

# Spook Lake



**Description:** Spook Lake is a small (15.8 acres), isolated water body that formed in a glacial pothole or trough. The lake is located above Placid Lake, to the southwest, at 5,620 ft elevation. Spook Lake has traditionally supported a quality westslope cutthroat trout fishery that is supported by regular stocking from MFWP hatcheries.

**Location:** T15N, R16W, Section 12; Latitude N47.07333°, Longitude W113.57166°  
Nearest Town: Seeley Lake, MT; Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Seeley Lake Ranger District)

**Access:** Spook Lake can be directly accessed with motorized vehicles (4-wheel drive recommended). The easiest route is to take Placid Lake Road (USFS Road #349) from MT Highway 83 (~ 4 miles south of Seeley Lake). Before reaching Placid Lake, take USFS Road #4337 and travel for approximately 6.8 miles to reach the lake.

**Campsites and Use:** Spook Lake receives moderate to heavy use due to its accessibility and quality fishery. There are four established campsites and a trail along the entire shoreline of the lake. Motorized watercraft are prohibited on the lake, with the exception of those powered by electric motors.

**Angling Opportunity:** Spook Lake supports an abundant westslope cutthroat population that is sustained through biennial stocking. Shoreline topography and thick forest canopy make shoreline angling difficult in many areas; carry-in boats or inflatable watercraft are recommended.

**Stocking History:** Stocking records indicate Spook Lake has been consistently stocked with westslope cutthroat trout since 1968. Spook Lake is currently stocked every other year (odd years) with approximately 1,000 fingerling westslope cutthroat trout.

**Angling Pressure:** Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys in 2007-2015 is high for a small alpine lake, with an average of 427 angler-days per year (range: 275-540).

**Other Nearby Lakes:** Other fish-bearing lakes in the area include Hidden and Tappers Lakes, which lie 5-6 miles to the north on the open road network. Larger valley lakes in the vicinity include Placid and Salmon Lakes, which are both within 8 miles of Spook Lake.



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## Spook Lake: Biological & Physical Information

Date Last Sampled: 8/30/2016

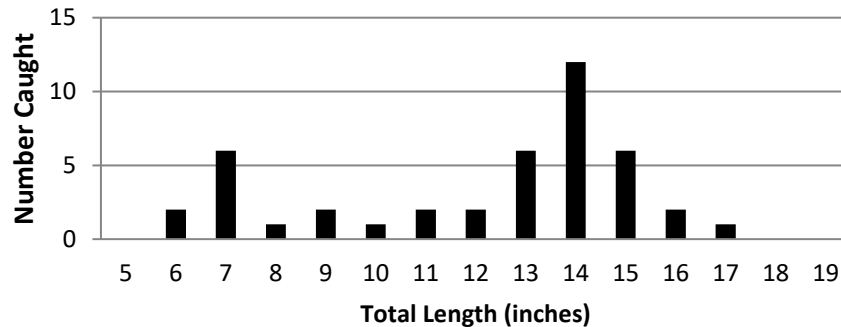
**Fish Species Present:** Westslope Cutthroat Trout  
**Size Range Captured (WCT):** 8.9-16.1 in (227-410mm)  
**Trout Condition (Wr) (WCT):** 92 (73-107) (low)  
**Trout Diet Composition (WCT) (6/15/2005):** No data  
**Juvenile Abundance:** WCT – low  
**Management Objectives:** Quality WCT fishery  
**Currently Stocked:** Yes  
**Last Stocked:** 2011  
**Amphibians Observed:** Columbia spotted frogs (adults), western toad (adults), tailed frogs (larvae)

**Sampling Methods:** Sinking Gill Net  
**Gill Net Catch Rate (WCT):** 2.47 trout/net/hr (high)  
**Natural Recruitment (WCT):** Very low or absent

**Inlet/Outlet Spawning Habitat:** minimal

**Species:** WCT  
**Recommended Frequency:** 2 yrs

### 2014 Spook Lake Westslope Cutthroat Trout



**Elevation:** 5,620 ft  
**Secchi Depth:** No data

**Surface Area:** 15.8 acres  
**PH:** 7.6  
**Conductivity:** No data

**Volume:** 235.2 acre-ft  
**TDS:** No data

**Max Depth:** 31 ft  
**Aspect:** Southeast

