

## BLACKS FORK DRAINAGE

The Blacks Fork Basin is an isolated drainage on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains located between the Bear River Drainage to the west and the Smiths Fork Drainage to the east. This large drainage is composed of 4 major tributaries, including the West Fork, Middle Fork, East Fork and Little East Fork, each of which contain alpine lake concentrations in headwater regions. The terrain is rugged and composed of narrow river valleys and steep rocky ridges with extensive areas of alpine tundra. The highest point of land is Mount Lovenia at the head of the East Fork Drainage which reaches 13,219 feet in elevation.

In general, lakes of the Blacks Fork Basin are small in size, widely scattered between the 4 major subdrainages, and high in elevation with nearly half situated at or above timberline. These lakes range in elevation from 9,070 feet at G-90 to more than 11,500 feet at G-71 situated at the foot of Squaw Pass. There are 33 natural lakes, 3 reservoirs, and over 100 ponds of less than 2 acres in size. Of these waters, 22 currently contain populations of game fish, or are proposed for experimental fisheries management. Two large reservoirs in this drainage, Fish and Meeks Cabin, are not currently managed by the state of Utah to provide fish populations. Fish Reservoir is privately owned and not open to public access. Meeks Cabin Reservoir is situated in and managed by the state of Wyoming.

The Blacks Fork Drainage is located approximately 15 miles south of U-150 on the North Slope Road over Elizabeth Ridge, or 18 miles southwest of Robertson, Wyoming, on the Blacks Fork Road. Both of these routes are improved gravel roads maintained by the U.S. Forest Service. Trailhead development in the drainage includes the Cache, East Fork-Blacks Fork, and West Fork-Blacks Fork trailheads. Major trails providing access to the back country include the Bear River-Smith Fork Trail, the West Fork Blacks Fork Trail, the East Fork Blacks Fork Trail, the Little East Fork Blacks Fork Trail and the Middle Fork Blacks Fork Trail. The Middle Fork Trail is the poorest in this trail system due to limited use and poor definition. All trails which receive maintenance are identified on the Blacks Fork Drainage map by Forest Service Trail number.

In general, recreational use and fishing activity in the Blacks Fork Drainage are limited, due to the remote and scattered nature of lake basins, limited trail maintenance, and difficult access. Of the managed fish producing waters, 3 can be reached on roads or jeep trails and only 2 are directly accessible on Forest Service trails. The remainder of these lakes are situated some distance from roads and major access trails, making cross-country travel necessary. As a result, nearly all of the lakes in this drainage are subject to light fishing and camping activity providing excellent opportunities for anglers seeking solitude.

Brook and cutthroat trout are found in equal abundance in back country lakes of the Blacks Fork Basin. These populations are supplemented by occasional aerial stocking, as needed. Due to the accessibility and heavy levels of fishing pressure directed to the Lyman Lakes, these waters receive annual plants of brook trout and periodic stocking of rainbow and or albino rainbow catchables.

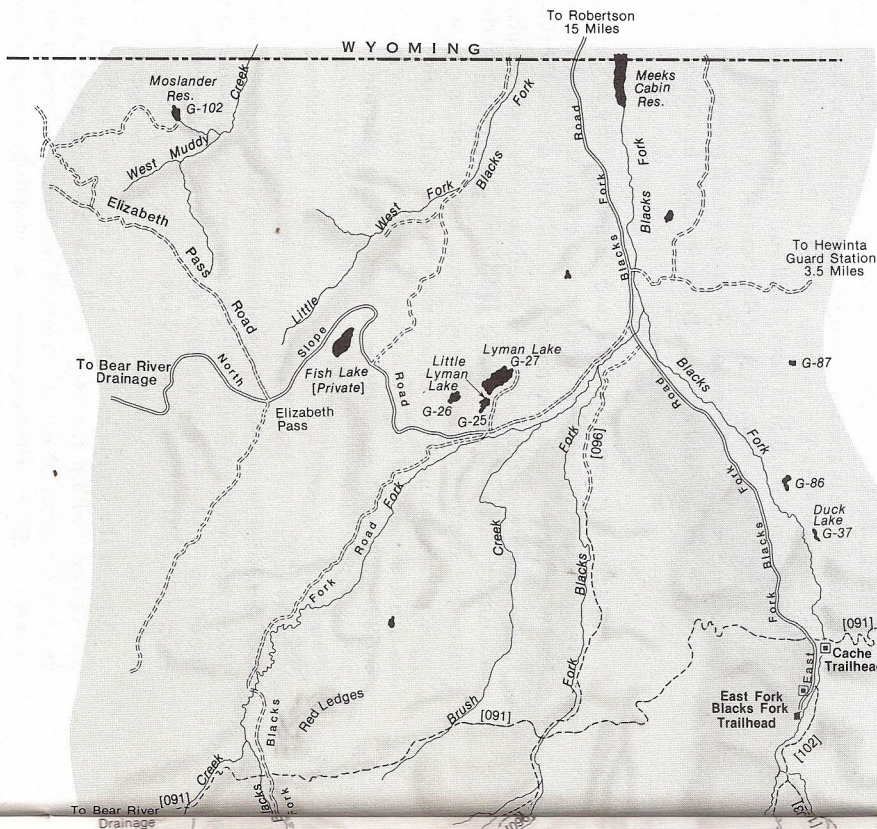
Most of the waters in the headwater region of the Blacks Fork Basin are situated within the High Uintas Wilderness Area and the usual restrictions apply. Due to the rugged nature of the terrain and distance between individual fishing waters, trips should be carefully planned beforehand. U.S. Geological Survey maps useful in this drainage include the Explorer Peak, Mount Lovenia, Red Knob, Elizabeth Mountain and Lyman Lake quadrangles.

**BOBS, G-73.** Bobs is a scenic natural lake located in a glacial cirque at the base of Tokewanna Peak in the Middle Fork of the Blacks Fork Drainage. It is 6.6 acres, 11,150 feet in elevation, with 30 feet maximum depth. Access is 10¼ miles southwest of the East Fork Blacks Fork Road



- LAKES
- G-25 Little Lyman Lake
  - G-26 Lyman Lake
  - G-27 Lyman Lake
  - G-37 Duck Lake
  - G-65
  - G-66
  - G-67
  - G-68
  - G-69
  - G-70
  - G-71
  - G-72
  - G-73 Bobs Lake
  - G-74
  - G-75
  - G-76 Ejod Lake
  - G-77 Dead Horse Lake
  - G-78
  - G-79
  - G-80
  - G-81
  - G-82
  - G-83
  - G-84
  - G-85
  - G-86
  - G-87
  - G-90
  - G-102 Moslander Res.

- Key to Forest Service Trails
- [091] Bear River-Smiths Fork
  - [096] Middle Fork Blacks Fork
  - [101] West Fork Blacks Fork
  - [102] East Fork Blacks Fork
  - [103] Little East Fork Blacks Fork



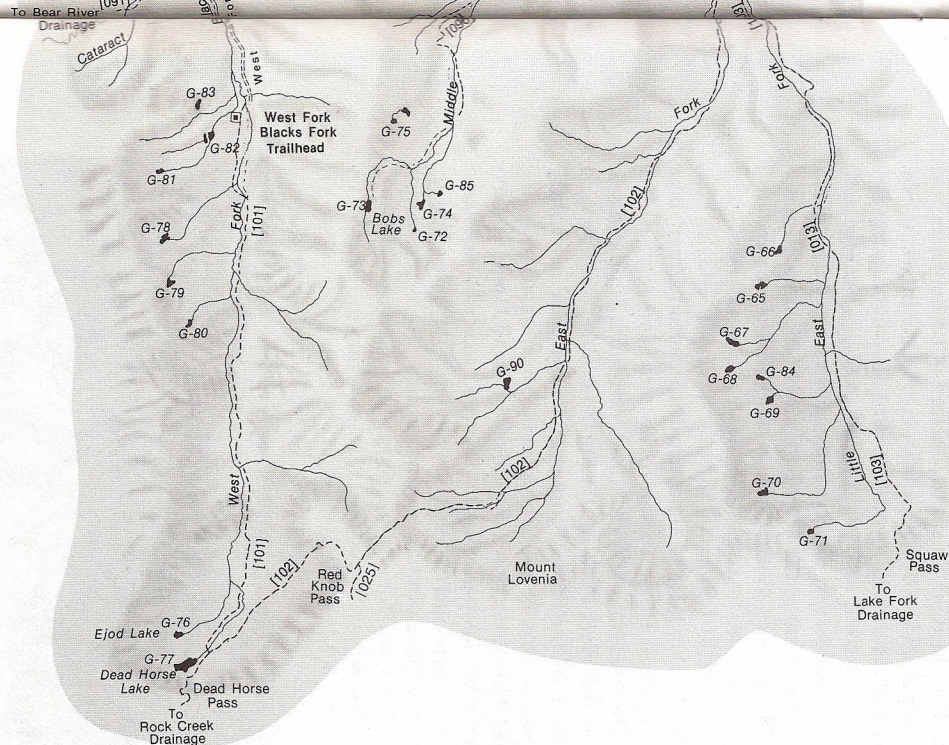
## BLACKS FORK DRAINAGE



Location Map

### LEGEND

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





on the hit-and-miss Middle Fork Trail which begins as a jeep road just south of the Blacks Fork bridge. This trail is blazed but receives limited use and can be indistinct and extremely difficult to locate in areas. The trail disappears in large headwater meadows, but Bobs can be located by following the tributary system towards the west. Bobs is situated well above timberline. Campsites are not available. However, an excellent spring water source is present at the lake. Better camping opportunities are situated lower in the basin. Bobs is stocked with cutthroat trout and fishing can be unpredictable.

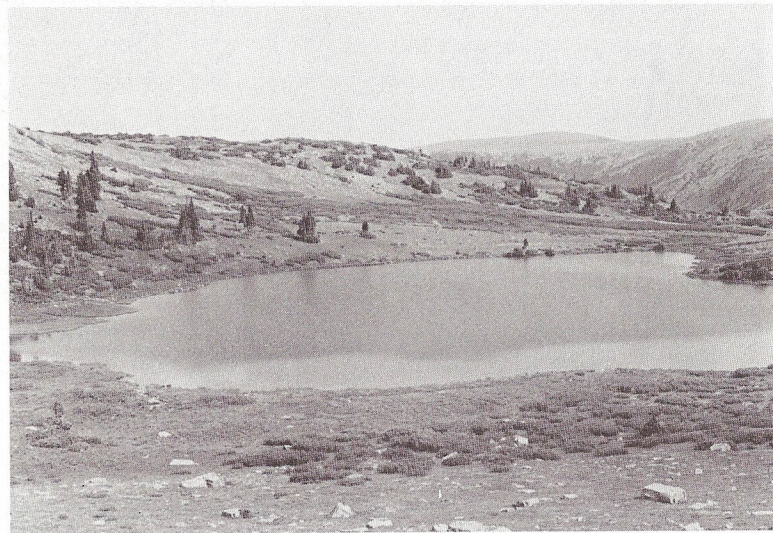
**DEAD HORSE, G-77.** Dead Horse is a natural emerald green lake situated at the foot of Dead Horse Pass in rocky timberline terrain. It is 16.0 acres, 10,878 feet in elevation, with 41 feet maximum depth. Access is 7½ miles south of the West Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead on the West Fork Trail to the head of the basin. Campsites are available in the lake vicinity. Horse feed is present in large meadows to the northeast. Spring water is unavailable. The recreational appeal of the Dead Horse Basin is somewhat diminished by sheep grazing in the area. Dead Horse Lake is stocked with cutthroat trout and experiences moderate levels of angling pressure. Remember to pack out your refuse.



Dead Horse, G-77

**DUCK, G-37.** Duck is an irregular natural lake situated in thick timber at the lower end of the East Fork Basin. It is 5.9 acres, 9,161 feet in elevation, with 5 feet maximum depth. The lake is a simple pothole located in a glacial catch-basin and there is no outlet. Access is ½ mile northeast of the East Fork Blacks Fork Road on an unmarked logging road through a small meadow to the river. Cross the river at this point and proceed east for 200 yards to the lake. Marginal camping areas are available with some horse feed. Spring water sources are unavailable. Duck is shallow with very little inflow, and the lake provides marginal fish habitat. However, experimental stocking has been scheduled for 1985 to fully evaluate the potential of this lake.

**EJOD, G-76.** This rounded glacial lake is located in open country above timberline in the West Fork Drainage. It is 6.7 acres, 10,900 feet in elevation, with 12 feet maximum depth. The surrounding terrain is composed of alpine tundra and rocky shelves. Ejod is characterized by extensive shoal areas, with several deep water channels running through the lake. Ejod can be located by proceeding ¼ mile northwest of Dead Horse Lake to the top of the small ridge. Campsites are not available but suitable areas for camping activity can be located at Dead Horse. Horse feed is limited. Spring water is unavailable at Ejod. The lake contains a population of cutthroat trout sustained by natural recruitment and infrequent aerial stocking. Open shorelines at Ejod are ideal for fly casting. This lake is often overlooked by anglers.

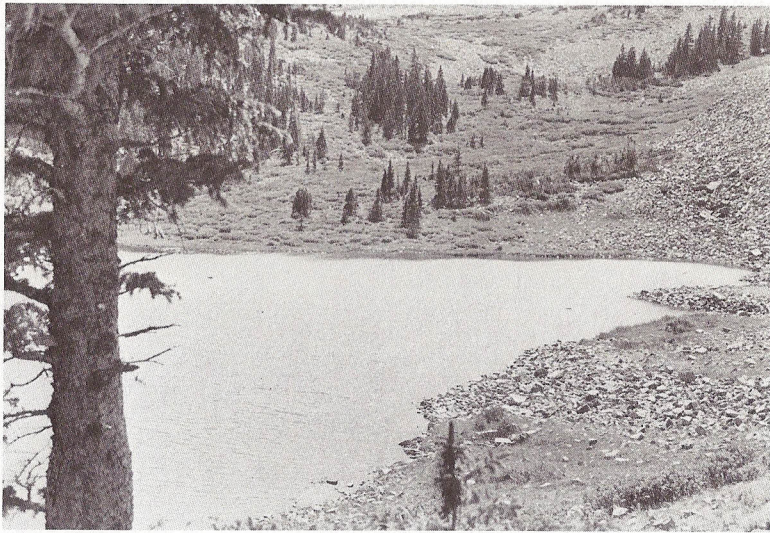


Ejod, G-76



**G-26.** This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

**G-65.** G-65 is a shallow natural water with open shorelines located in partly timbered terrain in the Little East Fork Drainage. It is 5.0 acres, 10,900 feet in elevation, with 5 feet maximum depth. The lake abuts a steep talus slope to the west and a boggy meadow to the south. Access is 6 miles south of the East Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead on the East Fork and Little East Fork trails to the large meadow (last meadow heading up country). From the lower end of this meadow, follow a minor tributary stream west for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the small basin containing G-65. The lake can also be located by heading south and slightly west of G-66 for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile up the steep timbered ridge. Marginal camping areas are available at G-65 with limited horse feed and no spring water sources. However, better camping opportunities are present in the vicinity of the large meadow to the east. G-65 contains a good brook trout population sustained by natural reproduction.



G-65

**G-66.** G-66 is a small natural lake located in dense conifers at the foot of a talus slope in the Little East Fork Drainage. It is 4.0 acres, 10,561 feet in elevation, with 12 feet maximum depth. The lake is characterized by a

long, narrow arm to the north which is quite shallow. Access is 5 miles south of the East Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead on the East Fork and Little East Fork trails to a large dry park (second major meadow heading up country in the Little East Fork Drainage). At the lower end of the park is a small stream coming from the west. An indistinct side trail follows this stream west and south for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the lake. Camping areas are available in the lake vicinity with several good sources of spring water. Horse feed is not present at the lake. G-66 contains a brook trout population sustained by natural reproduction. Angling pressure is moderate.

**G-67.** This deep natural water is located above timberline in a rugged cirque basin within the Little East Fork Drainage. G-67 is 7.7 acres, 11,158 feet in elevation, with 25 feet maximum depth. The surrounding terrain is composed of rocky alpine meadows, stunted low-growth conifers and willow, as well as talus slopes. G-67 is located 1 mile northwest of G-69 around the rocky point. Campsites and horse feed are not available in the lake vicinity due to the open timberline terrain. Spring water may be available early in the season. G-67 is occasionally stocked with brook trout.



G-68

**G-68.** G-68 is a small alpine lake situated in open windswept country  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile northwest of G-69 in the Little East Fork Drainage. The lake is 4.1 acres, 11,421 feet in elevation, with 6 feet maximum depth. Campsites



are not available due to the open nature of the surrounding terrain and absence of fuelwood. Horse feed is sparse and spring water unavailable. G-68 is shallow in overall depth and subject to frequent winterkill. As a result, stocking has been presently discontinued.

**G-69.** G-69 is a small natural lake situated in open alpine meadows above timberline in the Little East Fork Drainage. It is 4.8 acres, 11,109 feet in elevation, with 13 feet maximum depth. Camping areas are not available in the immediate lake vicinity. Fuelwood is extremely sparse, as is horse feed. Spring water is unavailable. Access is 7½ miles south of the East Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead on the East Fork and Little East Fork trails to the head of the large meadow, and then 1 mile west up the steep partially timbered slope to the lake. Although there is no direct trail access, G-69 is accessible on horseback. The lake contains a population of cutthroat trout sustained by natural reproduction.



G-69

**G-70.** This windswept alpine lake is situated well above timberline in the Little East Fork Drainage. G-70 is 3.8 acres, 11,450 feet in elevation, with 4 feet maximum depth. The lake is irregular in outline and very shallow in overall depth. Access is 1¼ miles south of G-69 along a rough and rocky ridge. Campsites are unavailable due to the open nature of the surrounding terrain and absence of fuelwood. Spring water is present in the lake vicinity. The recreational appeal of this basin is diminished

somewhat by sheep grazing. G-70 has contained fish populations in the past. It is scheduled to receive experimental stocking of cutthroat trout during 1985.

**G-71.** G-71 is a small natural lake located above timberline in a cirque basin at the head of the Little East Fork Drainage. It is 4.8 acres maximum, 11,527 feet in elevation, with 14 feet maximum depth. The lake is milky in appearance due to a glacial turbidity. G-71 fluctuates 1-2 feet annually and at the minimum water level the lake separates into 3 distinct pools. Access is 9 miles south of the East Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead on the East Fork and Little East Fork trails to the foot of Squaw Pass. Leave the trail at this point and proceed west for 1¼ miles over rough terrain to the lake. G-71 is not directly accessible on horseback. Campsites are not available, but spring water can be located ⅛ mile below the lake on the outlet stream. G-71 is scheduled for continued experimental stocking of brook trout during 1984.

**G-72.** G-72 is a small natural lake situated in a rugged, glacial cirque above timberline at the head of the Middle Fork Drainage. It is 1.3 acres, 11,198 feet in elevation, with 6 feet maximum depth. The immediate watershed is composed of dense patches of willow and steep talus slopes to the south, and low stunted conifers in the moraine to the north. Access is ¼ mile south of G-74 up the steep grassy slope to the small basin containing G-72. Campsites and horse feed are not available. Spring water is present early in the season. G-72 has been scheduled for experimental stocking during 1984.

**G-74.** G-74 is a small moraine lake situated on a glacial shelf against a steep talus ridge. It is 3.4 acres, 10,934 feet in elevation, with 3 feet maximum depth. Access is 9½ miles southwest of the East Fork Road on the Middle Fork Blacks Fork jeep road and trail to the head of the Middle Fork Basin. The trail is indistinct and extremely difficult to locate at times, and disappears in the headwater region about 1 mile short of the lake. However, G-74 can be located by following the easternmost drainage system in the upper basin. Good campsites are available with ample horse feed and good supplies of spring water. G-74 experiences very light angler use and limited camping activity. The lake is shallow and contains a population of wary brook trout. G-74 may be subject to at least partial winterkill.

**G-75.** This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.





G-78

**G-78.** G-78 is a small meadow lake characterized by partly open shorelines and an earth-colored glacial turbidity. It is 3.2 acres, 10,660 feet in elevation, with 9 feet maximum depth. The lake is subject to natural water level fluctuation of about 3 feet. Some marginal campsites are available in the lake vicinity, but spring water is not present. Access is 1 mile south of the West Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead on the West Fork Trail to the first major tributary stream coming from the west. Follow this side drainage west and south for 1¼ miles to the lake. The terrain is steep and heavily timbered, and access on horseback can be difficult. Horse feed is available at the lake. G-78 was experimentally stocked with brook trout during 1984, but it may be subject to winterkill.

**G-79.** G-79 is a small glacial lake located in a narrow cirque at the base of a precipitous rock face which rises to 1,000 feet above the lake. It is 2.5 acres, 10,820 feet in elevation, with 5 feet maximum depth. G-79 is shallow and may be subject to some degree of natural water level fluctuation. Access is ½ mile south of G-78 around the rocky ridge. The terrain is steep and rugged and should not be attempted on horseback. Suitable camping areas are available with a good source of spring water. G-79 was scheduled to receive experimental stocking of brook trout during 1983.

**G-80.** This remote glacial lake is located in rocky, timbered terrain high on the ridge overlooking the West Fork Drainage. It is 1.8 acres, 10,580 feet in elevation, with 8 feet maximum depth. The lake abuts a steep talus slope to the west which is prone to snowslides. Access is 2½ miles south of the West Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead on the West Fork Trail to the upper end of Buck Pasture and then ¾ mile west up the steep timbered slope to the small basin containing G-80. Access is difficult and should not be attempted on horseback. Marginal campsites are available with a good source of spring water. G-80 is stocked occasionally with brook trout and receives light fishing pressure.

**G-81.** G-81 is a small spring-fed lake located in partly timbered terrain in the West Fork Drainage. It is 1.6 acres, 10,665 feet in elevation, with 5 feet maximum depth. The lake is semi-circular in outline. It is turquoise in color due to a suspension of fine glacial material. G-81 is located ¾ mile southwest of G-82 at the southern end of the large cirque basin against a talus slope. The terrain is steep, there are no trails, and horse access may be difficult. Campsites are available with a good source of spring water. Horse feed is extremely limited. G-81 is stocked infrequently with cut-throat trout.

**G-82.** G-82 is a shallow natural lake located in a boggy meadow on the ridge overlooking the West Fork Drainage. The lake is 3.8 acres, 10,140 feet in elevation, with 6 feet maximum depth. The lake is irregular in outline and composed of 2 arms connected by a narrow channel. G-82 is brown in color due to a fine suspended glacial material. Access is ½ mile southwest of the old scaler's cabin at the West Fork-Blacks Fork Trailhead up the steep timbered ridge. The lake is situated in thick timber, but it can be located by following the drainage system. Direct access on horseback is difficult. Camping areas are available. Spring water is not present. G-82 contains a small population of wary brook trout. The lake is subject to some water level fluctuation and may winterkill on occasion.

**G-83.** This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

**G-84.** This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

**G-85.** This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.



**G-86.** G-86 is a productive natural lake situated in dense timber  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile northwest of Duck Lake in the East Fork of the Blacks Fork Drainage. It is 6.4 acres, 9,142 feet in elevation, with 7 feet maximum depth. The lake is irregular in outline and composed of 2 major arms connected by a narrow channel. Yellow pondlily completely encircles the lake. Potential campsites are available without horse feed or spring water. G-86 is scheduled for experimental stocking of brook trout during 1985 to evaluate the potential of this water to sustain a fishery.

**G-87.** This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

**G-90.** This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

**LITTLE LYMAN, G-25.** Little Lyman is a productive natural lake located in partly timbered terrain in the lower Blacks Fork Basin. It is 5.0 acres, 9,276 feet in elevation, with 25 feet maximum depth. Access is 16 miles east of U-150 on the North Slope Road or 24 miles southwest of Robertson, Wyoming on the Blacks Fork Road to a well marked turnoff, and then  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north on the Lyman Lake Road to the lake. The Forest Service maintains a small full service campground at Little Lyman with 10 units. Little Lyman Lake is stocked on an annual basis with rainbow trout catchables and brook trout fingerling. Angling pressure is heavy due to the accessibility of this water.

**LYMAN, G-27.** This large scenic lake is situated immediately north and east of Little Lyman Lake in the West Fork Drainage (see directions to Little Lyman Lake). Lyman is 36.6 acres, 9,311 feet in elevation, with 30 feet maximum depth. A small dam has been placed across the outlet stream at Lyman to enlarge the original lake dimensions. Lyman is easily accessible and sustains heavy levels of fishing pressure. A summer youth camp has been established at the northeastern end of the lake. Good sites are available for primitive camping activity in the lake vicinity. However, a full service campground is maintained by the Forest Service at the nearby Little Lyman Lake with tap water and restroom facilities. Lyman has a history of winterkill and the fishery is sustained by periodic stockings of catchable-sized rainbow and albino rainbow trout. However, experimental stocking of brook trout was accomplished during 1983 and 1984 to evaluate the winterkill situation at this water.

**MOSLANDER, G-102.** Moslander is a productive reservoir lake located in the West Muddy Creek Drainage of the Blacks Fork Basin. It is 11.4 acres maximum, 9,691 feet in elevation, with 29 feet maximum

depth. The immediate watershed is composed of gently sloping timbered ridges with scattered meadows. Reservoir operation at Moslander is capable of drawdown of up to 12 feet and surface area reduction of 50% annually. Moslander is directly accessible to 4-wheel drive vehicles. From the North Slope Road at Elizabeth Pass proceed northwest for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles on the Elizabeth Mountain Road. From this point turn right on a jeep trail and proceed north and east for an additional  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the lake. Camping areas are available without spring water sources. Moslander Reservoir contains marginal habitat, but experimental stocking of brook trout is scheduled for 1985.



**Moslander, G-102**