. Marsh Lake experiences heavy fishing and camping activity, particularly on weekends. Marsh Lake is stocked with rainbow and albino rainbow catchables on a regular basis during the summer months. Stocking of brook trout fingerling has been presently discontinued due to winterkill problems. The Forest Service has installed a water circulator at Marsh in an attempt to increase oxygen concentrations and improve winter survival of fish.

RED CASTLE, G-15. Red Castle Lake is a picturesque natural water situated in a steep walled cirque basin in the shadow of 13,095 foot Wilson Peak. Red Castle is one of the largest and deepest natural lakes in the Uinta Mountains. It is 168.2 acres, 11,295 feet in elevation, with 103-foot maximum depth. Access is 11 miles southwest of the China Meadows Trailhead on the well used East Fork Smiths Fork Trail some 2 miles beyond Lower Red Castle Lake. Campsites and horse feed are not available in the immediate lake vicinity due to the open and rocky nature of the surrounding terrain. However, good camping areas with cover, horse feed and running water are available in timbered areas to the north. Fishing pressure is moderate to heavy for stocked cutthroat trout. Due to the size and depth of this popular water, Red Castle is most effectively fished with an inflatable raft of some type. However, if inflatables are used, be sure to carry life jackets and exercise extreme caution. Red Castle Lake is subject to occasional high winds and rapid changes in weather due to the high elevation of this water.

RED CASTLE, EAST, G-17. This deep natural lake is located in a steep walled cirque basin at the foot of Red Castle Peak in the Smiths Fork Drainage. East Red Castle is 21.1 acres, 11,190 feet in elevation, with 58-foot maximum depth. The lake is situated in open timberline terrain and campsites are not available in the immediate lake vicinity. However, good camping areas with horse feed can be located to the northeast. Several good sources of spring water are present at the lake. East Red Castle is located 3/8 mile northwest of Smiths Fork Pass Lake against the steep talus ridge. The cutthroat trout population present in East Red Castle is unusually wary and these fish may be difficult to catch at times. This water experiences moderate levels of angling pressure.

RED CASTLE, LOWER, G-12. This scenic natural lake is situated in a large alpine meadow at the foot of Red Castle Peak in the Smiths Fork Drainage. Lower Red Castle is large at 45.0 acres, 10,758 feet in elevation, with 28-foot maximum depth. The lake is located some 9 miles south and



Red Castle, G-15

west of China Meadows on the well maintained East Fork Smiths Fork Trail to just beyond the switchbacks. Lower Red Castle is a popular and well known lake receiving substantial fishing pressure. Good campsites are available but tend to be overused and fuelwood is extremely sparse. As a result, users are encouraged to carry in backpack stoves and make use of existing fire rings whenever possible. Spring water can be located during wet years and horse feed is available in boggy meadows surrounding the lake. People using horses should exercise proper management of pack animals to minimize impact to meadow areas. Lower Red Castle is currently stocked with rainbow trout, but cutthroat and brook trout are present as well.

RED CASTLE, UPPER, G-16. This deep natural lake is situated in a rugged cirque basin well above timberline at the head of the Smiths Fork Basin. Upper Red Castle is 25.6 acres, 11,542 feet in elevation, with 72-foot maximum depth. The lake is located at the top of a steep rocky ridge 1/8 mile south of the large Red Castle Lake. Access is difficult and impossible on horseback due to the steep talus slopes and vertical cliffs on either side of Red Castle Lake. Campsites are not available due to the extreme elevation and rugged nature of the lake basin. However, an excellent spring water source is available at the lake. Upper Red Castle sustains moderate to light fishing pressure and is stocked with cutthroat trout on a periodic basis. This lake has developed a reputation for slow fishing which produces an occasional large cutthroat trout.

MARSH, G-19. Marsh is an elongated reservoir lake located in dense timber in the lower Smiths Fork Basin. It is 33.6 acres maximum, 9,335 feet in elevation, with 35-foot maximum depth. The annual water level fluctuation at this reservoir is about 4 feet. Marsh is accessible on an improved Forest Service road, 26 miles south of Mountain View, Wyoming. There are 2 Forest Service campgrounds developed at Marsh with a combined capacity of 38 units. Marsh Lake experiences heavy fishing and camping activity, particularly on weekends. Marsh Lake is stocked with rainbow and albino rainbow catchables on a regular basis during the summer months. Stocking of brook trout fingerling has been presently discontinued due to winterkill problems. The Forest Service has installed a water circulator at Marsh in an attempt to increase oxygen concentrations and improve winter survival of fish.

RED CASTLE, G-15. Red Castle Lake is a picturesque natural water situated in a steep walled cirque basin in the shadow of 13,095 foot Wilson Peak. Red Castle is one of the largest and deepest natural lakes in the Uinta Mountains. It is 168.2 acres, 11,295 feet in elevation, with 103-foot maximum depth. Access is 11 miles southwest of the China Meadows Trailhead on the well used East Fork Smiths Fork Trail some 2 miles beyond Lower Red Castle Lake. Campsites and horse feed are not available in the immediate lake vicinity due to the open and rocky nature of the surrounding terrain. However, good camping areas with cover, horse feed and running water are available in timbered areas to the north. Fishing pressure is moderate to heavy for stocked cutthroat trout. Due to the size and depth of this popular water, Red Castle is most effectively fished with an inflatable raft of some type. However, if inflatables are used, be sure to carry life jackets and exercise extreme caution. Red Castle Lake is subject to occasional high winds and rapid changes in weather due to the high elevation of this water.

RED CASTLE, EAST, G-17. This deep natural lake is located in a steep walled cirque basin at the foot of Red Castle Peak in the Smiths Fork Drainage. East Red Castle is 21.1 acres, 11,190 feet in elevation, with 58-foot maximum depth. The lake is situated in open timberline terrain and campsites are not available in the immediate lake vicinity. However, good camping areas with horse feed can be located to the northeast. Several good sources of spring water are present at the lake. East Red Castle is located 3/8 mile northwest of Smiths Fork Pass Lake against the steep talus ridge. The cutthroat trout population present in East Red Castle is unusually wary and these fish may be difficult to catch at times. This water experiences moderate levels of angling pressure.

RED CASTLE, LOWER, G-12. This scenic natural lake is situated in a large alpine meadow at the foot of Red Castle Peak in the Smiths Fork Drainage. Lower Red Castle is large at 45.0 acres, 10,758 feet in elevation, with 28-foot maximum depth. The lake is located some 9 miles south and



Red Castle, G-15

west of China Meadows on the well maintained East Fork Smiths Fork Trail to just beyond the switchbacks. Lower Red Castle is a popular and well known lake receiving substantial fishing pressure. Good campsites are available but tend to be overused and fuelwood is extremely sparse. As a result, users are encouraged to carry in backpack stoves and make use of existing fire rings whenever possible. Spring water can be located during wet years and horse feed is available in boggy meadows surrounding the lake. People using horses should exercise proper management of pack animals to minimize impact to meadow areas. Lower Red Castle is currently stocked with rainbow trout, but cutthroat and brook trout are present as well.

RED CASTLE, UPPER, G-16. This deep natural lake is situated in a rugged cirque basin well above timberline at the head of the Smiths Fork Basin. Upper Red Castle is 25.6 acres, 11,542 feet in elevation, with 72-foot maximum depth. The lake is located at the top of a steep rocky ridge 1/8 mile south of the large Red Castle Lake. Access is difficult and impossible on horseback due to the steep talus slopes and vertical cliffs on either side of Red Castle Lake. Campsites are not available due to the extreme elevation and rugged nature of the lake basin. However, an excellent spring water source is available at the lake. Upper Red Castle sustains moderate to light fishing pressure and is stocked with cutthroat trout on a periodic basis. This lake has developed a reputation for slow fishing which produces an occasional large cutthroat trout.

SARGENT, G-35. Sargent is an aesthetic sub-alpine lake situated in thick conifers at the eastern rim of the lower Smiths Fork Drainage. It is 8.3 acres, 9,690 feet in elevation, with 22-foot maximum depth. Access is 2 1/4 miles south of the Bridger Lake Guard Station on the Sargent Lake Trail, or 1 mile east of China Meadows on the indistinct Big Meadows Trail which begins as a jeep road near the center of China Meadows. Camping areas are present at Sargent but spring water sources are unavailable. Horse feed can be located in a large park to the south in the vicinity of the Big Meadows Trail. Sargent has a long history of winterkill, and the lake is presently fishless. However, the Forest Service has installed a water circulator on this lake in an attempt to improve wintering conditions. As a result, Sargent may support trout populations at some future time.

SMITHS FORK PASS, G-14. Smiths Fork Pass Lake is an elongated natural water with irregular shorelines located in open terrain southeast of Red Castle Peak in the East Fork Drainage. It is 26.1 acres, 11,152 feet in elevation, with 17-foot maximum depth. From the footbridge immediately below Lower Red Castle Lake, proceed southeast for 2 1/2 miles on the Bald Mountain-Smiths Fork Pass Trail to the large cirque basin containing the lake. There are no camping areas in the immediate vicinity due to the occurrence of this lake in rugged timberline terrain with no cover or fuelwood. However, good camping areas with adequate horse feed are located in timbered areas to the north. Spring water can be found at the lake. Smiths Fork Pass Lake receives light angling pressure and contains a population of cutthroat trout. Shorelines are open and well suited to fly casting.



Smith's Fork Pass, G-14

HENRYS FORK DRAINAGE

Henrys Fork is a small drainage on the north slope of the Uinta Range situated some 25 miles south of Mountain View, Wyoming. This basin is typical of other north slope drainages and characterized by narrow river valleys draining steep glacial headwater cirques, and broad timbered slopes in the lower basin. Precipitous rocky ridges at the head of the drainage extend to the north and broaden into lofty tundra-covered plateaus, 11,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level. There are extensive areas of treeless alpine tundra in this drainage. The highest point of land is the prominent Gilbert Peak which stands at 13,442 feet in elevation.

The Henrys Fork Drainage is composed of some 50 natural lakes and numerous small ponds and potholes of less than one acre in size. Nineteen of these waters currently hold fish populations or are under experimental fisheries management. These lakes vary widely in elevation from 8,970 feet at G-101 to 11,443 feet at Cliff Lake. Lakes are concentrated in the headwater region and many are situated in rugged basins well above timberline.

Access to the drainage is provided by good Forest Service roads from Mountain View or Lonetree, Wyoming. Much of the lower country in this drainage is roaded due to timber, oil and gas developments. The major access point to lakes in the wilderness area is the Henrys Fork Trailhead located adjacent to the Henrys Fork Campground. In an attempt to keep horses and pack animals out of the campground, the Forest Service has developed facilities some distance below the campground complete with mangers and unloading facilities.

The primary trail providing access to the backcountry is the Henrys Fork Trail which begins at the Henrys Fork Trailhead and follows the drainage system south over Gunsight Pass into the Uinta River Drainage. Henrys Fork can also be reached via Smiths Fork to the west or Beaver Creek to the east on the interbasin Highline Trail. The Basin Trail provides direct access to many of the lakes along the western end of the drainage. All trails which receive maintenance or regular use are identified on the Henrys Fork Drainage map by Forest Service Trail number.

Henrys Fork is a popular backcountry retreat, and about one-third of the fish producing waters in this drainage support heavy fishing pressure. However, there are plenty of opportunities for anglers seeking solitude at the more remote and/or smaller lakes which seldom see visitors. Dollar Lake is a popular camping and stopover spot for groups attempting Kings Peak, and Alligator is commonly fished by day groups hiking in from the Henrys Fork campground.

Cutthroat trout are the most common species encountered in lakes of

the Henrys Fork Basin, although brook trout are often taken by anglers as well. Fish populations are supplemented by aerial stocking of fingerling trout as needed.

Most of the Henrys Fork Drainage south of the trailhead is contained within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, and the usual restrictions apply regarding the use of motorized equipment.

U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps useful in the Henrys Fork Drainage include the Mount Powell, Kings Peak, Gilbert Peak NE and Bridger Lake quadrangles. Fishermen may also wish to pick up a copy of the High Uintas Primitive Area map available at local ranger stations of the Wasatch and Ashley national forests.

ALLIGATOR, G-38. Alligator is an elongated natural lake located in dense lodgepole forest at the lower end of the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 14.5 acres, 10,033 feet in elevation, with 26-foot maximum depth. Alligator experiences a minor water level fluctuation of 1-2 feet annually. The lake is situated 3/8 mile west of the Henrys Fork Trail on an unmarked side trail which begins some 2 1/4 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead. Good campsites are available with a small amount of horse feed to the west. Spring water is not present and thick timber makes fly casting difficult. Due to the east of access, Alligator is fished heavily. Remember to apply minimum impact camping techniques and carry out your refuse.

BEAR, G-7. This scenic natural lake is situated in rocky timbered terrain at the northeastern end of Flat Top Mountain. Bear is 16.9 acres in size, 10,767 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 37 feet. Bear is located 6 1/2 miles from the Henrys Fork Trailhead or 8 1/4 miles from the China Meadows Trailhead in the Smiths Fork Drainage. From the Henrys Fork Trailhead follow the Henrys Fork Trail southwest to Elkhorn Crossing and then proceed west on the Highline and Basin trails to the lake. There is a more direct trail from Elkhorn Crossing which follows the drainage system west to Sawmill and Bear lakes, but this trail is obscure and steep and is not maintained. Bear is a popular lake and receives moderate to heavy angler utilization. Good campsites are available with very little horse feed and no spring water sources. Bear Lake is stocked with brook trout, but a few cutthroat trout may still persist in the lake. Remember to pack out your refuse and exercise minimum impact camping.

BLANCHARD, G-3. Blanchard is a large natural lake with irregular shorelines situated above timberline, 1 mile southwest of Henrys Fork Lake. Blanchard is easily located by following the drainage system connecting these 2 lakes. Blanchard is 31.3 acres in size, 11,164 feet in elevation, with 29-foot maximum depth. The surrounding terrain is open alpine tundra with low stunted conifers, boggy meadows and dense patches of willow. Camping areas are not available due to the absence of cover and fuelwood. Inlet and outlet sources contain excellent flows, but spring water is not present. Horse feed is scattered and poor. Blanchard contains a good population of pansized cutthroat trout and provides some good fly fishing on occasion. This lake receives a moderate level of angling pressure.

CASTLE, G-11. Castle is a spring-fed natural water situated in an elongated glacial depression above timberline in the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 11.5 acres, 11,363 feet in elevation, with 10-foot maximum depth. The lake gets its name from a steep broken ridge which rises to 1,000 feet above the lake to the north. Castle lies in a small drainage basin and receives limited inlet flow. Access is 3/4 mile northwest of Blanchard Lake over open rocky terrain or 1 steep mile southwest of Island Lake. Campsites are unavailable due to the absence of timber and the windswept nature of the area. Better campsites with horse feed are available to the northeast in the vicinity of Island Lake. Several small spring water sources are present at Castle. The Castle Lake fishery is sustained by aerial stocking of brook trout. Angling pressure is generally light at this remote natural lake.



Castle, G-11

[105] Highline Trail
[114] Big Meadow Trail
[116] Basin Trail
[117] Henrys Fork Trail
[118] Joulous Creek Trail

**TO
CHINA MEADOWS
1.5 MILES**

Henry's Fork Trailhead

TO
BULLOCKS PARK
4.5 MILES

TO
HESSIE LAKE [105]
1.5 MILES

TO
WEST FORK
BEAVER CREEK
2 MILES

HENRY FORK DRAINAGE

Stream

(089)

Pack Trail

Highway



Improved Road

Unimproved Road

Trailhead

Campground

Guard Station

Mount Powell

TO
UINTA RIVER
DRAINAGE

CLIFF, G-5. Cliff is a large, deep, natural lake situated some distance above timberline at the head of the Henrys Fork Drainage. It is 33.1 acres, 11,443 feet in elevation, with 69-foot maximum depth. Access is 1 mile south of Blanchard Lake up the gently sloping ridge to the large cirque basin containing the lake. The surrounding terrain is treeless alpine tundra with steep talus slopes. As a result, camping areas and horse feed are not available. Cliff is easily accessible on horseback, but there are no suitable places to tie pack animals at the lake. Good spring water sources can be located, however. This remote alpine lake receives relatively light angler use and is stocked with cutthroat trout. These fish are unusually wary and may be difficult to catch. Weather conditions change rapidly at this high elevation.

DOLLAR, G-2. This scenic natural lake is located in partly timbered terrain at the eastern margin of the Henrys Fork Basin. Dollar is 9.7 acres, 10,785 feet in elevation, with 18-foot maximum depth. Dollar is a popular stopover and camping area for groups attempting Kings Peak. Access is 7 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to the last patch of tall timber encountered on the trail before breaking out into the open alpine meadows at the head of the basin. Dollar is located some 250 yards east of the trail from this point. Excellent camping areas are available with spring water sources and a good supply of horse feed in large parks to the north and west. Dollar receives moderate angler use and sustains a populations of brook and cutthroat trout.

G-10. G-10 is a shallow meadow lake situated in partly open, timbered country in the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 5.4 acres, 10,772 feet in elevation, with 12-foot maximum depth. Fisherman access is 1 1/4 miles south of Bear Lake on the Basin Trail. G-10 is visible from the trail and lies about 350 yards to the northeast at the lower end of a large alpine meadow. Camping areas are available with limited and boggy horse feed. A good spring water source can be located adjacent to the Basin Trail. G-10 supports a brook trout population and experiences light angler use patterns. Angler success can be unpredictable due to a potential for occasional winterkill at G-10.

G-39. G-39 is an oblong, natural lake with boggy shorelines situated in partly timbered terrain in the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 2.6 acres, 10,820 feet in elevation, with 7-foot maximum depth. G-39 is located adjacent to the Basin Trail 2 miles south of Bear Lake or 1/2 mile northwest of Henrys Fork Lake. Marginal camping areas are present with a limited amount of horse feed. Spring water is not readily available in the lake vicinity. G-39 received experimental stocking of brook trout during 1985 to further evaluate the potential of this water to sustain a fishery. The lake sustains light recreational use at present.

G-40. This small meadow lake is located 1/8 mile northeast of and

immediately downstream from G-10 in the Henrys Fork Drainage. G-40 is 3.6 acres, 10,740 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. G-40 is productive in nature and characterized by floating, boggy banks and islands. Camping areas for small groups can be located in the lake vicinity with a limited amount of wet horse pasture. Spring water sources are not available. This lake contains marginal fish habitat and has not previously produced a fishery. However, experimental stocking was rescheduled in 1986 to evaluate wintering conditions at this water.

G-41. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-42. G-42 is a small natural lake located in open brushy terrain 1/2 mile south and east of Henrys Fork Lake on the Basin Trail. It is 4.6 acres in size, 10,900 feet in elevation, with 2-foot maximum depth. G-42 sits in a boggy meadow and is characterized by an irregular shoreline and floating banks. The lake is very shallow in overall depth and is not capable of sustaining fish populations through the winter. However, G-42 contains a seasonal population of brook and cutthroat trout which are migrants from the adjacent stream. Campsites and spring water are not available at G-42, but suitable camping areas can be located at the nearby Henrys Fork Lake. Horse feed is abundant in the lake vicinity. G-42 experiences light annual recreational use.

G-43. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.



G-39



G-62

G-44. This small glacial lake is located at the top of a steep rocky ridge 1/2 mile southwest of Henrys Fork Lake. G-44 is 1.5 acres, 11,140 feet in elevation, with 7-foot maximum depth. G-44 sits in timberline terrain composed of stunted conifer, willow and boulder fields. Although not available at the lake, campsites and horse feed can be located in timbered areas to the north and east at the base of the ridge. Spring water is unavailable at the lake. G-44 contains marginal game fish habitat, but experimental stocking of cutthroat trout was scheduled in 1986 for continued evaluation of the fishery potential. G-44 is currently subject to light fishing pressure.

G-62. This small natural lake is situated in partly timbered country at the foot of a red rock talus slope near the northern extremity of Flat Top Mountain. G-62 is 2.2 acres, 10,630 feet in elevation, with 7-foot maximum depth. Access is 4 1/4 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to a point where 2 small streams cross the trail in close proximity. Leave the trail and follow the northern-most of these streams west for 3/4 mile to the lake. Marginal campsites are available at G-62 and horse feed can be located in parks to the south. Spring water sources are not available. G-62 was stocked with brook trout on an experimental basis during 1985 to further evaluate the habitat potential of this water. The lake presently experiences light angler use.

G-98. G-98 is a spring-fed natural lake located in open terrain at the head of the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 5.4 acres, 11,208 feet in elevation,

with 10-foot maximum depth. The immediate terrain is composed of alpine tundra and steep talus slopes. G-98 contains a glacial turbidity and has extensive shoal areas to the south. Access is 8 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to its junction with the Basin Trail near Gunsight Pass. From this junction, proceed directly south following the major drainage system for an additional 1 1/2 miles to the small lake basin at the foot of the headwall. Campsites are not available and horse feed is limited. Spring water can be located in plentiful supply. G-98 is not presently stocked pending further inventory work and evaluation.

G-99. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-100. G-100 is an irregular pothole lake located in a natural glacial depression in thick timber at the lower end of the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 7.9 acres maximum, 9,070 feet in elevation, with 13-foot maximum depth. G-100 contains no inlets or outlets, and fluctuates according to annual precipitation patterns. The lake is situated near the Bridger Lake Oil Field, and there are numerous roads in the lake vicinity. From the Red Mountain Road southeast of the Dahlgreen Creek crossing proceed 1/4 mile northeast on foot through dense timber to the lake. There are numerous small ponds and potholes in the area, and G-100 can be difficult to locate. Suitable sites for camping activities are available, but there is no running water in the lake vicinity. G-100 received experimental stocking of brook trout during 1985. At present, recreational use is very light.



Grass, G-8

G-101. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

GRASS, G-8. Grass is a shallow natural lake situated in a broad alpine meadow within sight of the Basin Trail, 1/2 mile northwest of Henrys Fork Lake. This water is 5.5 acres in size, 10,740 feet in elevation, with only 4-foot maximum depth. Despite shallow water conditions, grass supports a good resident population of pansized brook and cutthroat trout sustained by natural reproduction. Grass experiences moderate fishing pressure, and provides some excellent fly fishing on occasion. Campsites and horse feed are available in the general area. Spring water sources are present as well.

HENRYS FORK, G-1. Henrys Fork Lake is a scenic alpine water located within the timberline transition zone near the head of the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 19.7 acres, 10,830 feet in elevation, with 19-foot maximum depth. Timber is sparse and patchy in the surrounding terrain, but good campsites are available with ample horse feed and spring water sources. However, these campsites are heavily used and fuel wood is scarce. Anglers are encouraged to carry backpack stoves and apply minimum impact camping techniques. Trail access is 8 miles southwest of the trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to the junction with the Basin Trail, and then west on this latter trail for 1 mile to the lake. Henrys Fork Lake can also be reached on the Big Meadows and Basin Trails from the Smiths Fork Basin. Henrys Fork contains an excellent cutthroat trout population and provides some good fishing on occasion.



Henry's Fork, G-1

ISLAND, G-9. Island is an aesthetic alpine lake situated in partly open, timbered terrain at the base of a steep talus ridge, 3/8 mile west of Henrys Fork Lake. It is 10.4 acres, 10,830 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. There are no direct trails to the lake, but access on foot or horseback is not difficult. Island is characterized by irregular and rocky shorelines with a small island near the center of the lake. The lake is very shallow, and rocks protrude above the surface in several areas. Marginal camping areas can be located with some wet meadow horse pasture and a good source of spring water. Island is stocked with brook trout and produces an occasional cutthroat trout. These fish are extremely wary due to shallow water conditions. Fishing pressure at Island is regarded as light.

LITTLE BLANCHARD, G-4. This small glacial lake is located above timberline some 50 yards east of, and immediately upstream from Blanchard Lake. Little Blanchard is 3.6 acres, 11,169 feet in elevation, with 8-foot maximum depth. The surrounding terrain is rolling alpine tundra with low willow, open meadows, and scattered boulders. Campsites are not available and horse feed is poor due to the high elevation of this water. Little Blanchard contains a large population of slowly growing cutthroat trout. The open shorelines are ideally suited to fly casting. Fishing pressure directed to Little Blanchard is light.

QUARTER CORNER, G-103. This lake does not presently sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

SAWMILL, G-6. Sawmill is a natural moraine lake in thick timber located immediately downstream from Bear Lake in the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 7.2 acres, 10,661 feet in elevation, with 21-foot maximum depth. The lake derives its name from an old sawmill site located nearby. Access is 3/4 mile south and west of Elkhorn Crossing on an obscure trail which follows the minor drainage to Sawmill. This trail is steep and is not well maintained. Sawmill is a popular lake and receives heavy fishing pressure. Good campsites are available but tend to be overused. Users are encouraged to implement minimum impact camping techniques and carry out all nonburnable refuse. Horse feed is sparse, but spring water is readily available. Sawmill contains a large population of brook and cutthroat trout and provides some fair fishing on occasion. Cutthroat trout stocking has been discontinued due to the high levels of brook trout reproduction in this water.

BEAVER CREEK DRAINAGE

The Beaver Creek Basin is a remote, medium sized drainage system located on the north slope of the Uinta Range some 10 miles south of Lonetree, Wyoming. This drainage is scenic and composed of steep walled alpine basins dotted with lakes near the crest of the range and broad timbered ridges to the north. There are three major drainage systems in this basin including the West Fork, Middle Fork and East Fork. The highest point of land is Gilbert Peak at the head of the West Fork Drainage which stands at 13,442 feet in elevation.

Due to the isolated nature of this basin, fishing pressure is limited and most of the lakes are seldom visited by anglers. None of the backcountry lakes are subject to heavy fishing pressure, and this basin is a good choice for anglers and other recreational users seeking solitude.

The Beaver Creek Basin contains some 40 natural lakes, one large reservoir and numerous small ponds and potholes. These waters are scattered and dissimilar and range in elevation from 9,230 feet at GR-160 to 11,295 feet at GR-152. Twelve of these waters currently contain fish populations, and nine more are scheduled for continued experimental fisheries evaluation. The more remote lakes commonly produce catches of brook and cutthroat trout, and rainbows are taken by anglers at the popular Hoop Lake in the East Fork Drainage. These populations are supplemented by occasional aerial stocking of fingerling as needed.

Major roads accessing the drainage are the Hole in the Rock Road from Lonetree and the North Slope Road from either the Henrys Fork Drainage to the west or the Burnt Fork Drainage to the east. Trail access to the Wilderness Area is provided by the West Fork Beaver Trail from the West Fork Road, the Middle Fork Beaver Trail from the Georges Park Trailhead and the Burnt Ridge and Thompson Peak Trails from the Hoop Lake Trailhead. The Hoop Lake Trailhead also provides access to the Burnt Fork Drainage via the Kabell Meadow Trail. In general, trails are marked and in good condition with the exception of the Middle Fork Beaver Trail. This trail is poorly routed and is difficult for horses in areas. All trails are identified on the drainage map by Forest Service trail numbers.

A full-service campground is available at Hoop Lake with tap water, restroom facilities and a boat ramp. Several picnic areas are provided in the Middle Fork Drainage below the Georges Park Trailhead. Road conditions are generally good with the exception of the North Slope Road in the vicinity of Fallon Creek and the West Fork Road which is extremely rough.

U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps applicable to the Beaver

Creek Drainage include the Kings Peak, Fox Lake, Hoop Lake, Hole in the Rock and Gilbert Peak NE quadrangles. These maps show topographic detail and are a useful supplement to the maps provided in this booklet.

BEAVER, GR-147. Beaver is a large moraine lake located in timbered terrain in the Middle Fork of Beaver Creek. The lake is 38.3 acres in size and situated at 10,505 feet in elevation. Beaver Lake is characterized by extensive shoal areas to the east, but the lake profile drops off sharply to a maximum depth of 30 feet at the southwestern end. Access is 5 miles southwest of the Georges Park Trailhead on the rough Middle Fork Beaver Trail to the footbridge at the lower end of Long Meadow, and then 1 3/4 miles south on the Beaver Lake Trail to the lake. Excellent campsites are available with good horse feed in adjacent meadows and in a large park to the west. Spring water is available from any one of several sources. Beaver is a popular lake and experiences moderate to heavy angling pressure. Beaver Lake contains a population of brook trout sustained by natural reproduction. A few cutthroat trout may still persist in this lake as well.

COFFIN, GR-144. Coffin is a scenic alpine lake situated in a rugged rocky basin at the head of the Middle Fork Drainage. It is 25.8 acres, 10,853 feet in elevation, with 28-foot maximum depth. The lake abuts talus slopes to the west and south and conifers flank the eastern and northern shorelines. Coffin is oblong in outline and characterized by a shallow shelf which extends out into the lake on all sides. There is no trail to the lake and the terrain is rough. From Beaver Lake follow the drainage system south and west for 3/4 mile to the lake. Campsites are marginal due to the rugged nature of the basin and slope of the terrain. Horse feed is not readily available and horse access is difficult. Spring water can be located, however. Angling pressure is light for stocked cutthroat trout.



Dine, GR-148

DINE, GR-148. Dine is a spring-fed natural lake located in rugged timbered terrain at the western end of the Middle Fork Beaver Drainage. A talus slope comes down to the lake from the southwest. The lake is 5.1 acres in size, 10,460 feet in elevation, with 15-foot maximum depth. Dine is remote and situated some distance from Forest Service trails. The lake can be located 1/2 mile west of Long Meadow up the steep timbered ridge or 1 mile south and west of Hidden Lake following the drainage system. Dine is subject to light fishing pressure and is a good choice for anglers seeking solitude. Marginal campsites are available for small groups with good spring water sources. Horse feed is not present in the vicinity of Dine but can be located at Long Meadow. Dine is stocked with brook trout but has been known to winterkill on occasion.

GILBERT, GR-150. Gilbert is a shallow natural lake in a picturesque setting at the foot of Gilbert Peak in the West Fork Basin. The surrounding terrain is composed of open alpine meadows and scattered patches of conifers with abundant flowing water. Gilbert is 15.2 acres in size, 10,905 feet in elevation, with a limited maximum depth of only 2 feet. Despite shallow water conditions, Gilbert contains an excellent population of brook and cutthroat trout sustained by natural reproduction. Access is 2

3/4 miles southwest of the North Slope Road on the rough West Fork Beaver Road, and then 6 1/2 miles further south and west on the West Fork Beaver Trail to the headwater region. The departure of this trail from the road occurs before the road ends, and is marked by a Forest Service sign. Several good campsites are available with abundant horse feed and excellent sources of spring water. Open shorelines at Gilbert are ideally suited to fly casting and fishing is extremely fast for pansized brook and cutthroat trout. Gilbert Lake is presently subject to moderate angler use.

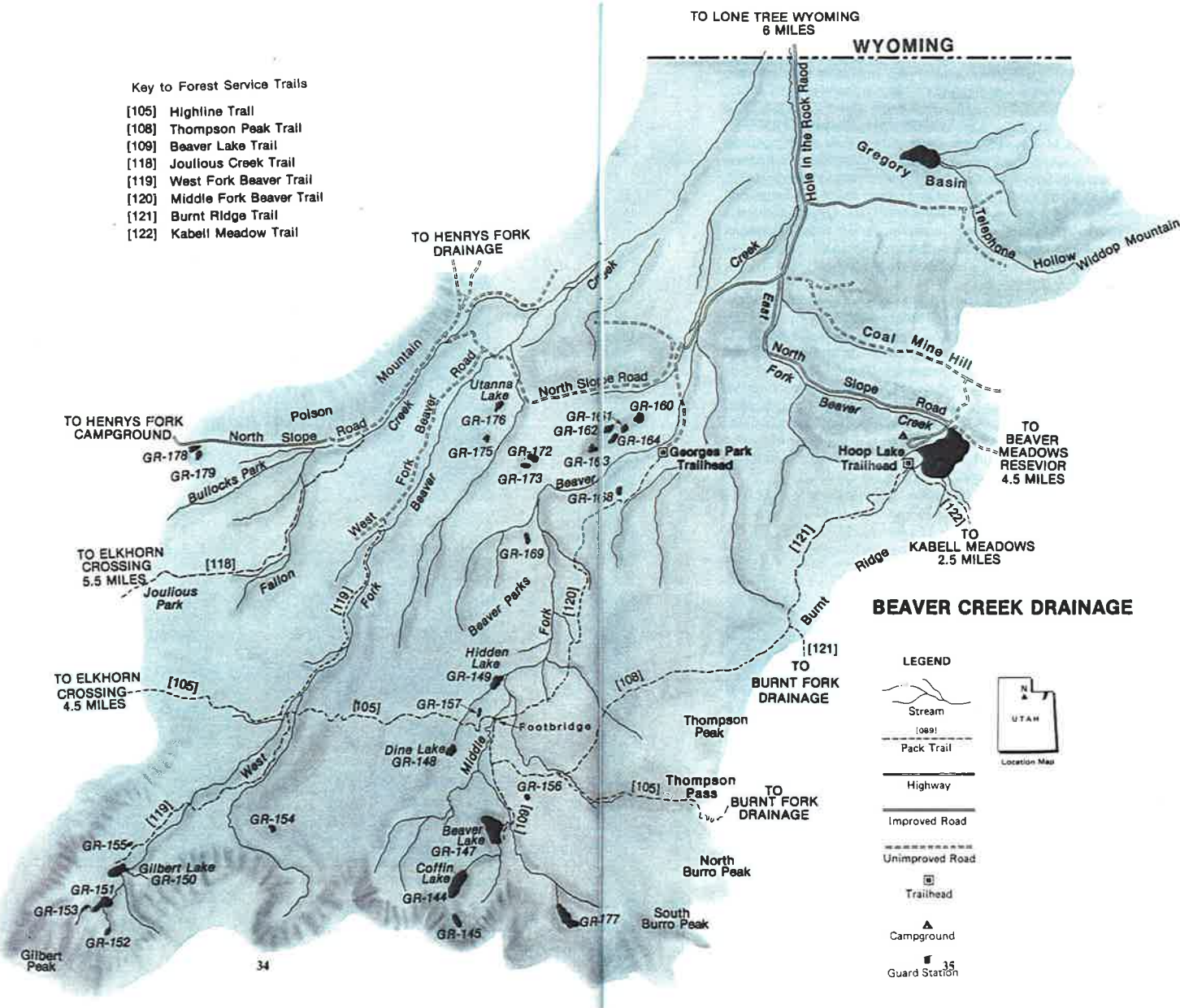
GR-145. This narrow natural water is located in a remote and rugged basin at the head of the Middle Fork Drainage. GR-145 is 5.6 acres, 11,020 feet in elevation, with 11-foot maximum depth. The surrounding terrain is composed of steep talus slopes and scattered timber. GR-145 is located 1/8 mile south of Coffin Lake up the talus ridge. Direct access on horseback is difficult and not recommended. Marginal campsites are available with early season spring water sources. GR-145 has been scheduled for experimental cutthroat trout stocking during 1986 to further evaluate the potential of this water to sustain a fishery. This lake and basin currently experience light recreational use.



Gilbert, GR-150

Key to Forest Service Trails

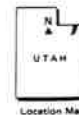
- [105] Highline Trail
- [108] Thompson Peak Trail
- [109] Beaver Lake Trail
- [118] Joulious Creek Trail
- [119] West Fork Beaver Trail
- [120] Middle Fork Beaver Trail
- [121] Burnt Ridge Trail
- [122] Kabell Meadow Trail



BEAVER CREEK DRAINAGE

LEGEND

- Stream
- [108] Pack Trail
- Highway
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Trailhead
- Campground
- Guard Station



GR-151. GR-151 is an irregular natural lake located in the timberline transition zone, 3/8 mile south of Gilbert Lake in the West Fork Basin. The immediate watershed is composed of boggy alpine meadows, thick patches of willow and scattered conifers. GR-151 is 12.6 acres, 11,033 feet in elevation, with 11-foot maximum depth. Although there are no direct trails to the lake, access on horseback is not difficult due to the open nature of the surrounding terrain. Camping opportunities are limited due to the high elevation of this water, but horse feed can be found in adjacent wet meadows. Spring water is readily available at GR-151. GR-151 contains a naturally reproducing population of brook trout and sustains light angler use. Inlet and outlet streams contain excellent flows and provide some good fishing should this scenic lake fail to produce fish.

GR-152. GR-152 is a small natural lake perched on a glacial ridge above timberline in the West Fork Drainage. The lake is 4.8 acres in size, 11,295 feet in elevation, with 13-foot maximum depth. Due to the elevation and aspect of this lake, GR-152 is not generally free of ice until mid-July and snowfields persist well into the summer months. The major inlet cascades off a broken rocky ridge to the south. GR-152 is located 3/8 mile south of GR-151 following the high gradient stream to the top of the ridge. The total distance from the North Slope Road is 10 miles. Horse feed and campsites are not present due to the high elevation of this water. However, excellent spring water sources are available. GR-152 is stocked with brook trout and is seldom visited by anglers.



GR-153

GR-153. This small, elongated beaver pond is situated on the drainage system 150 yards west of GR-151 in the West Fork Drainage. GR-153 is located in open brushy terrain at the foot of Gilbert Peak. A breach has occurred in the beaver dam reducing the size and depth of this water. GR-153 is presently 3.6 acres in size, 11,060 feet in elevation, with 2-foot maximum depth. The lake experiences annual fluctuations of about 1 foot. Despite shallow and fluctuating water conditions, GR-153 contains populations of brook and cutthroat trout sustained by natural reproduction. Potential campsites are located in a small stand of timber to the southeast and spring water is available. Horse feed is plentiful in the surrounding area. Anglers seldom visit this water, and fly fishing is generally good for pansized brook and cutthroat trout.

GR-154. GR-154 is a wedge-shaped lake situated at the foot of a talus ridge 2 1/2 miles east of Gilbert Lake in a small side drainage tributary to the West Fork Basin. The lake is 2.1 acres, 10,930 feet in elevation, with 6-foot maximum depth. There are no direct access trails and cross-country travel is rough due to thick timber and steep slopes. GR-154 is not readily accessible on horseback. Some camping areas are available in timbered areas to the west, and a small spring water source is present. GR-154 was scheduled for experimental stocking of brook trout in 1986 to evaluate the fishery potential of this marginal lake. The lake is presently subject to light recreational use.

GR-155. This small rounded lake is situated in a boggy meadow 1/4 mile northeast of Gilbert Lake out of sight of the West Fork Beaver Trail. GR-155 is 1.6 acres in size and 10,860 feet in elevation. The lake is shallow with a maximum depth of only 6 feet, and is characterized by a glacial turbidity. Good spring water sources are available at the lake with abundant wet meadow horse feed. Camping areas can be found in timber to the west. Fishing pressure is light for stocked brook trout.

GR-156. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

GR-157. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

GR-160. GR-160 is a deep, natural, pothole lake located 1/4 mile east and a little north of GR-162 in the lower Middle Fork Basin. It is 4.8 acres, 9,230 feet in elevation, with 50-foot maximum depth. GR-160 is one of many pothole lakes situated in a broad, heavily timbered basin, and this lake can be extremely difficult to locate. Good topographic maps are essential to pinpoint and identify any of the numerous lakes in this basin. GR-160 has no surface inlet source and may fluctuate according to yearly precipitation patterns. Campsites are poor in the lake vicinity with no running water and no horse feed. Experimental brook trout stocking was

accomplished during 1985 as part of a continued program to evaluate the habitat potential of this water. GR-160 presently sustains very light recreational pressure, and angling is difficult due to the numerous snags and deadfall around the perimeter of the lake.

GR-161. This deep pothole lake is located in a steep walled glacial depression some 250 yards east of GR-162 over the timbered ridge. The lake is rounded in outline and should not be confused with the nearby GR-164 with is elongated. GR-161 is 4.3 acres maximum, 9,250 feet in elevation, with 41-foot maximum depth. Because there are no inlets or outlets, GR-161 fluctuates according to precipitation patterns and is characterized by numerous snags and deadfall around the lake perimeter. Campsites are not available due to the steep nature of the surrounding terrain. Horse feed and spring water are not present. GR-161 experiences light recreational pressure and received experimental stocking of brook trout during 1985.

GR-162. GR-162 is an oblong pothole lake located in a broad, heavily timbered basin in the lower Middle Fork Drainage. The lake is 6.5 acres maximum, 9,344 feet in elevation, with 18-foot maximum depth. Access is 1/2 mile southeast of the North Slope Road near Willow Park over the timbered ridge. GR-162 can be difficult to locate due to an abundance of lakes and ponds in the basin. Marginal campsites are available for small groups without suitable spring water sources or horse feed. GR-162 contains a small population of wary brook trout produced by stocking. Fishing is extremely difficult due to an abundance of snags and deadfall around the entire lake perimeter. Fishing pressure is very light and GR-162 may be subject to occasional winterkill.

GR-163. GR-163 is an irregular natural lake situated in thick timber 1/4 mile south and slightly west of GR-162. The natural dimensions of this lake have been enlarged by a beaver dam placed across the outlet. It is 6.5 acres maximum, 9,322 feet in elevation, with 16-foot maximum depth. GR-163 is stained a deep brown color due to an accumulation of suspended organic matter. Recreational use of this area is very limited. Campsites are marginal due to the steep terrain, and horse feed and spring water are unavailable. GR-163 received experimental stocking of brook trout during 1985.

GR-164. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark only.

GR-168. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark only.

GR-169. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark only.



GR-163

GR-172. GR-172 is one of numerous pothole lakes and ponds located in a large timbered basin 3/4 mile south of Willow Park in the lower Beaver Creek Drainage. The lake is 3.6 acres maximum, 9,490 feet in elevation, with 15-foot maximum depth. Surface inlets are not present at GR-172, and the lake fluctuates widely depending upon precipitation patterns. Marginal campsites are available with no nearby sources of spring water or horse feed. Experimental stocking of brook trout was scheduled in 1986 to further evaluate the habitat potential of this water. GR-172 may be subject to winterkill.

GR-173. GR-173 is a natural pothole lake located in a glacial catch basin with no inlets or outlets. The lake is 3.9 acres maximum, 9,490 feet in elevation, with 27-foot maximum depth. GR-173 is located 100 yards southwest of GR-172 and is surrounded by numerous other potholes and ponds. An abundance of snags and deadfall in the water indicates that this lake is subject to cyclic fluctuations in water level. Marginal group camping areas are available in the vicinity. However, running water and horse feed are not present. GR-173 was scheduled for experimental stocking in 1986 to further evaluate the fishery potential of this water. At present, the lake receives very light recreational use.

GR-175. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

GR-177. GR-177 is an oblong natural lake situated in timberline terrain at the foot of a steep talus ridge near the head of the Middle Fork Basin. The lake is 18.3 acres in size and 10,860 feet in elevation. GR-177 is characterized by a glacial turbidity and is very shallow overall with a maximum depth of only 11 feet. Access is 1 1/2 miles southeast of Beaver Lake over rough terrain. There is an obscure sheep trail into this basin, but the trail is very difficult to locate and follow. Marginal campsites are available at the lake with spring water sources. Horse feed is abundant in large parks to the east. GR-177 contains a small population of wary cutthroat trout, and fishing is often slow. GR-177 sustains light fishing pressure. The recreational appeal of this basin is diminished somewhat by sheep grazing in the area.

GR-178. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.



Hidden, GR-149

GR-179. This shallow natural lake is situated in dense conifers 150 yards south of the North Slope Road in the vicinity of Bullocks Park. GR-179 is located immediately east of GR-178 which is visible from the road. GR-179 is 5.5 acres, 9,770 feet in elevation, with 11-foot maximum depth. Potential camping areas are available with no running water or horse feed. GR-179 is subject to light annual recreational use at present. Experimental stocking of brook trout was undertaken during 1985 to evaluate the habitat potential of this lake. GR-179 may be subject to winterkill.

HIDDEN, GR-149. Hidden is a small natural lake located in timbered terrain 1/2 mile north of Long Meadow in the Middle Fork Drainage. There is no direct trail to the lake, but access is not difficult. The lake is 6.5 acres, 10,148 feet in elevation, with 18-foot maximum depth. Hidden lies off the traveled path and is not frequently visited by anglers. The lake contains a population of brook trout sustained by aerial stocking, and a population of rough fish as well. Several good areas are available for camping activity with some horse feed in meadows adjacent to the inlet stream. There are no good spring water sources at the lake. Hidden provides a good opportunity for anglers seeking solitude in this basin.

UTANNA, GR-176. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark only.

**PLEASE LEAVE THESE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS
AND LAKES THE WAY YOU WOULD LIKE
TO FIND THEM WHEN YOU RETURN.**

KNOW AND OBEY STATE AND FISH AND GAME LAWS.

**DUMP WASTE WATER A MINIMUM OF 150
FEET FROM SPRINGS, LAKES AND STREAMS.**

**BURN COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS.
USE EXISTING FIRE RINGS WHEN POSSIBLE.**

**PACK OUT UNBURNABLE TRASH,
INCLUDING PLASTICS AND METAL FOIL.**

**PACK OUT LITTER LEFT BY THOSE
LESS COURTEOUS THAN YOURSELF.**

LEAVE A CLEAN CAMP AND A DEAD FIRE.

**A GOOD WILDERNESS TOILET IS MADE BY DIGGING
A "CAT HOLE" NO DEEPER THAN 8 to 10 INCHES AND
AT LEAST 200 FEET FROM SPRINGS, LAKES AND
STREAMS. COVER THE WASTE WITH 4 to 6 INCHES OF
TOPSOIL.**

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