

LAKES OF THE HIGH UINTAS

DRY GULCH & UINTA RIVER DRAINAGES

Compiled and edited by
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Lakes of the High Uintas Dry Gulch & Uinta River Drainages

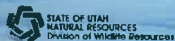
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Chain Lakes

INTRODUCTION

THE UINTA MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEASTERN UTAH ARE THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN RANGE IN UTAH. KINGS'S 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, steep rocky slopes, green meadows, blue lakes and tall trees. Four of Utah's major rivers, the Duchesne, Provo, Weber, and Bear, originate in the snowfields of these mountains.

Between 1955 and 1990 a total of 1,036 lakes were surveyed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Out of that number, 427 lakes are currently being stocked on a prescribed cycle, 149 have sufficient natural reproduction and do not require stocking, and 460 are fishless. Overall, only about 50% of the lakes larger than 2 acres are managed for fishing and only about 30% of the lakes 1 acre or larger are managed for sport fishing. Presently 387 lakes are



Great Fisheries Depend on You!

Here are some things you can do to help:

- ✓ Report unusual circumstances or water conditions to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.
- ✓ Don't leave unused line on banks and shores.
- ✓ Join Utah's Stream Team! Adopt and care for your favorite fishing spot.
- ✓ Carry out trash, keep a garbage sack with you on fishing trips.
- ✓ Know fishing rules and obey them.
- ✓ Be able to explain to others how rules help fishing.

A TRIP TO THE HIGH
UINTAS CAN BE VERY
ENJOYABLE, BUT MAY
ALSO BE UNCOMFORTABLE
OR HAZARDOUS TO
UNPREPARED TRAVELERS.

managed with brook trout, 158 have cutthroat trout as the primary species and 38 are managed with rainbow trout. Thirty-four of the 38 rainbow stocked lakes are near roads and stocked with catchable sized rainbow trout. A recent survey found a few golden trout still present in the upper end of the Uinta River drainage. Two lakes have been stocked with splake and 16 lakes are currently managed with Arctic grayling.

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. Each lake's physical, chemical and biological features change from year to year; therefore, management must also change. A second comprehensive lake study was undertaken by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 1971 to evaluate past management efforts and recommend necessary changes. The last basin wide surveys were done in the Uinta River Drainage in 1980, and the Dry Gulch drainage in 1987. Spot checks have been completed on various lakes in these drainages more recently and the information in this booklet represents current management and the most recent information.

No attempt was made to list all the lakes in the Uinta River - Dry Gulch drainage in this publication. Only those which were found to support populations of game fish and those which are under study are included. This project was reimbursed in part by funds obtained from the Sport Fisheries Restoration Act, Dingell-Johnson Project F-42-R.

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, arctic grayling can also be found in several Uinta Lakes, adding variety and beauty to the angler's experience. The more inaccessible lakes are stocked on 3 - to 5- year cycles and heavily fished lakes are planted on 1 - or 2- year cycles.

Care is taken not to overstock the lakes because it usually results in small, poorly developed trout. Aerially stocked cutthroat are stocked as fry (1 inch),



Brook Trout

while brook trout are stocked as fingerling (<3 inches). Because the optimum growing season for trout is very short (June through August), growth is relatively slow. In the Uinta Lakes, the trout reached 8 to 12 inches by the third year.

As most of our Uinta Mountain 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 reached over well-marked U.S. Forest Service trails. Other lakes can only be reached by going cross-country. While the trails have been updated in this booklet, it is a good idea to carry a topographical map. These can be purchased from the U.S. Geological Survey. A compass is another essential item. Ordinarily trips up to 5 miles can be made by 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 more remote lakes. Information concerning 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, warm clothing and rain gear should always be carried. Snow showers are common all seasons at these higher elevations. Insect repellent for camper and horse is a necessity until mid-August. It is usually after the first week of July before many of the higher lakes become accessible. Fishing may last through September.

Everyone is concerned in maintaining the aesthetic beauties of the Uinta Mountains. In an

HYPOTHERMIA PRECAUTIONS

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.

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 back country area may cause giardia, a parasitic infection which can make you very ill.



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

KNOW AND OBEY STATE 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.

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 officials for guidelines and helpful suggestions.

Since the second study began, camping, hiking and fishing use appears to be increasing. Excessive recreational use can quickly damage this alpine habitat if conscious efforts are not made to preserve its beauty. Those entering the High Uinta country should remember to burn all burnable litter and pack out everything that is nonburnable. DO NOT bury any litter. Horse packers should move animals to various meadows every few days to prevent overgrazing. It is a good idea to utilize previously constructed fireplaces whenever possible. Avoid camping in one spot longer than 5 days. Drinking untreated water in back country areas may cause giardia, a parasitic infection which causes diarrhea. Recent studies have shown that water purifiers will not kill the bacteria. As a safeguard against giardia, boil your mountain water before drinking.

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.



DRY GULCH DRAINAGE

DRY GULCH IS THE SMALLEST DRAINAGE ON THE SOUTH SLOPE OF THE HIGH UINTA MOUNTAINS. IT IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE UINTA RIVER AND SWIFT CREEK DRAINAGES, ABOUT 15 MILES NORTHEAST OF ALTAMONT, UTAH. THIS DRAINAGE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN BASINS; HELLER AND CROW.

Heller Basin has three natural lakes, one reservoir and about 30 beaver ponds over one-half acre in size. The terrain is a series of low talus ridges covered with conifers. Between the ridges are long wet meadows created by past and present beaver activity. Only one beaver pond, three natural lakes and Heller Reservoir are actively managed as fisheries. Access is north from Neola or Altamont to the Dry Gulch Road (No. 122), near the U.S. Forest Service -Indian Reservation boundary. Travel four rough miles by vehicle to where the road is closed. At this point follow the jeep trail on foot two more miles to Heller Reservoir. There are no marked trails to the other lakes. Litter has been a problem in this basin and extra garbage packed out would be appreciated.



Crow Basin is long and narrow with steep side walls of talus rock. The basin floor is terraced alternating between thin meadows and conifered rock ridges. There are eleven lakes over two acres in size in Crow Basin, and at least that many smaller ponds. Only eight lakes are actively managed. Access is north from Neola or Altamont to the Timothy Creek jeep trail (no. 120) which starts two miles west of the Dry Gulch turnoff. The distance on the Timothy Creek Road is six miles to Jackson Park which borders Crow Basin; however, approximately half this distance is closed to vehicular access. Horse access into this basin is quite difficult. Another access route is to follow the vague Lily Pad lakes trail in Heller Basin northwest over Flat Top Mountain into the basin. Best camping sites are at Crow and DG-6 lakes. This basin has difficult access and does not receive much recreational use.



DRY GULCH - CROW BASIN



DG-1. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

CROW, DG-3. Crow is an irregular shaped lake located in steep rocky terrain. It is 18 acres, 10,350 feet in elevation, with 26 feet maximum depth. Access is via the Timothy Creek Road to Jackson Park, then down the steep sides of the basin to lakes DG 6, 7 and 8. Follow the outlet stream south 3/4 mile to Crow Lake. Good campsites, spring water and horse feed are available.



This lake contains a good population of cutthroat trout. Angling pressure is moderate, and there is excessive litter around the shoreline.

ONLY 15 LAKES ARE ACTIVELY MANAGED FOR TROUT POPULATIONS. BROOK, CUTTHROAT AND OCCASIONALLY RAINBOW TROUT INHABIT THESE LAKES.

DG-4. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

DG-5. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

DG-6. Lakes DG 6, 7 and 8 are shallow, interconnecting lakes located in a grassy meadow. DG-6 is 3 acres, 10,550 feet in elevation, with 5 feet maximum depth. Access is via Jackson Park north 1-1/2 miles, then descend over the canyon rim following an east-northeast direction. Good campsites, spring water and horse feed are available near the lake. Cutthroat trout are stocked and angling pressure is light.



DG-7. This is a very shallow lake located between lakes DG-6 and DG-8. It is 6 acres, 10,550 feet in elevation, with 4 feet maximum depth. Good campsites, spring water and horse feed are available. This lake has a small population of cutthroat trout which migrate from DG-6. The lake is not stocked because of winterkill. Fishing pressure is very light.

DG-8. DG-8 sits due east of DG-7 about 70 yards. It is 7 acres, 10,550 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. Access by following the main basin stream north 3/4 mile from Crow Lake to DG-6. Campsites, spring water and horse feed are within 1/2-mile of the lake. DG-8 is too shallow to stock, but has a few cutthroat trout that migrate from DG-6. Fishing pressure is very light.



DG-9. This lake has a steep rock escarpment located just below the outlet. It is 10 acres, 10,750 feet in elevation, with 27 feet maximum depth. Access is via Timothy Creek Road to Jackson Park then east down the steep basin side to lakes DG 6, 7 and 8. Follow the DG-6 inlet north 1/2-mile and up the rock escarpment. Campsites and spring water are limited, but good horse feed is available. This lake contains a small population of cutthroat trout. Angling pressure is light.



DG-10. This natural lake is bounded by meadows on the north and south and rock ridges on the east and west. It is 10 acres, 10,750 feet in elevation, with 12 feet maximum depth. Access is to follow the DG-9 inlet north 1 mile. There is no spring water and campsites are marginal, but good horse feed is available to the north and south. A small population of healthy cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. Angling pressure is very light.



DG-14. DG-14 sits at the northeast head of the canyon 2 miles north of Crow Lake. It is 2 acres, 11,000 feet in elevation, with 10 feet maximum depth. There is no trail to the lake. No campsites or horse feed are available, but cold spring water is plentiful from the talus slope. This lake contains a fair population of cutthroat trout which are maintained through stocking. Angling pressure is very light.



DG-15. This lake sits at the base of the northwest rim at the head of Crow Canyon. The lake has a good fairy shrimp population but has extreme water level fluctuations. It is 3 acres, 10,950 feet in elevation, with 9 feet maximum depth. Campsites, spring water and horse feed are not available. It contains a small population of cutthroat trout which is subject to occasional winterkill. Angling pressure is very light.

DG-16. This is the second lake sitting against the northwest rim of the canyon located 100 feet south of DG-15. It is 3 acres, 10,950 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. No campsites, spring water or horsefeed are available. A small population of cutthroat trout inhabit the lake, and it is subject to winterkill. Fishing pressure is very light.

DG-17. This is the third lake near the northwest rim at the head of the basin, and is 100 yards east of DG-16. It is 3 acres, 10,950 feet in elevation, with 12 feet maximum depth. No campsites, spring water or horsefeed are available. A large population of cutthroat is found in the lake, and it is partially sustained through natural reproduction. Angling pressure is very light.

DRY GULCH - HELLER BASIN

BOLLIE, U-96. This natural lake is in the Uinta River drainage and is described in that section of this booklet. It is also listed in this section of the booklet because the Dry Gulch drainage map shows the access better than the Uinta drainage map does.

DG-29. DG-29 is a small beaver pond subject to an occasional winterkill. It is 2 acres, 9,500 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. Access is via Heller Reservoir 1/4 mile northwest to a long park. Follow the park 1/2-mile then



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.



turn east 1/8 mile. Horse feed is excellent, but campsites and spring water are not available. This pond is presently not managed to provide a fishery. The lake habitat is not suitable for fish. Fishing pressure is very light.



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



HELLER RESERVOIR, DG-28. Heller Reservoir has a small, high dam on the southwest outlet. It is 12 acres, 10,108 feet in elevation, with 37 feet maximum depth. Access is 4 miles north on the Dry Gulch Road. The road is closed at this point, so follow the jeep trail on foot 2 miles to the reservoir. Spring water and campsites are available, but there is no horse feed. The fishery is composed of a stable population of pan-sized brook trout. Angling pressure is heavy, and litter is a problem around the lake.



HIDDEN, DG-27. Hidden is isolated lake in the head of Heller basin. It is 10 acres, 9,520 feet in elevation, with 39 feet maximum depth. Access is 2 miles north-northeast on a poorly marked trail from Heller Reservoir. Spring water is abundant, but good campsites and horse feed are not available. This lake contains a fair population of healthy brook trout. Fishing pressure is light.



LOWER LILY PAD, DG-26. Lower Lily Pad is a productive meadow lake covered with aquatic vegetation. It is 9 acres, 10,275 feet in elevation with 11 feet maximum depth. Access is via the vague trail to Upper Lily Pad Lake, then, 1/8 mile due east. Campsites are available, horse feed is limited, and there is no spring water. A small population of brook trout are found in this lake. Fishing pressure is light.



UPPER LILY PAD, DG-25. Upper Lily Pad is a beautiful meadow lake surrounded by conifers. It is 12 acres, 10,280 feet in elevation, with 37 feet maximum depth. Access is 7.5 miles via the Dry Gulch Road and pack trail over Flat Top Mountain; or 2 miles northwest of Hells Reservoir, cross-country. Excellent campsites and horse feed are found around the lake, but spring water is limited. This lake contains small populations of healthy brook and cutthroat trout. Angling pressure is heavy, and there is a litter problem.



UINTA RIVER DRAINAGE

UINTA RIVER DRAINAGE IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE IN TOPOGRAPHY IN THE UINTA MOUNTAINS. IT CONTAINS SEVEN MAJOR BASIN AREAS (KREBS, ATWOOD, PAINTER, PAINTER LAKES, GILBERT, KIDNEY LAKES AND FOX-CRESCENT LAKES) AND NUMEROUS MINOR ONES. Over 93 lakes and ponds drain into the Uinta River tributaries between 10,100 and 11,750 feet elevation. Many lakes in the upper end of the drainage are in open windswept tundra. Kings Peak (13,528 feet), highest mountain peak in Utah, is located in the most western end of Painter Basin.

Two major trailheads provide access to the Uinta River drainage: (1) Uinta Canyon Trailhead (near U-Bar Ranch), located 21 miles north of Neola, Utah, provides access to western portions of the drainage; and (2) West Fork of

the Whiterocks River drainage, located about 25 miles north of Whiterocks, Utah, provides access to eastern portions of the drainage. The seven major lake areas on the Uinta River are accessible by horse or foot travel. Horse pasture is fairly abundant in most of the basins, except for Painter Lakes. Heaviest camping and fishing pressure are at the Chain lakes, Kidney lakes, Fox-Crescent lakes, and to some extent, the Atwood lakes. These four areas should be avoided if people want solitude. Deer, elk and moose can be found in meadow areas in this drainage; and ptarmigan in the upper tundra. Also, sheep grazing occurs in Glibert and Painter basins on a rotational basis during late summer.

There are 51 lakes in this drainage that contain trout populations, or are under experimental fisheries management. The most abundant fish species are brook and cutthroat trout, and occasionally rainbow and golden trout. Natural reproduction is common and helps produce large trout populations in Chain 1, Chain 3, Atwood, Allred, Lily Pad, and U-76 lakes. Stream fishing is excellent in most of the Uinta River drainage. These trout migrate out of the lakes or are produced naturally in the tributaries.



ATWOOD LAKE

ALBERT, U-94. This cirque lake is located in the far southwest corner of an extremely steep and rocky basin. It is 7

acres, 10,826 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. Access is to go northwest up a ridge 2 miles from Bollie Lake, then turn north and climb down a steep talus slope into the basin. There are no trails, camping sites or horsefeed around the lake; horses cannot be taken into Albert. Many pan-sized cutthroat inhabit the lake. These fish are sustained by natural reproduction. The lake receives very little fishing pressure and is a must for the rugged outdoorsman.

ALLRED, U-14. This natural lake is located 18 miles from the Uinta River trailhead and 225 yards south of the Atwood Lake dam. It is 34 acres, 10,995 feet in elevation, with 30 feet maximum depth. The rocky trail is well marked but due to the numerous steep switchbacks the distance seems longer than it is.



Campsites and horse pasture are both abundant around Allred Lake. Nice-sized brook trout are quite numerous in the lake and are sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing and camping pressure are moderate. Allred Lake is a must for those wanting a rugged wilderness experience and fast fly-fishing for plump brookies in the evening.

ATWOOD, U-16. Atwood Lake is the largest lake in the Uinta River drainage. It has an earthen dam on the west end and water levels fluctuate considerably each year. Atwood is approximately 200 acres, 11,030 feet in elevation, with 40 feet maximum depth. Access is 18 miles from U-Bar Ranch over a well-marked





trail. Good campsites and horse feed are available around the lake. Atwood Lake has one of the largest brook trout populations in the Uinta Mountains. A few golden trout are also found in the lake. Camping and angling pressure are moderate.



B-29 LAKE, U-18. This natural lake sits in a wet meadow in the far southeast corner of Atwood Basin. It is 19 acres, 10,740 feet in elevation, with 7 feet maximum depth. There is no marked trail to B-29, but it can be reached from Carrot Lake by going east 1/4 mile after crossing Carrot Creek on the Atwood Lake trail. Total miles from the Uinta River trailhead is 17.5 miles. Camping sites and horse pasture are abundant around the lake; however, the pasture is quite boggy. A large brook trout population inhabits the lake. Camping and fishing pressure is light at B-29. Take plenty of insect repellent during July!



BEARD, U-74. The high cirque lake sits way above timberline at the eastern base of South King's Peak. It is 9 acres, 11,740 feet in elevation, with an estimated 15 feet maximum depth. Access is to follow the well marked Forest Service trail 22 miles through Atwood Basin to Trail Rider Pass. Follow the trail an additional 1/8 mile into Painter Basin, then turn southwest and go 150 yards into a small cirque basin to the lake. Horse access is fairly rugged over the rocky terrain (especially up Trail Rider Pass). There are no horse pastures or camping areas in the windswept tundra around the lake. Stocked brook trout grow well in Beard and fishing pressure is quite light.



CHAIN LAKES

BOLLIE, U-96. This natural lake is surrounded by beautiful meadows and open timber. It is 10 acres, 10,660 feet in elevation, with 15 feet maximum depth. Trail access is via a primitive logging road 3 miles north past Jefferson Park to the canyon rim. Follow the trail west for 2 miles along the rim until you reach the lake near the head of the basin. Excellent campsites and abundant horse feed are available around the lake. This lake contains cutthroat trout. Fishing pressure and camping use are light. (Refer to the Dry Gulch drainage map for a better illustration of the access route.)



BOWDEN, U-32. Bowden is a shallow, natural lake located 1/2 mile southeast of the Kidney Lakes. It is 4.5 acres, 10,693 feet in elevation, with 14 feet maximum depth. Total distance from the U-Bar Ranch is 18.5 miles, the last half mile is trailless. Horse access is good, and numerous campsites and pasture are available around the lake. Bowden Lake contains stocked brook trout. Camping and fishing pressure is rated moderate. Bowden Lake has excellent food production and may occasionally winterkill, so fishing is generally not fast.



BROOK, U-54. This natural lake can be reached by following the trail east 1 mile along the north shore of Fox Lake. It is 10 acres, 10,950 feet is elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. It can also be reached by following the Highline Trail west from Whiterocks drainage over North Pole Pass (first lake encountered). Some horse feed and campsites are available around the lake. Brook trout are



stocked in Brook Lake and fishing pressure is rated light.

CARROT, U-17. This beautiful glacial lake sits along the rim of Atwood Basin and is located 1/2 mile southwest of the big meadow where the trail crosses Atwood Creek. It is 31 acres, 10,830 feet in elevation, with 31 feet maximum depth. Total distance from the U-Bar Ranch is 17.5 miles over a good trail. Good pasture and campsites are located on the north side of the lake. Fishing is generally good for stocked brook trout. Fishing pressure is rated light.



CARROT LAKE

CHAIN 1 (LOWER), U-3. Chain 1 is a fluctuating reservoir and is the lowest of the Chain lake series. Full pool is 62 acres, 10,580 feet in elevation, with 38 feet maximum depth. Access is 11.5 miles via a well-marked Forest Service trail from the U-Bar Ranch trailhead. Some camping sites are available around the lake. Limited horse pasture can be found on the east shore, and 1/4 mile southeast of the dam. Chain 1 contains a large population of pan-sized brook trout produced through natural reproduction. Fishing pressure is heavy during early summer but decreases later in the season as water drawdown occurs.



CHAIN 2 (MIDDLE), U-2. Chain 2 is second lake in the Chain Lake series. It is 14.4 acres, 10,605 feet in elevation, with 13 feet maximum depth. It used to be a storage reservoir but the earthen dam has washed out. It sits 1/2 trail mile above Chain 1 and less than 100 yards below the Chain 3 dam. Total distance from U-Bar Ranch is 12 miles along a well-marked trail. Horse pasture is fairly good but limited, and there are a few camping sites. The abundant brook trout population in Chain 2 is self sustaining. Angling and camping pressure is moderate.



CHAIN 3 (UPPER), U-1. This reservoir is the third lake in the Chain Lake series. It is 51 acres at full pool, 10,623 feet in elevation, with 44 feet maximum depth. Total distance is 12.5 miles from the U-Bar Ranch via a well-marked trail. Horse pasture and campsites are limited around the somewhat rocky shoreline. Pan-sized brook trout are very abundant in Chain 3 and are sustained through natural reproduction. Angling and camping pressure are moderate. Fishing is usually fast on flies and spinners.



CHAIN 3 LAKE

CHAIN 4, U-4. Chain 4 is a natural lake that sits along the trail on a plateau located above Chain 3 Lake and below Roberts Pass. It is 13.5 acres, 10,870 feet in elevation, with 31 feet maximum depth. Total distance is 13.5 miles into Krebs Basin along a well-marked trail from U-Bar Ranch. Horse access is quite good though steep the last 1/2 mile. No horse pasture and very few campsites exist around the lake. This lake is managed with cutthroat trout. Fishing and camp-





CHAIN 4 LAKE

ing pressure are light. Fishing generally improves in late summer.

CRAIG, U-85. This natural lake is the first large lake (and lower in elevation!) encountered in the Painter Lakes Basin. It is 9.3 acres, 10,848 feet in elevation, and about 14 feet maximum depth. Leave U-Bar Ranch and proceed via a well-marked trail 14 miles to North

Fork Park (where the North and Center Forks of the Uinta River converge). Head due south for 2 very steep and rough miles up a vague trail (along a small creek) into the Painter Lakes Basin. There are good horse pastures and camping sites around the lake. Craig contains mostly cutthroat trout along with an occasional brook trout. Fishing and camping pressure are light.

CRESCENT, U-48. This long narrow reservoir fluctuates 4 feet annually. It is 31 acres, 10,830 feet in elevation, with 23 feet maximum depth. Access is very good via two well marked forest service trails: the shortest is about 8 miles over the Fox - Queant Pass from the West Fork Whiterocks River trailhead, and the other is about 15.5 miles up the Shale Dugway from the U-Bar Ranch. Camping sites are available around the lake and good horse pasture can be found 1/2 mile north (Fox Lake) or west (large meadow) from Crescent. The Crescent Lake fishery is mainly cutthroat trout along with a few brook trout. Camping and fishing pressure is moderate to heavy, and the area is quite popular with large scout groups during mid summer.

DAVIS, NORTH, U-46. This natural lake sits about 250 yards due north of South Davis Lake, or about 1-1/4 miles north of the Kidney lakes. It is 7.3 acres, 11,060 feet in elevation, with 7 feet maximum depth. Good camping sites and abundant horse pasture are found to the south between South Davis and the Kidney lakes. North Davis contains small pan-sized brook trout that are hard to catch. These fish are stocked and can freely move between both Davis lakes. Fishing pressure is light, but camping pressure is moderate in the vicinity.



NORTH DAVIS LAKE

DAVIS, SOUTH, U-34. This shallow lake sits in a large, wet meadow 1 mile north of the Kidney lakes. It is 6.1 acres, 11,020 feet in elevation, with 4 feet maximum depth. Camping sites and horse feed are plentiful south of the lake. Pan-sized brook trout inhabit the lake. Camping pressure is moderate, but angling pressure is light. This lake is good for fly-fishing.

DIVIDE, U-59. This natural lake sits in windswept tundra below the mountain pass separating Uinta River drainage (south slope) from Burnt Fork drainage (north

slope). It is 18.9 acres, 11,217 feet in elevation, with an estimated 39 feet maximum depth. Access is 2 miles north from Fox Lake via the trail which goes over the pass to Island Lake. No camping sites or horse feed are available around the lake or the vicinity. Divide Lake has been managed with cutthroat trout. Angling pressure is considered light and limited to day use.

DOLLAR, U-49. This pretty lake is located in a large meadow, and is occasionally called Dime Lake. It is 11.5 acres, 10,704 feet in elevation, with 6 feet maximum depth. Trail access is very good and the lake is located about 1 mile northwest of Fox Lake. Total distance from U-Bar Ranch is 15 miles. Excellent horse feed and camping sites are in the Dollar Lake vicinity. A natural population of pan-sized brook trout inhabits the lake. Camping and fishing pressure are generally rated moderate, though heavy use occasionally occurs from large groups. Brookies spook easily in the meadow stream below Dollar, and are quite a challenge for the fly fisherman.

FOX, U-47. This reservoir lake is popular despite 20-foot fluctuations annually. It is 102 surface acres at full pool, 10,790 feet in elevation, with 47 feet maximum depth. Trails are well marked; and distance is either 15 miles from the U-Bar Ranch to the south, or 8.5 miles from the West Fork Whiterocks River trailhead to the east. Horse feed and heavily used camping areas are located in the general area around the lake. Brook and cutthroat trout inhabit Fox. Recreational use is generally moderate, however, large groups frequently visit this lake, and the area has been abused.

GEORGE BEARD, U-21. This natural lake sits in open, windswept tundra. It is 7.4 acres, 11,420 feet in elevation, with 15 feet maximum depth. Access is 2 miles via a rocky trail from Atwood Lake and is located just below Trail Rider Pass. No camping areas or horse pasture exist around the lake. Brook trout have reproduced naturally at George Beard and can be quite abundant. Fishing pressure is limited to day-users and considered light.



GEORGE BEARD LAKE

GILBERT, U-82. This natural lake sits at the head of Gilbert Creek, a tributary to the Center Fork of the Uinta River. It is 14.6 acres, 11,459 feet in elevation, with 20 feet maximum depth. Good trail access exists heading northwest from North Fork Park for 6.5 miles. Total trail distance from U-Bar Ranch is 20.5 miles. Good camping and horse pasture exists 3 miles southeast of the lake. The lake is currently stocked with brook trout. Fishing pressure is light. Sheep grazing during late summer detracts from the aesthetic beauty of this meadowy alpine basin.

KIDNEY, EAST, U-25. This natural lake is located about 15 miles from the West Fork Whiterocks River trailhead, or just under 18 miles from U-Bar Ranch; both access trails are well marked. It is 13.7 acres, 10,850 feet in elevation, with 12 feet maximum depth. Horse pasture is abundant north of the lake. Camping areas are abundant, but overused in the area between the Kidney lakes. The lake contains brook trout. Both camping and angling pressure are quite heavy from large recreational groups.



KIDNEY, WEST, U-26. This natural lake is located 100 yards due west of Kidney, East. It is 20 acres, 10,850 feet in elevation, with 4 feet maximum depth. Trail access is quite good, and distance is 18 miles from the U-Bar Ranch or 15 miles from the West Fork Whiterocks River trailhead. Horse pasture is available north of the lake. Camping sites are found around the lake, but most are overused. The lake contains brook trout. Both camping and angling pressure are quite heavy from large recreational groups.



LILY, U-23. This pretty little lake is surrounded by yellow water lilies. It is 5.3 acres, 10,919 feet in elevation, with 15 feet maximum depth. Lily is located about 1/2 mile northeast of the Kidney lakes. There is no trail, but horse access is fairly easy over this somewhat open terrain. Campsites and horse pasture are available west of the lake. Brook trout are stocked into the lake. Angling pressure is generally light considering its close proximity to the Kidney lakes.



LILY U-23



Lily Pad is the first lake encountered on the Chain lakes trail approximately 8 miles from U-Bar Ranch. It is 3.7 acres, 10,818 feet in elevation, with 7 feet maximum depth. It sits in a small stream-fed valley 1/4 mile off the trail, located 1 mile east of Chain 1 and about 1/3 mile north of the Krebs Creek trail crossing. (A trail sign marking this lake may or may not be tacked to a pine tree near the trail turnoff.) Horse pasture is limited and a few camping sites are on the south shore. This lake contains abundant populations of brook and rainbow trout sustained through natural reproduction. Fishing pressure is moderate.

MILK, U-73. This isolated lake is located in a cirque basin on the talus ridge bordering the north part of Painter Basin. It is 13.1 acres, 11,236 feet in elevation, with 35 feet maximum depth. Milk is about 5 trail miles west of North Fork Park, or 7 trail miles northeast of Trail Rider Pass. The last mile is extremely rocky and trailless, and very difficult for horses. There are no campsites or horse pasture around the lake. Pan-sized brook and cutthroat trout are quite numerous. Fishing pressure is very light.

MT. EMMONS, U-13. This pretty lake is located 1/4 mile south of Allred Lake (Atwood Basin) through rocky timbered terrain. It is 15.5 acres, 10,990 feet in elevation, with 21 feet maximum depth. Total distance is about 18.5 miles from the U-Bar Ranch. Some pasture and limited camping areas are available along the fringes of the wet meadow east of the lake. Brook trout are common in the lake. This lake has had golden trout in the past but it is doubtful if any remain. Angling and camping pressure are light.



MT. EMMONS



OKE DOKE, U-5. This pretty cirque lake is located at the eastern base of Mt. Emmons 1 mile due west of Roberts Pass. It has no inlet or outlet stream, and is 12.9 acres, 11,320 feet in elevation, with 38 feet maximum depth. Total distance by trail is 15 miles from U-Bar Ranch.



Limited horse feed and marginal camping areas are located south of Roberts Pass. Cutthroat trout are stocked into Oke Doke. Fishing pressure is light. Oke Doke is ideal for a small group of one to three backpackers who want to get off the beaten trail.

Rainbow Trout



PENNY NICKELL, U-98. This pretty cirque lake sits next to a steep talus slope 3.5 miles due south of Fox Lake. It is 11.5 acres, 10,710 feet in elevation, with 43 feet maximum depth. There is no trail to the lake and it's best to use a U.S.G.S. map for directions. Various camping areas and horse feed exists in wet meadows between Fox and Penny Nickell lakes. The lake is stocked with cutthroat. Angling and camping pressure are light.



PIPPEN, U-9. This meadow lake has a small island near the south shore. It is 3.2 acres, 10,450 feet in elevation, with 3 feet maximum depth. Go west about 1 mile through the large meadow located 1/2 mile southwest of Chain 1. Total distance from U-Bar Ranch is 10 miles. Excellent horse pasture and camping sites exist around the lake. A natural population of brook trout inhabit the lake. Angling pressure is moderate, and Phippen is considered a good fly-fishing lake. This lake has been used as a base camp by commercial packers.



RAINBOW, U-33. This natural lake is located in a windswept tundra 1-1/4 miles northwest of the Kidney lakes along a well-marked trail. It is 35.1 acres, 11,130 feet in elevation, with 20 feet maximum depth. No campsites or horse pasture exist around this lake but they are available 1 mile to the east. Brook trout spawn naturally in the lake and it may contain a few rainbows and cutthroat trout. Fishing pressure is usually moderate, but heavy pressure does occasionally occur from large pack groups staying at the Kidney lakes.

ROBERTS, U-15. This deep natural lake is located in a high cirque basin 1 mile southwest of Atwood Lake. It is 23.3 acres, 11,550 feet in elevation, with 38 feet maximum depth. Follow a faint trail 1.5 miles west of Mt. Emmons Lake through a wet meadow, and zigzag a steep ravine to Roberts Lake. No camping or horse feed is available in this windswept tundra area. The lake contains mainly cutthroat trout along with a few brook trout. Angling pressure is light and fishing success is quite variable.

SAMUALS, U-27. This nice lake sits 1 mile north of the upper trail between Fox and Kidney lakes at the head of Samuals Creek. It is 4.8 acres, 10,995 feet in elevation, with 7 feet maximum depth. Horse pasture and camping areas are quite abundant around the lake and to the south. The lake contains an abundant population of brook trout. Angling pressure is light. Try this commonly "passed up" lake and avoid the people usually present at the Kidney and Fox lakes.



U-19. This natural lake is located near the head of Atwood Basin in windswept tundra. It is 15 acres, 11,420 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. It sits 1/2 mile south of George Beard Lake past U-22 Lake, or 2 miles due west of the Atwood Lake Dam. Horse pasture and camping are available 2 miles east at Atwood and Allred lakes. Horses should not be grazed in this fragile tundra. The lake contains a fine population of brook trout. Fishing pressure is light.



U-35. This natural lake sits in windswept tundra, and is located just over 100 yards northeast of Rainbow Lake; in fact, the outlet stream from Rainbow Lake flows into U-35. It is 4.4 acres, 11,110 feet in elevation, with 5 feet maximum depth. No horse pasture or camping areas are around the lake. This small lake holds only a few stocked cutthroat and brook trout.

Fishing pressure is moderate from people camped near Kidney lakes.

U-36. This lake sits in windswept tundra about 100 yards southeast of U-35 and receives its outlet stream; or is located under 1 mile northwest of the Kidney lakes. It is 4.6 acres, 11,100 feet in elevation, with 7 feet maximum depth. The lake contains a natural brook trout population. Angling pressure is moderate, and there are no horse pasture or campsites in the immediate area.



U-36 LAKE

U-37. This windswept tundra lake is located 1/2 mile northeast of Rainbow Lake and 1/2 mile southeast of U-38 in the basin above the Kidney lakes. It is 6.3 acres, 11,180 feet in elevation, with 12 feet maximum depth. There are no camping sites or pasture; these are available southeast 1-1/4 miles at the Kidney lakes. The lake is stocked with brook trout. Fishing pressure is light.

U-38. This windswept tundra lake sits 1/2 mile due north of Rainbow Lake past U-39 Lake. It is 15.7 acres, 11,218 feet in elevation, with 13 feet maximum depth. An intermittent inlet stream comes from U-42 Lake while the outlet stream flows into U-40 Lake. A little horse pasture is available northeast of the lake around U-40, but there are no camping sites. Cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. Fishing pressure varies from light to moderate.



U-39. This shallow lake sits in the tundra 1/4 mile due north of Rainbow Lake; in fact, the outlet stream flows into Rainbow Lake. It is 5.3 acres, 11,160 feet in elevation, with 9 feet maximum depth. No horse pasture or camping areas exist around the lake. This lake was experimentally stocked with brook trout but they did not survive. This lake is no longer managed to provide any recreational fishing. Fishing pressure is light.

U-42. This natural lake has some water level fluctuation and sits in windswept tundra. It is 7.6 acres, 11,350 feet in elevation, with 7 feet maximum depth. U-42 is located about 1 mile northwest of Rainbow Lake and 1/2 mile west of U-38. Camping and horse pasture are not available. The lake was experimentally stocked with cutthroat trout and only has marginal habitat. Fishing pressure is light.

U-45. This shallow lake is quite long and narrow, and sits next to the talus slope at the head of the basin 2.5 miles northwest of Kidney lakes. It is 5 acres, 11,425

feet in elevation, with 5 feet maximum depth. There are no horse pastures or camping sites near the lake. A few cutthroat inhabit the lake and fishing is slow. Fishing pressure is light.

U-50. This pretty lake is quite shallow for its size. It is 18 acres, 10,832 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. It is located 1/4 mile northwest of Dollar Lake and horse access is easy. Camping and horse pasture are available in the vicinity. The lake is stocked with brook trout. Angling pressure is light.



U-75. This natural lake sits in open tundra in the extreme western end of Painter Basin. It is 6.9 acres, 11,390 feet in elevation, with 18 feet maximum depth. The lake is located about 1 trail mile northwest of Trail Rider Pass. It contains a fairly abundant population of pan-sized brook trout. No camping areas or horse feed exist around the lake; in fact, the area is usually windy and cold all season and the lake receives few anglers.

U-76. This cirque lake is located at the southwest base of Kings Peak in Upper Painter Basin in cold, windswept tundra. It is 6 acres, 11,475 feet in elevation, with 15 feet maximum depth. Access is about 2 miles northwest of Trail Rider Pass over open rocky terrain. The lake contains pan-sized brook and cutthroat trout. Angling pressure is very light at this remote lake, and a visit will provide a true wilderness experience.

U-88. This pretty, natural lake is the largest in the Painter Lakes Basin. (See access to

Craig Lake.) It is 14 acres, 11,030 feet in elevation, with 18 feet maximum depth. U-88 sits 1 mile due west of Craig Lake over gentle, timbered terrain.



U-88, U-89 LAKES

Excellent camping areas and limited horse pasture are on the southwest shore. The lake contains a natural population of nice brook trout. Angling pressure is light.



JOIN UTAH'S STREAM TEAM!

The STREAM TEAM Program is designed to offer opportunities to anglers in becoming personally involved in cleaning, restoring and enhancing Utah's aquatic resources. There are several hundred miles of streams and lake shoreline that need help. **STREAM TEAMS** are given opportunities to monitor and improve habitat conditions by studying aquatic insect numbers, kinds and varieties. The presence of "pollution tolerant" insects may indicate the presence of stream pollution. Riparian areas surrounding streams are surveyed to determine the presence of certain song birds that serve as "indicator" species of healthy riparian areas. Herbicides, fertilizers and other commercial and lawn care chemicals can destroy fisheries when dumped into rivers or through storm drains. The number of fish kills on Utah's waterways has steadily increased over the past ten years.

If you would like to do your share in tackling the problem by making the two year commitment to "adopt" and care for Utah's aquatic resources, please contact Phil Douglass, DWR Aquatic Education Coordinator, at (801) 538-4717.



U-89. The water level in this pretty lake fluctuates annually. It is 11.5 acres, 11,037 feet in elevation, with 15 feet maximum depth. (See access to Craig Lake.) This lake sits about 1 mile due west of Craig Lake and is 100 yards southwest of U-88. Excellent camping and limited horse pasture are around the lake. It contains a few brook trout. Angling pressure is light.



U-93. This natural lake is the highest and most westerly in the Painter Lakes Basin. It is 11.1 acres, 11,402 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. (See access to Craig Lake.) U-93 sits 1.5 miles west of Craig Lake over somewhat steep but rolling terrain. The lake is stocked with cutthroat trout. No horse pasture or camping areas exist around the lake. Angling pressure is very low. This is one of the most remote lakes in the Uinta River drainage.



VERLIE LAKE

VERLIE, U-41. This natural lake sits due west of the Kidney lakes about 1 mile. It is 10.6 acres, 10,906 feet in elevation, with 12 feet maximum depth. The last several hundred yards are inaccessible to horses. Camping sites are marginal and quite limited. A natural population of brook trout inhabits the lake, along with an occasional cutthroat trout. Angling pressure is rated moderate.



Pathways to Fishing Program

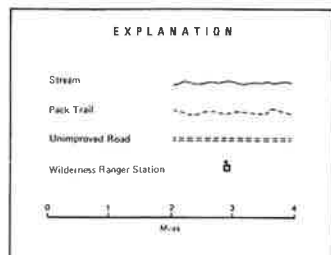
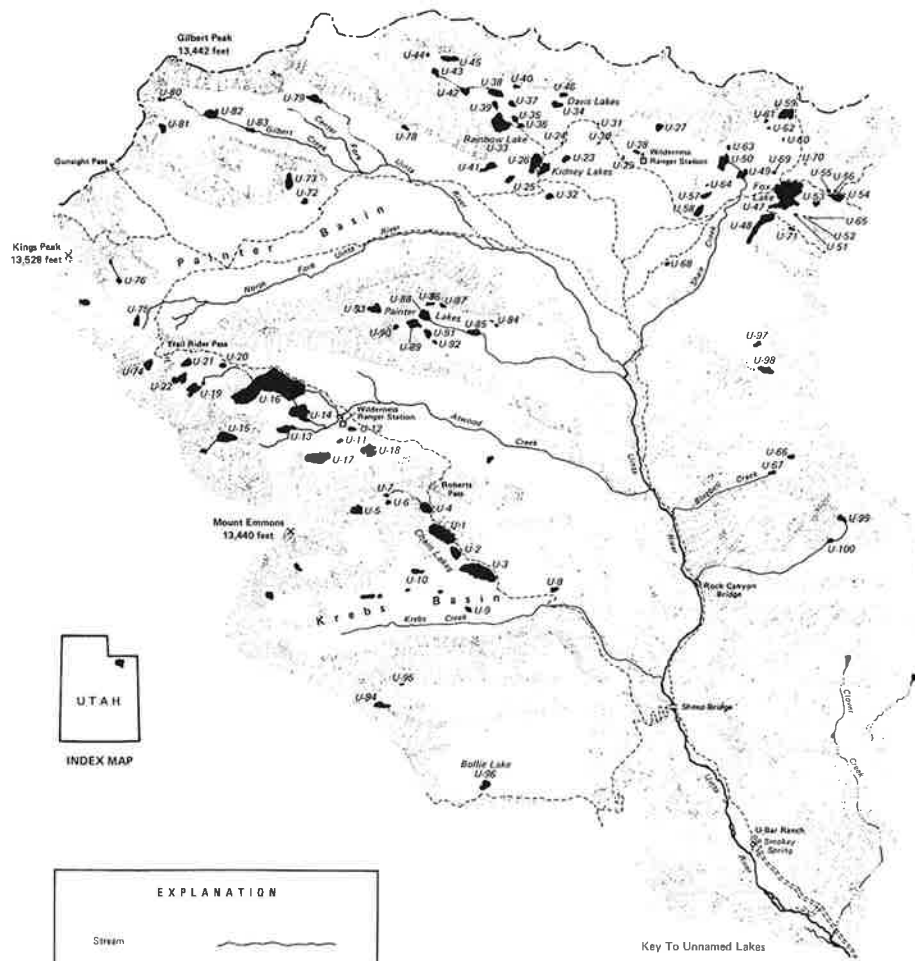
ENTER NOW THE WORLD OF FISHING WITH ALL ITS ANTICIPATION, EXCITEMENT AND LIFETIME BONDS WITH WILD THINGS AND NATURE, FAMILY AND FRIENDS – A PATHWAY OF ADVENTURE – A PATHWAY TO FISHING!

The new Pathways to Fishing Program is a trail taking the curious youngster and beginning angler through a simple discovery process in the concepts, ethics and functions of fishing, implementing simple basics of aquatic life and fishing through a system of gentle instruction and hands-on experiences. The Utah Division of Wildlife's Pathway to Fishing is a multi-station, one-hour walk-through program that combines the basics of fishing with aquatic ecology, and provides information about local fishing opportunities. It's beneficial to people of all ages. Parents and guardians are encouraged to accompany the youngsters through the program and learn with them.

The Pathways program is conducted by a team of trained instructors from the area of the clinic. These instructors are from various disciplines – some are experienced anglers (often from local outdoor clubs), others are business people from fishing tackle stores, and some are fisheries biologists from agencies with natural resources responsibilities. The Utah Division of Wildlife provides equipment and assistance.

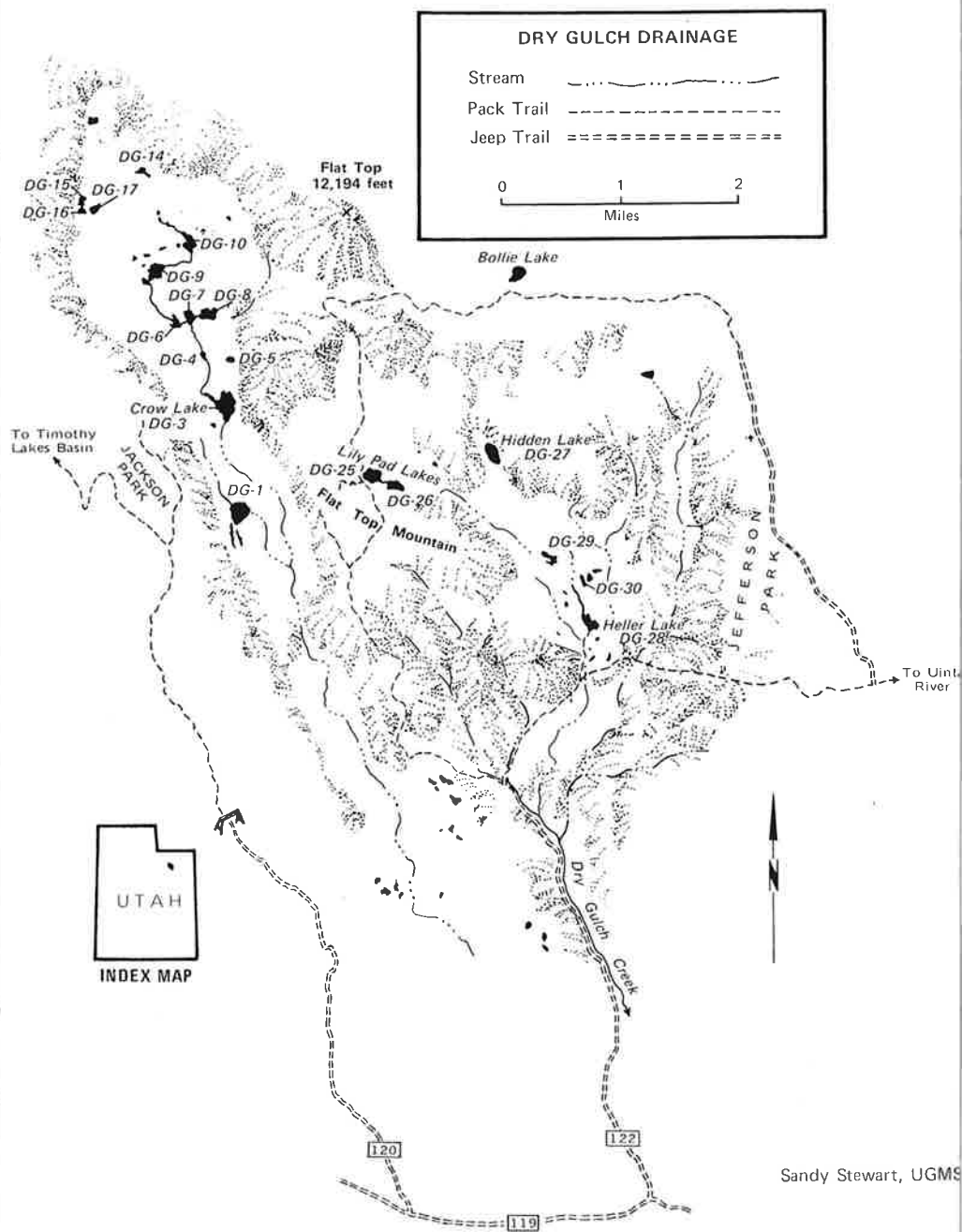
To learn more about the next Pathways Program in your area, contact Aquatic Education, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84114, (801) 538-4717.

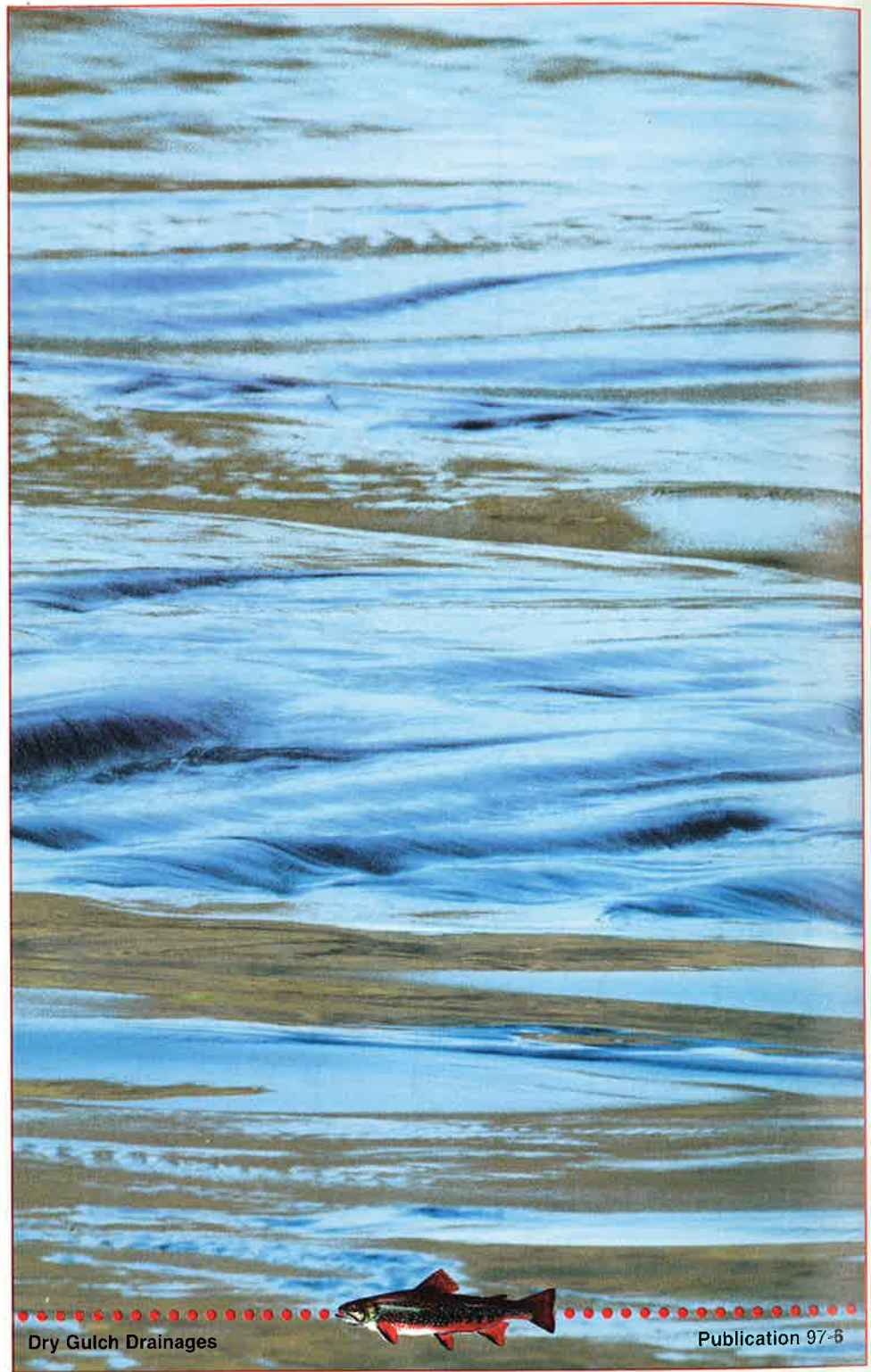




Key To Unnamed Lakes

U-1 Upper Chain Lake	U-17 Currot Lake	U-59 Divide Lake
U-2 Middle Chain Lake	U-18 B-23 Lake	U-66 Meadow Lake
U-3 Lower Chain Lake	U-21 George Beard Lake	U-67 Wild Goose Lake
U-4 4th Chain Lake	U-23 Lily Lake	U-73 Milk Lake
U-5 Oak Duke Lake	U-25 East Kidney Lake	U-74 Beard Lake
U-8 Lily Pad Lake	U-26 West Kidney Lake	U-82 Gilbert Lake
U-9 Pippens (Island) Lake	U-27 Samuels Lake	U-85 Craig Lake
U-10 Krebs Lake	U-32 Bowden Lake	U-94 Allert Lake
U-13 Mr. Emmons (Allen) Lake	U-41 Verlie Lake	U-95 Dave Lake
U-14 Allred Lake	U-48 Crescent Lake	U-98 Penny Nickel Lake
U-15 Roberts Lake	U-49 Dollar (Dime) Lake	U-99 Wall Lake
U-16 Lake Atwood	U-54 Brook Lake	





Dry Gulch Drainages

Publication 97-6