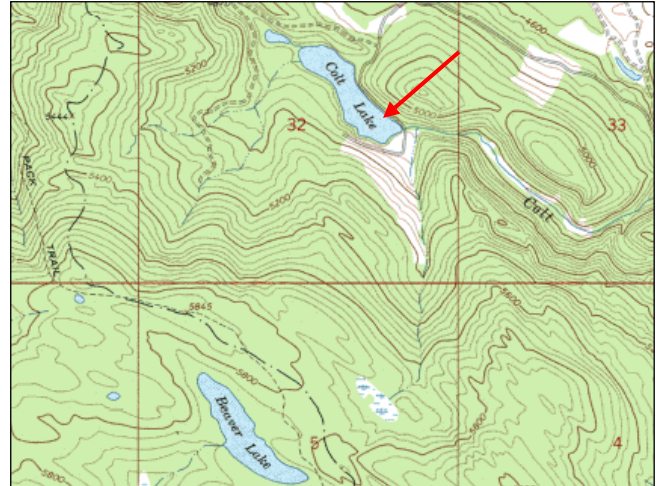


Colt Lake



Description: Colt Lake a moderately sized (24.5 acres), glacial trough lake located within the Lolo National Forest boundary about 10 miles north of Seeley Lake, MT near the Clearwater-Swan drainage divide. This mid-elevation lake is located within 0.25 miles of an open USFS road and is completely surrounded by forested terrain at 4,835 ft elevation.

Location: T19N, R16W, Section 32; Latitude N47.36234°, Longitude W113.66202°

Nearest town: Seeley Lake, MT. Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Seeley Lake Ranger District)

Access: Colt Lake is most easily accessed via Montana Hwy 83 near the Clearwater-Swan Drainage divide. To reach the lake, turn west off of Hwy 83 on Beaver Creek Road (USFS Rd #906) located ~ 17 miles north of Seeley Lake. After ~1.7 miles, turn left and travel south on USFS Rd #646 for ~2.6 miles. At the next junction, turn right (east) on Colt Lake Road (USFS Rd #4356). Follow Colt Lake Road for ~0.75 miles to the closed gate at the Colt Lake trail access point. The lake is found along the closed road ~0.25 miles past the USFS gate and parking area. Note: The former access route via W. Fork Clearwater Road from the south is no longer viable.

Campsites and Use: Colt Lake is relatively accessible, but receives light recreational use. There are two dispersed campsites near the access point and an established trail to the lake. 'Leave no trace' camping and recreating is encouraged in this area.

Angling Opportunity: Colt Lake supports a westslope cutthroat trout population with moderate natural reproduction. Shoreline topography and thick forest canopy make shoreline angling difficult in most locations. Motorized watercraft are prohibited on Colt Lake, with the exception of those powered by electric motors.

Stocking History: Colt Lake was stocked with westslope cutthroat trout on four occasions from 1966 to 1977. No subsequent stocking has occurred or is planned as the population is self-sustaining.

Angling Pressure: Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys has been moderate and averaged 113 angler-days per year (range: 28-169).

Other Nearby Lakes: There are several other lakes in the vicinity of Colt Lake. The closest lakes are Beaver Lake, Summit Lake, Rainy Lake, and Clearwater Lake. All are located within five miles of Colt Lake, but are accessed via different U.S. Forest Service roads and trails (see USFS Seeley Ranger District map). Larger lakes along the Clearwater chain of lakes (e.g., Lakes Alva and Inez) are also found in close proximity.



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Colt Lake: Biological & Physical Information

Date Sampled: 6/9/2011

Fish Species Present: Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Size Range Captured (WCT): 7.4-19.5 in (165-495mm)

Trout Condition (Wr) (WCT): 96 (74-115) (High)

Trout Diet Composition (WCT) (6/9/2011): Aquatic insects, zooplankton, gammarus shrimp (scuds), salamander larvae

Juvenile Abundance: WCT – moderate

Management Objectives: Quality Cutthroat Trout Fishery

Currently Stocked: No **Last Stocked:** 1977 **Species:** Westslope Cutthroat Trout **Recommended Frequency:** N/A

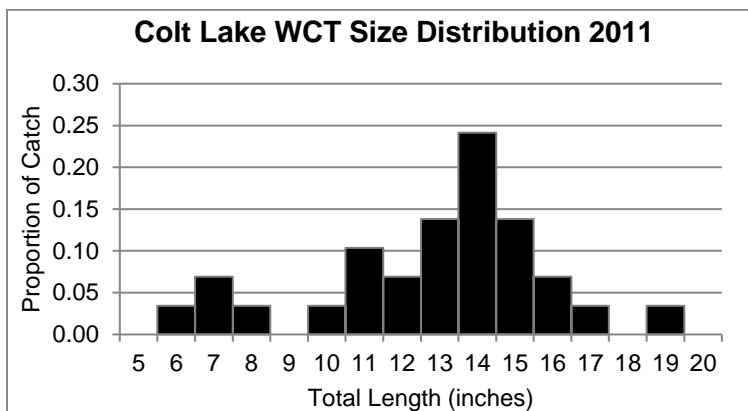
Amphibians Observed: Columbia spotted frogs (adults), Long-toed salamander (larvae)

Sampling Methods: Sinking & Floating Gill Net

Gill Net Catch Rate (WCT): 0.77 trout/net/hr (moderate)

Natural Recruitment (WCT): Present (moderate)

Inlet/Outlet Spawning Habitat: Some suitable



Elevation: 4,835 ft
Secchi Depth: 14 ft

Surface Area: 24.5 acres
PH: 7.4

Volume: 404.7 acre-ft
Conductivity: 11.5 μ S
TDS: 8.3 ppm

Max Depth: 45 ft
Aspect: Southeast

