

ASHLEY CREEK DRAINAGE

The second survey of lakes in the Ashley Creek drainage was completed in 1979. Ashley Creek is a large, expansive drainage but is not as steep as other Uinta Mountain drainages on the south slope. It is divided into three basin areas: Dry Fork Creek, South Fork of Ashley Creek and North Fork of Ashley Creek. Hacking Lake is the only mountain lake on the North Fork of Ashley Creek. The South Fork terrain (on the south and east of Marsh Peak) is rugged and rocky; but north of Marsh Peak (Lakeshore Basin), it is gently rolling with many wet and dry meadows and tundra. Dry Fork Creek on the west (around the Twin Lakes) is quite rocky with thick timber. Dry Fork Creek itself from Blanchett Park north to Deadman Lake has many large meadows and opens into tundra up high.

There are over 70 lakes and ponds in Ashley Creek drainage. Of these, 27 contain trout populations or are under experimental management. The fisheries in Ashley Creek lakes are composed of brook, cutthroat and occasionally rainbow trout. Natural reproduction is common in several of these lakes and helps contribute to the fish production.

There are three main trailheads into the drainage. The Dry Fork access begins at the Paradise Park Reservoir campground. A jeep logging road can be used to drive into Blanchett Park, which is about 3 miles north of the Paradise Park Campground. A major takeoff to reach lakes in the South Fork of Ashley Creek starts at Ashley Twins Reservoir. A jeep road leaves the Red Cloud Loop for a distance of 5½ miles to the reservoir. Hacking Lake can be reached by road by going west 7 miles from the Trout Creek Guard Station. A trailhead ½ mile west of Hacking Lake provides good access into Lakeshore Basin (South Fork of Ashley Creek).

Excellent camping, horsefeed and spring water can be found at Blanchett Park, Lonesome Park, Deadman (limited), North Twin, South Twin, Fish, Ashley Twins Reservoir, Hooper and Lakeshore Basin. The remaining lakes lack horsefeed, are in rugged, rocky terrain or are above timberline. Fishing and camping pressure are heavier at those lakes mentioned above by name.

ASHLEY TWINS RESERVOIR, GR-35. This fluctuating reservoir has a large earthen dam about 475 yards long on the east end. Elevation 10,332 feet, 20.7 to 30.3 acres, 8 to 18 feet maximum depth. At maximum drawdown, three small lakes are formed (North, South and

East) along with numerous small isolated pools. The stream between North and South lakes has been channeled. Jeep access is possible by going 5½ miles west from the marked sign on the Red Cloud Loop Road 27 miles north of Vernal. Horses cannot be hauled the last 3 miles because of the rugged road. Marginal camping is available near the dam, and horsefeed is abundant ¼ mile south-east in a long meadow. The only spring water available enters on the southwest corner of the lake. The fishery contains sizable brook and pan-size cutthroat trout. Cutthroat spawn naturally in the spring-fed inlet. Angling pressure drops off considerably in late summer because of the mucky shoreline resulting from drawdown.

BERT, GR-62. This attractive, natural lake sits at the base of some rock slides extending south from Marsh Peak. Elevation 10,220 feet, 3.7 acres, 11 feet maximum depth. Follow the Marsh Peak Trail 1 mile to the top of the ridge. Turn southeast and go down the east side of Chimney Rock basin 1 mile to the bottom. Bert Lake is located 1 mile south of Chimney Rock Lake. Horse access is impossible over the rocky, timbered terrain. Marginal camping and water are available several hundred yards east of the lake. Bert is stocked with brook trout. This attractive lake seldom receives anglers or campers.

BLUE, DF-1. This scenic windswept lake sits at the top of a cirque basin in the tundra. Elevation 11,160 feet, 6.5 acres, 16 feet maximum depth. Drive into Blanchett Park 3 miles north of Paradise Park Reservoir. Head 5 miles north on a good Forest Service trail to Deadman Lake, then climb the gentle bald mountain southeast 1¾ miles. Another route is to follow the trail north 2½ miles up to the lake. Water and some horsefeed are available around the lake, but there are no campsites. Horse access is easy on the first route, but difficult on the second. The fishery is composed of an abundant brook trout population. Fishing pressure is moderate and consists of day-use anglers only. Sheep grazing in midsummer decreases the aesthetic beauty of this little basin.

CHIMNEY ROCK, GR-63. This pothole lake sits at the southeast base of Marsh Peak in a steep cirque basin. Elevation 10,540 feet, 6.5 acres, 16 feet maximum depth. Little water exchange and low water levels cause winterkill, making it impossible to support fish. Follow the Marsh Peak trail 1 mile onto the ridge extending from Marsh Peak. Pick your way down the east side of the cirque basin to the lake over large talus boulders and thick timber. Horse access is impossible. Marginal campsites are scattered near the lake. Better

camping and flowing water are available 1 mile to the south near Bert Lake. Scenery and solitude are assured for rugged individuals.

DEADMAN, GR-38. This natural lake sits in open, windy terrain at the head of Dry Fork Basin. Elevation 10,790 feet, 7 acres, 9 feet maximum depth. Take jeep road to Blanchett Park 3 miles north of Paradise Park Reservoir. Go 5 miles north via a well-marked Forest Service trail to the lake. Though horse access is very good, feed is limited. Campsites are marginal along the south shore. Both brook and cutthroat trout inhabit the lake, but are not abundant. Fishing and camping pressure at Deadman is heavy; it is also somewhat popular with scout groups.

DF-4. This natural lake is situated in a rocky depression at the head of a cirque basin. Elevation 10,830 feet, 10 acres, 23 feet maximum depth. Follow Dry Fork Creek (a Forest Service trail exists partway) 2¼ miles above Blanchett Park to Reynolds Creek. Go along Reynolds Creek 1 mile to its spring source, then head due west over boulder terrain to the lake. Horses can be taken up Reynolds Creek only partway because of rough terrain. No campsites or horsefeed are available. Cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. This lake is for anglers who like solitude and ruggedness.

ACCESS TO KIBAH LAKES BASIN. The five Kibah lakes are accessible via a jeep road north from Paradise Park Reservoir 3 miles into Blanchett Park. Head cross-country northwest 1 mile into Kibah Basin; DF-11 is the first lake encountered in the small drainage. There are no trails or campsites, and the rough boulder terrain is too rugged for horses. Excellent camping and abundant horsefeed are available at Blanchett Park.

DF-11 (East Kibah). This natural lake has two flowing inlets on the south and west shores, and a rock slide along the north shore. Elevation 10,495 feet, 2.9 acres, 12 feet maximum depth. A few brook trout are stocked and have good growth. A residual population of rainbow trout also inhabits the lake. DF-11 receives moderate fishing pressure, especially from day hikers.

DF-12 (Finger Kibah). This shallow, long narrow lake is located 90 yards southwest of DF-11 in the Kibah Basin. Elevation 10,515 feet, 4.7 acres, 9 feet maximum depth. A healthy population of brook trout inhabits the lake. DF-12 receives moderate fishing pressure by day hikers coming from Blanchett Park.

DF-14 (West Kibah). This lake is located at the base of a talus slope in the far southwest corner of Kibah Basin. Elevation 10,580 feet, 7.8 acres, 15 feet maximum depth. Go ½ mile in a southwest direction from DF-11 over rough, timbered terrain (past DF-12). One campsite exists in a hollow on the southeast end of the lake. The fishery is composed of stocked brook trout. Fishing pressure is moderate and generally limited to day hikers.

DF-15 (North Kibah). This cirque lake is located in the far northwest corner of the Kibah Basin. Elevation 10,750 feet, 4.5 acres, 12 feet maximum depth. It sits ¾ mile northwest of DF-11. No trails or campsites are available around the lake. This lake does not support fish because of low water levels in the fall which cause winterkill.

DF-16 (Island Kibah). This natural lake is surrounded by rocky ridges covered with conifers. Elevation 10,540 feet, 8 acres, 14 feet maximum depth. It has a small, rocky island in the shallow south portion of the lake. Follow the west inlet of DF-11 northwest about 300 yards over rough, boulder terrain to DF-16. There is only one marginal campsite on the west end. DF-16 contains brook trout. Fishing pressure is moderate and generally limited to day hikers.

FISH, GR-57. This beautiful lake sits at the western base of Marsh

Peak and is surrounded by scattered timber and steep, talus slopes (see access to North Twin Lake). Elevation 10,745 feet, 17.5 acres, 40 feet maximum depth. From North Twin Lake, follow a vague Forest Service trail along the east inlet stream toward Marsh Peak for 2¼ miles. The lake has good camping sites, spring water and limited horsefeed. Horse access is good except for a small rugged talus ridge ½ mile east of North Twin Lake. Cutthroat trout in Fish Lake are sustained completely through natural reproduction. This lake receives quite a few visitors, and fishing pressure is generally heavy. Litter and mosquitoes are a nuisance.

GOOSE #2, GR-43. This lake has an earthen dam on the east end. Elevation 10,252 feet, 19.4 acres (maximum), 9-15 feet maximum depth. Access is ½ mile north of Ashley Twin Reservoir via a good Forest Service trail. Horse access is good. Only a few campsites and limited horsefeed exist on the west end. No spring water is available. A few cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. Little camping and fishing pressure occur because of the mucky shoreline caused by drawdown. An experimental cutthroat stocking program was initiated in 1980 and will need to be evaluated.

GOOSE #1, GR-42. This small, oblong irrigation reservoir is surrounded by rock ridges, marshes and deadfall. Elevation 10,240 feet, 3.8 acres (maximum), 9 to 13 feet maximum depth. Access is ½ mile north of Ashley Twins Reservoir via a good Forest Service trail to Goose #2. Follow its outlet 125 yards east to Goose #3, then turn south for 20 yards to the lake. Horse access is generally slow through the marshy terrain. No horsefeed, campsites or spring water exist. This lake has only a few trout and receives little angling or camping pressure.

GR-52. This small, natural lake is surrounded by wet boggy meadows on the north and small, conifer-covered ridges on the south (see North Twin Lake access). Elevation 10,515 feet, 2.1 acres, 4 feet maximum depth. From North Twin Lake, follow the north inlet stream 1¼ miles into a meadow; turn east following a small tributary 125 yards up a rock ridge to the lake. GR-52 sits 600 yards east-southeast from Red Belly Lake. Camping and horsefeed are available in the area, and horse access is good though trailless. Only a few brook trout inhabit the lake and they reproduce naturally. Angling and camping pressure are moderate.

HACKING, GR-40. This natural lake sits at the base of a rockslide adjacent to the east side of Leidy Peak. Elevation 10,625 feet, 7.4

acres, 15 feet maximum depth. From the Trout Creek Guard Station on the Red Cloud Loop Road, drive west 7¾ miles to the lake. Limited spring water and camping sites are available; there is no horsefeed. The lake contains brook and rainbow trout. Fishing pressure is generally heavy on weekends because of vehicle access. Please take a little extra litter with you when you leave.

HOOPER, GR-46. This shallow lake sits in an open, wet meadow and has a long, narrow inlet entering on the south end. Elevation 10,305 feet, 4.5 acres, 4 feet maximum depth. Access is 1¼ miles northwest from the Ashley Twins Reservoir via a well-marked Forest Service trail. Horse access is good. Some camping is available on the east shore and springs flow into the lake from the south. Plenty of horsefeed surrounds the lake. An abundant population of pan-size cutthroat trout inhabit Hooper. Horseflies are a real nuisance during midsummer. This accessible lake is a must for fly fishermen, who have only a day to spend in the high country but would like a nice creel of trout.

LAKESHORE, GR-34. This picturesque lake is located in a meadow near the upper end of Lakeshore Basin, surrounded by rolling ridges and scattered timber. Elevation 10,792 feet, 11.1 acres, 18 feet maximum depth. Access is via a well-marked Forest Service trail 4½ miles from Ashley Twins Reservoir or southwest via a Forest Service trail 5 miles from the trailhead at Hacking Lake. Horse access is easy; and camping, horsefeed and springs are abundant around the lake. Sheep grazing is quite heavy in the surrounding watershed. Slow-growing brook and cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. Fishing pressure is moderate.

LITTLE BLUE, GR-48. This natural cirque lake sits in windswept tundra above timberline in the far northwest corner of Lakeshore Basin. Elevation 11,215 feet, 3.2 acres, 6 feet maximum depth. Follow a well-marked Forest Service trail 5½ miles to the end of Lakeshore Basin from Ashley Twins Reservoir. Horse access is easy over this grassy, rolling terrain. There are no campsites and horsefeed is limited; however, good springs exist around the lake. Better camping and abundant horsefeed are available ½ mile to the southeast. This lake was fishless at the time of survey (1979) and is being stocked experimentally to assess its potential. Angling and camping pressure are very light.

LITTLE ELK, DF-17. This tadpole-shaped lake sits in a slight depression surrounded by conifers. Elevation 10,550 feet, 7.4 acres,

10 feet maximum depth. Follow the inlet stream to Paradise Park Reservoir 1/3 mile to a small meadow; turn north and go 1 mile up a rugged, timbered mountain. One good campsite exists in a small meadow on the north shore. Horse access is very difficult, and there is no feed. Annual winterkill precludes sustaining a trout fishery. Camping pressure is light and generally limited to day use.

MARSH, GR-39. This cirque lake is surrounded on three sides by steep, talus slopes. Elevation 10,820 feet, 12.6 acres, 21 feet maximum depth. Head 1 mile from Ashley Twins Reservoir in a westward direction into the cirque basin on the northwest side of Marsh Peak. There is no trail over this steep, timbered terrain and horses are not recommended. There is some spring water, but no campsites or horsefeed. Horse pasture and camping are available around Ashley Twins Reservoir. Brook trout inhabit this lake. Angling pressure is considered moderate.

MOAP, DF-2. Moap is a natural lake sitting at the base of a steep talus slope. Elevation 10,740 feet, 2.7 acres, 5 feet maximum depth. Follow jeep road into Blanchett Park 3 miles north of Paradise Park Reservoir. Go north 1/2 mile on the Forest Service trail past Lonesome Park to a large, wet meadow; turn due west through the timber 1/2 mile into the small cirque basin. Horses can be taken to Moap. Some camping is available northeast of the lake, but there is no horsefeed. Moap contains no fish. Hikers seeking solitude and photographers might enjoy going to this beautiful little lake.

MUD, GR-47. This pretty, irregular-shaped lake has a small riprap dam on the north and sits at the base of a steep, talus ridge that extends eastward from Marsh Peak. Elevation 10,582 feet, 4.2 acres, 11 to 15 feet maximum depth. A small peninsula extends into the lake from the south shore. There is no trail, but access is 1/2 mile south up a thick timbered, rocky ridge from Ashley Twins Reservoir. Horse access is difficult over this rugged terrain. This lake has marginal camping, little spring water, and no horsefeed. Mud Lake was experimentally stocked with cutthroat trout beginning in 1981. Angling and camping pressure are light.

NORTH TWIN (DRY FORK), GR-50. This natural lake is surrounded by large, open meadows and scattered timber. Elevation 10,305 feet, 10.3 acres, 24 feet maximum depth. Go northeast 6 miles on a Forest Service trail from Paradise Park Campground. The second and third miles crisscross logging roads, and the rock trail markers in this area are quite hard to follow until you cross Dry Fork Creek.

Horse access is quite easy. Campsites, horse pasture and spring water are present. Abundant brook and cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. Angling pressure is quite heavy throughout the summer, yet fishing remains good for pan-size trout.

PAUL, DF-18. This natural lake is located on a flat bench surrounded by rocky, timbered ridges 2 1/4 miles northwest of Paradise Park Reservoir. Elevation 10,630 feet, 11.1 acres, 17 feet maximum depth. Access is by a trail that starts on the north shore of Little Elk 1/4 mile south of Paul. Access is generally rough and trails poorly marked; horse access is very difficult. Camping is available on the west shore, but there is no horsefeed. Stocked brook trout grow well, feeding on freshwater shrimp. Angling pressure is light but appears to be on the increase.

RED BELLY, GR-51. This natural lake is surrounded by seeps on the north shore and conifers on the south. Elevation 10,540 feet, 6.3 acres, 8 feet maximum depth. Follow the north inlet stream to North Twin Lake 1/2 mile, then turn north and follow the stream tributary 1/2 mile to the lake at the base of a rock ledge. Horse access is easy and there is camping and horsefeed near the lake. A few healthy cutthroat inhabit the lake. Fishing pressure is moderate, but there is considerable day use from people camped at North and South Twin Lakes (Dry Fork).

SANDY, GR-45. This natural lake sits in thick conifers. Elevation 10,500 feet, 5.6 acres, 10 feet maximum depth. Go northwest 2/3 of a mile from Ashley Twins Reservoir via the well-marked trail to the inlet of Goose Lake #2; turn due west and follow the trailless inlet 1/2 mile through thick timber to the lake. Horse access is difficult the last 1/2 mile. Some campsites are available on the west end, but there is no spring water or horsefeed. Slow-growing cutthroat inhabit the lake. This lake receives little fishing and camping pressure.

SHAW, GR-59. This natural lake is located in a large, wet meadow. Elevation 10,700 feet, 2.8 acres, 5 feet maximum depth. A lily pond sits 100 yards due west of Shaw in the same meadow (see North Twin Lake access). From North Twin Lake, follow the east inlet stream along a vague Forest Service trail toward Marsh Peak for 1 3/4 miles to the second large meadow. Campsites, water and horsefeed are available around the lake. Horse access is good. A very small population of little cutthroat trout inhabit the lake. Though ideal for fly-fishing, this lake receives little fishing pressure.

SOUTH TWIN (DRY FORK), GR-49. This natural lake is surrounded by marshy vegetation, wet meadows and scattered timber. Elevation 10,300 feet, 6.2 acres, 8 feet maximum depth. Follow the Forest Service trail from Paradise Park 6 miles northeast to the lake (South Twin is 150 yards south of North Twin). Horse access is easy. Horsefeed and campsites are abundant around the lake, but spring water is available only at North Twin. The fishery is composed of pan-size brook and cutthroat trout. Angling and camping pressure is heavy. Litter is a problem at this lake; please help haul it out!

WILDE, GR-36. This natural lake sits just below timberline in a small basin at the southwest corner of Leidy Peak. Elevation 10,950 feet, 4.3 acres, 13 feet maximum depth. It is the largest lake in a series of three cirque lakes. Access is via a trail from Ashley Twins Reservoir four miles into Lakeshore Basin. Turn north at a small meadow pond (GR-76) and go ½ mile past another Lake (GR-77) climbing a steep, talus ledge into Wilde Lake Basin. Horse access is impossible the last ½ mile. Camping sites, springs and horsefeed are available ½ mile south of Wilde in Lakeshore Basin. The lake contains no fish, but the area is scenic for those seeking solitude.

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**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.