

# Tuppers Lake



**Description:** Tuppers Lake is a small (16.9 acres), glacial kettle lake located approximately two miles southwest of Seeley Lake at 4,330 ft elevation. Although fishless in recent history, experimental stocking with westslope cutthroat trout began in 2013. Subsequent sampling indicated that lake conditions will not consistently support trout survival.

**Location:** T16N, R15W, Section 8; Latitude N47.15644°, Longitude W113.52368°

Nearest Town: Seeley Lake, MT. Surrounding land ownership: Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation (DNRC) and The Nature Conservancy.

**Access:** Tuppers Lake can be accessed from Riverview Drive near the town of Seeley Lake. From U.S. Highway 83 just south of Seeley Lake, travel west on Riverview Drive. After crossing a bridge over the Clearwater River, stay left at the next two intersections and follow the road for approximately two miles to Tuppers Lake. The lake can also be reached from the south via Placid Lake Road.

**Campsites and Use:** Despite its accessibility by road, Tuppers Lake receives light use. There is a small campground on the north end of the lake and easy carry-in boat access. Although no shoreline trail is evident along the lake perimeter, The Nature Conservancy has developed a nearby non-motorized trail system.

**Angling Opportunity:** Tuppers Lake recently supported stocked westslope cutthroat trout, but subsequent sampling in 2016 indicated no survival of stocked fish and no viable fishery. Future stocking is uncertain.

**Stocking History:** Stocking records indicate eastern brook trout and rainbow trout were stocked in Tuppers Lake until 1949, but a lake surveys in 2012 failed to detect fish. The lake was subsequently stocked with westslope cutthroat trout in 2013 and 2015; initial growth rates and survival were excellent, but no fish survived to spring 2016.

**Angling Pressure:** No angler use was reported in Montana state-wide mail surveys in 2007-2013, presumably because the lake was fishless. Sporadic angling was reported in 2013-2014 after westslope cutthroat trout were re-introduced, but future angling opportunity is uncertain given poor stocking success.

**Other Nearby Lakes:** Hidden Lake is located 2 miles to the southwest of Tuppers Lake and can also be reached by motorized travel. Other nearby lakes include Seeley, Salmon and Placid Lakes, all of which are greater than 600 acres and support heavy recreational use.



## Tuppers Lake: Biological & Physical Information

**Dates Sampled:** 6/19/2014, 5/25/2016

**Fish Species Present:** W. Cutthroat Trout (now absent)

**Size Range Captured (WCT):** 11.1-13.8 in (283-351mm)

**Trout Condition (Wr) (WCT):** 121 (111-148) (high)

**Trout Diet Composition (WCT) (6/19/2014):** Aquatic insects, terrestrial insects

**Juvenile Abundance:** Absent

**Management Objectives:** Fishless Water Body

**Currently Stocked:** No

**Last Stocked:** 2015

**Species:** WCT

**Recommended Frequency:** Discontinued

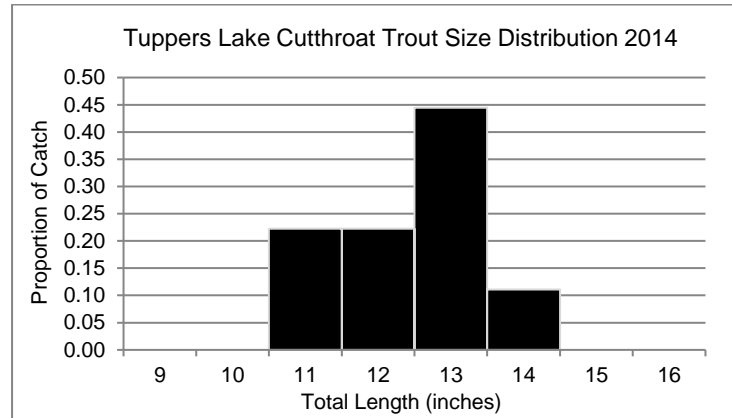
**Sampling Methods:** Sinking and Floating Gill Nets

**Gill Net Catch Rate (WCT):** 0.19 trout/net/hr (low), then 0

**Natural Recruitment (WCT):** Absent

**Inlet/Outlet Spawning Habitat:** None suitable

**Amphibians Observed:** Columbia spotted frogs and Western toads (adults)



**Elevation:** 4,330 ft  
**Secchi Depth:** 8 ft

**Surface Area:** 16.9 acres  
**PH:** No data

**Volume:** 229.8 acre-ft  
**Conductivity:** No data

**Max Depth:** 30.3 ft  
**TDS:** No data  
**Aspect:** South

