

Lake Elsin



Description: Lake Elsin is a small (12.0 acres), shallow lake formed in a valley depression at the head of the Placid Creek drainage at an elevation of 6,309 ft. This lake lies near Lake Dinah on the Lolo National Forest (Seeley Lake Ranger District) and supports a self-sustaining westslope cutthroat trout population.

Location: T17N, R17W, Section 12; Latitude N47.24445°, Longitude W113.70450°
Nearest Town: Seeley Lake, MT. Surrounding land ownership: Lolo National Forest (Seeley Lake Ranger District).

Access: Lake Elsin is most easily accessed from U.S. Highway 83 north of Seeley Lake. Follow Boy Scout Road (USFS Road # 77) west to USFS Road #4349. After ~ 3.5 miles, take USFS Road #465 west for approximately 8 miles to Lake Elsin. The road runs directly to the small parking area adjacent to the lake.

Campsites and Use: Lake Elsin receives moderate use due to its accessibility. There is a small parking area and several campsites near the lake, as well as a trail along most of the shoreline. Lake Elsin is closed to motorized watercraft, with the exception of those powered by electric motors.

Angling Opportunity: Lake Elsin supports a self-sustaining westslope cutthroat population with consistent natural reproduction. Shoreline topography and trail access lend well to shoreline angling.

Stocking History: Stocking records indicate that rainbow trout and westslope cutthroat trout were stocked in Lake Elsin until 1953. 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 in 2007-2013 is moderate with an average 68 angler-days per year (range: 38-111).

Other Nearby Lakes: Lake Dinah is located approximately one mile to the northwest of Lake Elsin and can be reached via USFS Trail # 12T. The parking area near Lake Elsin serves as the trailhead for USFS Trail # 12T. Lake Marshall lies below Lake Dinah (~ 3.5 miles to the northeast), but is most easily accessed via the open road system on the Marshall Creek Wildlife Management Area.

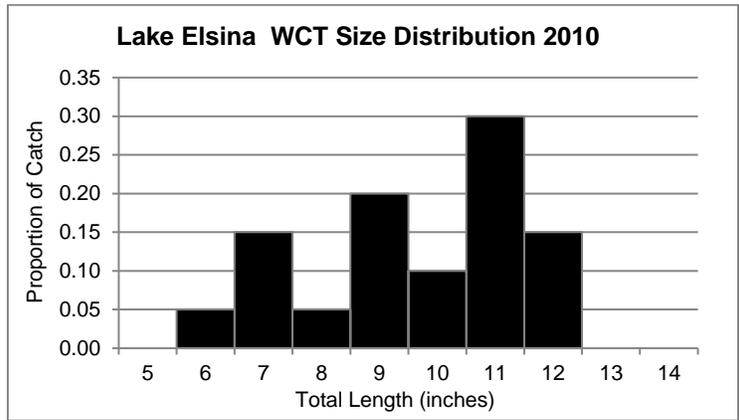


Lake Elsina: Biological & Physical Information

Last Date Sampled: 9/7/2010

Fish Species Present: Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Size Range Captured (WCT): 6.2-12.1 in (158-308mm)
Trout Condition (Wr) (WCT): 94 (84-128) (low)
Trout Diet Composition (WCT) (9/7/2010): Aquatic insects, terrestrial insects, clams, vegetation
Juvenile Abundance: WCT – moderate
Management Objectives: Self-sustaining WCT Fishery
Currently Stocked: No **Last Stocked:** 1953 **Species:** WCT & RBT
Amphibians Observed: Columbia spotted frogs (adults)

Sampling Methods: Sinking Gill Net
Gill Net Catch Rate (WCT): 0.85 trout/net/hr (moderate)
Natural Recruitment (WCT): Present (Consistent)
Inlet/Outlet Spawning Habitat: Adequate, but not abundant



Elevation: 6,309 ft
Secchi Depth: No data

Surface Area: 12.0 acres
PH: 7.6

Volume: 55.0 acre-ft
Conductivity: No data

Max Depth: 18 ft
Aspect: Southeast

