

## BEAR RIVER DRAINAGE

A large drainage with five main subdrainages containing fifty lakes and ponds. Thirty of the lakes produce some fishing. Many of them are difficult to reach and are seldom visited by fishermen. The Bear River high lakes lie mostly within the Forest Service primitive area, so motors or engines of any type are not permitted. The Bear River Drainage rates among the most rugged in the Uintas. Both brook and cutthroat trout are found in scenic lakes ranging from 9,500 to 11,000 feet in elevation. The lakes can be reached via Mirror Lake Highway #150 between the towns of Kamas, Utah and Evanston, Wyoming. Jumping off points to the lakes are spaced along the highway, the Christmas Meadows campground located three miles east of highway by dirt road; the Bear River Boy Scout Camp some seven miles east by dirt road from the highway; or the Mill Creek area seven miles east by dirt road from the highway. Access to the West Fork is by a good road from Coalville via Chalk Creek.

Because of the rugged terrain it is wise to allow a minimum of one day in and one day out for fishing many of the lakes. Trips utilizing horses and taking a week or more are recommended.

Remember the insect repellent, rain gear and oats for the horses. Snow showers are common, so wear warm clothing. There are no resort accommodations available, but excellent campground facilities are located at or near the main starting points.

Plan your trip and it will be a good one!



**ALLSOP, BR-42.** 12 acres, elevation 10,650 feet, maximum depth 21 feet, average depth 7 feet. 8 miles by Forest Service trail from the Bear River Boy Scout Camp. Stay on the left hand fork to the east. Diamond-shaped lake

lying in the center of the cirque. Excellent campsites with plenty of horse feed and running water. Lots of insects. Popular Scout lake. Excellent fly fishing for cutthroat trout. Natural reproduction.



**AMETHYST, BR-28.** 53 acres, eleva-

tion 11,000 feet, maximum depth 50 feet, average depth 25 feet. From Christmas Meadows Campground 7 miles by Forest Service trail. A very deep tadpole-shaped lake lying at the head of a rocky cirque. Mostly open shoreline in rough, timberline terrain. Campsites and horse feed at the lower meadows. Generally very good brook and cutthroat trout fishing. Popular Scout lake. Stocked.



**BEAVER, BR-10.** 13 acres, elevation 9,500 feet, maximum depth 32 feet, average depth 16 feet. 10 miles by jeep road. Follow the Whitney Forest Service Guard Station road from the Hayden Fork Highway 150, as posted. A round lake with an open shoreline. Excellent campsites. There are numerous beaver dams in this area; several provide some excellent fishing. The streams in the area are generally good fishing. Stocked with brook trout. A very productive lake.



**BR-3.** 5 acres, elevation 10,200 feet, maximum depth 17 feet. 1 long mile southwest of Gold Hill as the crow flies. No trail, campsites or horse feed. Follow up base of ridge and lake lies in a small rugged basin under the ledge rock. A pretty, blue lake with an island in the center. Some open, rocky shoreline. Very little fishing pressure. Good fishing for brook trout. Stocked.

**BR-17.** 3 acres, elevation 10,650 feet, maximum depth 6 feet. 50 yards south of Ryder Lake. Numerous inlets. Good campsites with horse feed in the area. Sparsely timbered terrain. Stocked experimentally with brook trout. A good one to keep an eye on.

**BR-18.** 4 acres, elevation 10,650 feet, maximum depth 13 feet, average depth 5 feet. 100 yards southeast of Ryder Lake. Clear water. Timberline terrain. Good campsites with horse feed in the area. Stocked experimentally with brook trout.



**BR-19.** 1 acre, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 6 feet. ½ mile southeast of Ryder Lake. Several inlets, clear water. Timberline terrain. Good campsites and horse feed. Stocked experimentally with brook.

**BR-24.** 2 acres, elevation 10,700 feet, maximum depth 10 feet, average depth 5 feet. From Christmas Meadows Campground 6 miles. 1 mile northwest of Amethyst. Follow trail to "big meadow" below Amethyst, then follow southwest stream for ¼ mile. Excellent campsites and horse feed at the "big meadow." Fast evening fly fishing for cutthroat trout. A clear, triangular shaped lake lying in a rocky, timberline area. Natural reproduction.



**BR-25.** 2 acres, elevation 10,700 feet, maximum depth 12 feet, average depth 6 feet. From Ostler, ¼ mile north against the rock slides. Campsites and horse feed in the area near Ostler Lake. Some rocky, open shoreline. Fishermen often miss this lake. Good fishing for cutthroat trout. Natural reproduction.



**BR-30.** 1 acre, elevation 10,700 feet, maximum depth 7 feet, average depth 4 feet. From Hell Hole, ½ mile southwest up the stream. A small, shallow lake with open shoreline. Campsites and horse feed near by. Rough, timberline terrain. Stocked experimentally.

**BR-31.** 3 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 8 feet, average depth 4 feet. From Christmas Meadows Campground some 4 miles over rough terrain southwest into small basin. No trail. The lake lies just west of the "meadow," where campsites and horse feed can be found. Follow stream. Some open shoreline. Stocked experimentally with cutthroat trout.



**BR-45.** 3 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 11 feet, average depth 5 feet. 1 mile west of BR-46, follow around the point or 3 miles west along poor, hit-and-miss trail from the old burn area on the main trail. A small lake lying in a meadow in the center of a small pocket. Spring fed, clear water. Good campsites and horse feed. Stocked experimentally with brook trout. May be a real "fishing hole."



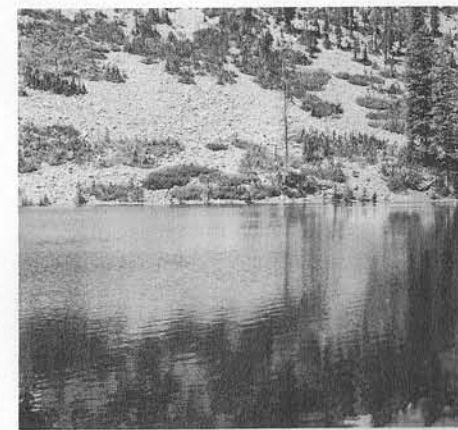
**BR-46.** 11 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 18 feet, average depth 10 feet. An almost inaccessible, irregular shaped lake lying in a small pocket some 2 miles west of the old logging cabins on the East Fork trail. The terrain is very rocky and riders are not encouraged to take horses to the lake. Few campsites and no horse feed. Excellent fly fishing areas. No trail to this lake. Stocked with brook.



**★CUTTHROAT, BR-37.** 5 acres, elevation 10,400 feet, maximum depth 16 feet, average depth 13 feet. ½ mile south of Teal. A heart-shaped lake in a rugged setting. No direct trail to the lake. Some open shoreline for fly fish-

ing. Good campsites with horse feed. Plenty of running water. Wary cutthroat and rainbow trout. Stocked with cutthroat trout.

**ELIZABETH, BR-8.** 10 acres, elevation 10,000 feet, maximum depth 10 feet, average depth 5 feet. 10 miles east of Mirror Lake Highway 150 on Mill Creek road to summit, then 5 miles north on jeep road to ridge above lake. A second jeep road goes through the logging area to the lake. Sparsely timbered terrain with some open shoreline. Campsites. Sometimes slow fishing for brook. Stocked with brook trout.



**GOLD HILL, BR-1.** 2 acres, elevation 9,600 feet, maximum depth 12 feet. 1 almost vertical mile southwest of the Sulphur Campground on the Hayden Fork Highway 150. Very steep, rugged, heavily timbered terrain. No trail to the lake. This picturesque, crescent-shaped lake lies directly below the "white ledges." Poor campsites and no horse feed. Clear water with wary brook trout. Not frequently fished. Stocked.



**HELL HOLE, BR-29.** 9 acres, elevation 10,400 feet, average depth 4 feet. From Lower Stillwaters at Christmas Meadows some 5 miles by rough trail. The lake lies mostly south and a little east from the "little meadow." A clear, shallow lake with some open shoreline. Some small grass islands. Excellent fly fishing for cutthroat trout. Rough terrain, but good horse feed and campsites near the lake. Plenty of running water. Not too well known. Stocked.



**KERMSUH, BR-20.** 10 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 15 feet, average depth 9 feet. 8 miles from Christmas Meadows over poorly defined trail. A narrow lake in rough terrain. Poor campsites and little horse feed. Excellent fishing for cutthroat trout. Frequently hot in the evening. An isolated lake seldom visited. This lake lies due north of McPheters, in the southwest corner of the next basin. Stocked with brook trout.



**JEWEL, BR-38.** 2 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 13 feet, average depth 6 feet. ½ mile northwest of Ruth. Rough terrain. Some open shoreline. Campsites with horse feed near by. Rock ledge south of the lake. Good fishing for both brook and cutthroat trout. Popular fishing area. Stocked with cutthroat.

**LILY, BR-11.** 13 acres, elevation 9,000 feet, maximum depth 20 feet, average depth 9 feet. 2 miles east, by road, from Hayden Fork Highway 150. Huge, productive beaver pond with mostly open shoreline, but timbered terrain. Excellent campsites, stocked experimentally.

**LYM, BR-7.** 5 acres, elevation 9,500 feet, maximum depth 19 feet, average depth 13 feet. This very popular lake lies 6 miles south of Mill Creek Ranger Station via unimproved logging road. The Ranger Station lies 7 miles east off the Mirror Lake Highway 150, and is accessible by good gravel road. Heavily timbered terrain. Good campsites in the area. Excellent fly fishing evenings at north and south end of lake. Stocked with brook and cutthroat trout.



**McPHETERS, BR-14.** 29 acres, elevation 10,850 feet, maximum depth 45 feet, average depth 20 feet. ½ mile north and a little west of Ryder. Lake lies up on steep shelf. A large, deep, crystal clear lake with an arm on the east end. Open, rocky terrain and shoreline. No campsites or horse feed at the lake, but good campsites with horse feed in the area. Fair fishing for both brook and cutthroat trout. Stocked with cutthroat trout.



**NORICE, BR-47.** 3 acres, elevation 10,650 feet, maximum and average depth 3 feet. 8 miles along Forest Service "right hand" fork trail from the Bear River Boy Scout Camp. A shallow meadow lake. Excellent fly fishing water. Good campsites with horse feed and lots of running water. Fishing is generally good for cutthroat trout. Popular Scout lake. Natural reproduction.



**OSTLER, BR-27.** 14 acres, elevation 10,700 feet, maximum depth 15 feet, average depth 8 feet. From Christmas Meadows Campground 6 miles. Follow trail to "big meadow" below Amethyst, then ½ mile west over rough terrain into small basin against the slide rock. Rocky, timberline area with little open shoreline. Campsites and horse feed at the lower meadows. Fast fishing for brook and cutthroat trout. A little feed and some fair campsites at the southwest end of the lake. A popular Scout lake stocked with brook trout.



**PRIORD, BR-48.** 12 acres, elevation 10,950 feet, maximum depth 20 feet, average depth 10 feet. By trail 1 short mile southwest of Norice, or some 9 miles from the Bear River Boy Scout Camp. A clear, cold lake lying on a shelf under the ledges. Rough, timberline terrain. Good campsites with horse feed in the area. Not much firewood near the lake. Mostly open shoreline permits excellent fly fishing for cutthroat trout. There's as many "skeeters" as fish, so take some repellent. A popular Scout lake. Stocked.



**RUTH, BR-40.** 10 acres, elevation 10,500 feet, maximum depth 31 feet, average depth 11 feet. By trail  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the Hayden Peak turnout on the Mirror Lake Highway 150. A popular lake with campsites and horse feed near by. Good fishing for brook trout. Stocked.



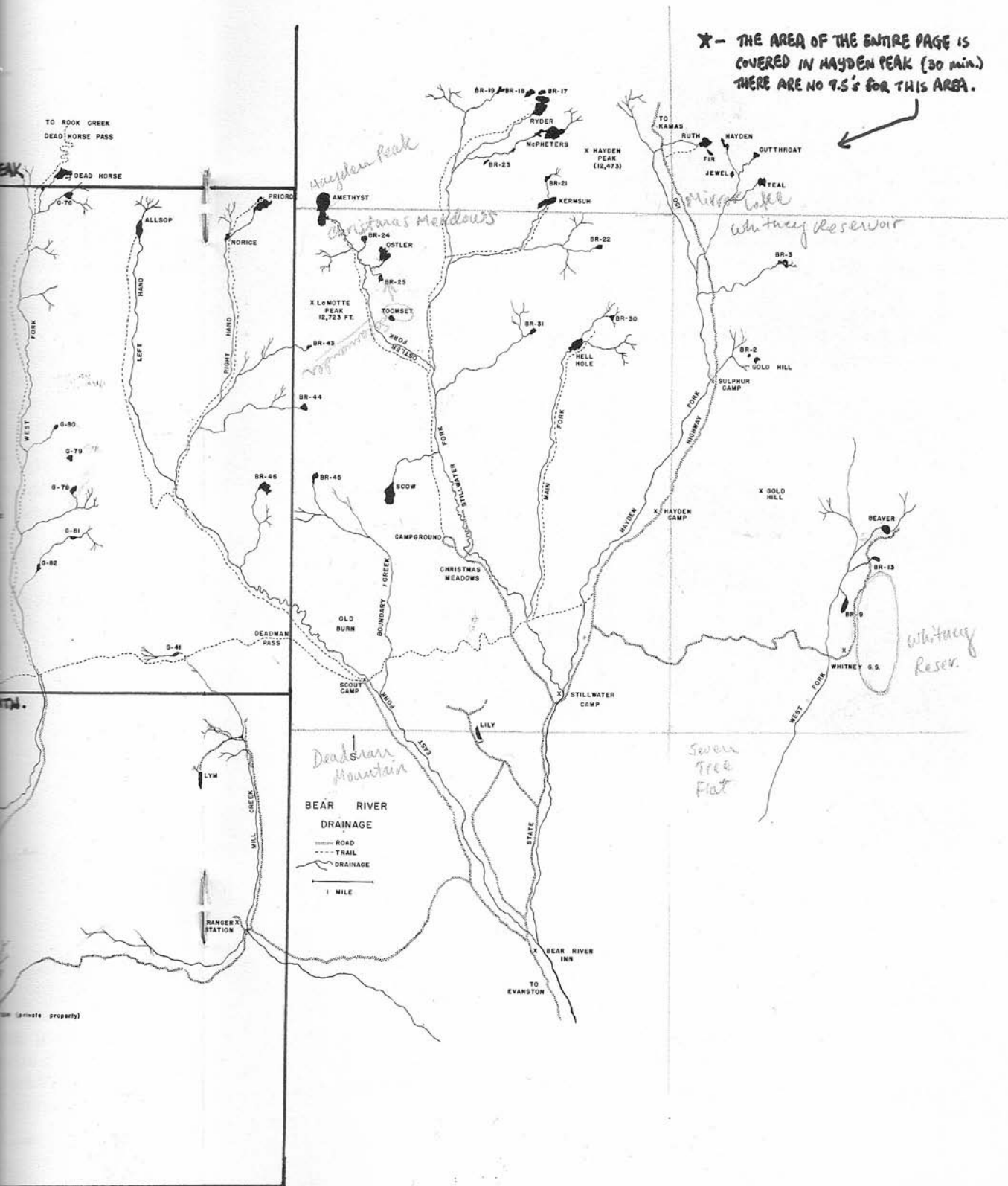
**RYDER, BR-15.** 24 acres, elevation 10,650 feet, maximum depth 65 feet, average depth 28 feet. From Christmas Meadows Campground 10 miles by rough Forest Service trail to the lower meadows. From the meadows the lake lies 1 mile west over rough terrain and

poorly defined trail. Excellent campsites, plenty of horse feed and fast stream fishing at the lower meadows. Good campsites at the lake. A large, deep lake with lots of open shoreline. A popular lake that receives considerable fishing pressure. Generally good evening fly fishing. Stocked with cutthroat trout.

**SCOW, BR-12.** 22 acres, elevation 10,200 feet, maximum depth 6 feet, average depth 5 feet. 2 miles east and south of the Christmas Meadows Campground over steep, rough terrain. No trail. The campground is reached by dirt road 3 miles east from the Hayden Fork Highway 150, as posted. Heavily timbered. Few campsites and little horse feed. An arrowhead-shaped lake containing only a few large trout. Stocked with fingerling brook trout.



**TEAL, BR-32.** 5 acres, elevation 10,300 feet, maximum depth 14 feet, average depth 8 feet. From Ruth, 1 mile northwest. Rough terrain, poor campsites and no horse feed. Fast fishing for brook trout. Mostly closed shoreline for fly fishermen, so take waders. Popular lake. A few cutthroat trout may remain. Stocked with brook trout.



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