

Hidden Lake



Description: Hidden Lake is a moderately sized (33.5 acres) kettle lake located on the edge of the Clearwater Valley near Placid Lake at 4,268 ft elevation. Hidden Lake is surrounded by U.S. Forest Service ownership (Lolo National Forest - Seeley Lake Ranger District) and supports a popular stocked westslope cutthroat trout fishery.

Location: T16N, R16W, Section 13; Latitude N47.14331°, Longitude W113.56792°
Nearest Town: Seeley Lake, MT. Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Seeley Lake Ranger District)

Access: Hidden Lake is easily accessible by motorized vehicles from a maintained gravel road. To reach the lake, take USFS Road 349 west off of U.S. Highway 83 (turnoff is 3.5 miles south of Seeley Lake). Travel for approximately 9 miles around Placid Lake on USFS Road 349 to the unmarked Hidden Lake access road on the right. The turnoff is located ~ 4 miles past Placid Lake and is easiest to find while consulting a U.S. Forest Service – Seeley Lake Ranger District map.

Campsites and Use: Hidden Lake receives moderate use due to its accessibility and quality fishery. There are multiple campsites and fire rings and a trail along the entire shoreline of the lake. There is a vault toilet and boat ramp at the west U.S. Forest Service access site.

Angling Opportunity: Hidden Lake supports a stocked westslope cutthroat population. Shoreline topography generally lends well to shoreline angling and the primitive boat ramp provides access for smaller watercraft. Regulations on the lake prohibit motorized watercraft, with the exception of those powered by electric motors.

Stocking History: Hidden Lake is stocked annually with approximately 1000 fingerling westslope cutthroat trout. This has been the stocking prescription for more than two decades and no other trout species are present.

Angling Pressure: Estimated angling pressure from Montana state-wide mail surveys is moderate with an average 296 angler-days per year (range: 288-304).

Other Nearby Lakes: Placid Lake lies approximately three miles to the southeast and Tupper Lake is located approximately three miles to the northeast. Both of these lakes, as well as the other nearby lakes in the Clearwater Chain of Lakes, are easily accessible by motorized vehicles.



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Hidden Lake: Biological & Physical Information

Date Sampled: 9/21/2010

Fish Species Present: Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Size Range Captured (WCT): 6.9-17.0 in (175-432mm)

Trout Condition (Wr) (WCT): 111 (84-128) (high)

Trout Diet Composition (WCT) (9/21/2010): Aquatic insects, terrestrial insects, gammarus shrimp (scuds)

Juvenile Abundance: WCT – moderate

Management Objectives: Quality trout fishery

Currently Stocked: Yes

Last Stocked: 2018

Sampling Methods: Sinking Gill Nets

Gill Net Catch Rate (WCT): 0.94 trout/net/hr (moderate)

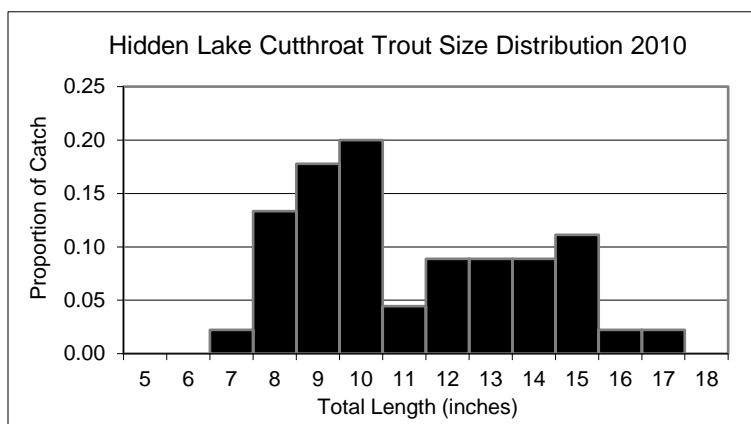
Natural Recruitment (WCT): Very low or absent

Inlet/Outlet Spawning Habitat: Very Limited

Species: WCT

Recommended Frequency: Annual

Amphibians and Reptiles Observed: Columbia spotted frogs (adults and larvae) and painted turtles



Elevation: 4,268 ft
Secchi Depth: 20 ft

Surface Area: 33.5 acres

PH: No data

Volume: 997.6 acre-ft

Conductivity: No data

TDS: No data

Max Depth: 61 ft

Aspect: South

