



# DeWeese Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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**QUESTIONS ABOUT CAMPING? Call: 719-561-5300**

**General Information:** DeWeese Reservoir, measuring approximately 300 acres, offers good fishing for rainbow trout and smallmouth bass. Other species present include tiger muskie and brown trout. The lake is contained within DeWeese Reservoir State Wildlife Area.

**Location:** Custer county. From Westcliffe, head northwest on Highway 69 for 5 miles and turn north on Copper Gulch road to access the lake.

**Recreational Management:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife, area wildlife office (719-561-5300)

**Fishery Management:** Warm and Cold water species **Annual Survey Data:** (see pages 2-3)

### Amenities and General Info.

- Boat Ramp
- Restrooms
- Camping

### Regulations

- Tiger muskie has a bag and possession limit of 1, over 36 inches in length.
- **There is no size limit for smallmouth bass.** Bag and possession limit is 5 fish.
- Bag and possession limits for all fish species are listed under the Arkansas drainage in the regulations brochure at: <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/RegulationsBrochures.aspx>

### Purchase a Fishing License

#### Online:

<https://www.cpwshop.com/home.page>

Recreational (non-fishing) boats are prohibited at DeWeese, except for individuals identified as owning recreational rights. This *does not* impact boat fishing on Lake DeWeese, only non-fishing recreation (jet skis, ski boats, etc). Please call the Pueblo Service Center (719-561-5300) or DeWeese Resort (719-429-0856) with questions or concerns.

### Previous Stocking

#### 2019

Brown Trout  
Cuttbow  
Kokanee Salmon  
Rainbow Trout  
Tiger Muskie

#### 2018

Brown Trout  
Cuttbow  
Kokanee Salmon  
Rainbow Trout  
Tiger Muskie

#### 2017

Brown Trout  
Cuttbow  
Rainbow Trout  
Tiger Muskie

#### 2016

Brown Trout  
Cuttbow  
Rainbow Trout  
Tiger Muskie

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Rainbow Trout

- DeWeese is stocked with 10" "catchable" trout throughout the spring and fall. Anglers can expect good catches of these fish during both the open water and ice fishing seasons.

#### Smallmouth Bass

- DeWeese contains a good sized, good quality smallmouth bass population. Many techniques are successful for catching these fish.

#### Tiger Muskie

- The population is lower in number, but high in quality and has steadily increased over the years. Anglers with the patience to fish for muskies can catch quality fish. Please be aware of the fishing regulations for tiger muskie.

#### Kokanee Salmon

- These fish were stocked in 2018 and 2019. Anglers occasionally catch these fish in good sizes, but they are rare.



# DEWEESE RESERVOIR

## FISH SAMPLING DATA

### 2019 SAMPLING

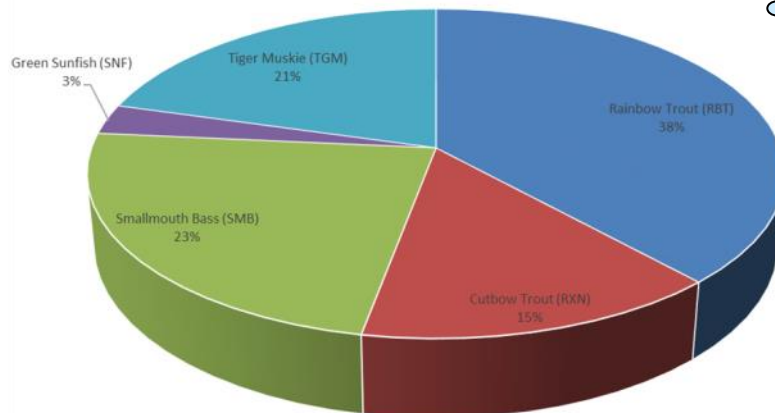
2019 sampling was comprised of gillnetting in October. This involves the use of three vertical gillnets, with several mesh sizes, set overnight.



### Gillnetting results

This tells us how prevalent each species was compared to overall catch

2019 DeWeese Reservoir



	# Caught	CPUE Fish/Net	Length (inches)		Weight (lbs)		PSD	Relative Weight
			Average	Range	Average	Range		
Rainbow Trout (RBT)	13	3.25	15.9	(13.4-18.9)	1.75	(0.83-3.16)	53.85	96.0
Cutbow Trout (RXN)	5	1.25	14.4	(9.0-15.8)	1.44	(0.83-1.69)	-	144.0
Smallmouth Bass (SMB)	8	2	15.8	(11.5-18.2)	2.66	(0.84-4.09)	100	111.5
Green Sunfish (SNF)	1	0.25	4.3	(4.3-4.3)	0.04	(0.04-0.04)	-	71.2
Tiger Muskie (TGM)	7	1.75	36.9	(31.2-43.6)	14.03	(8.03-22.16)	100	99.2
Totals	34	8.5						

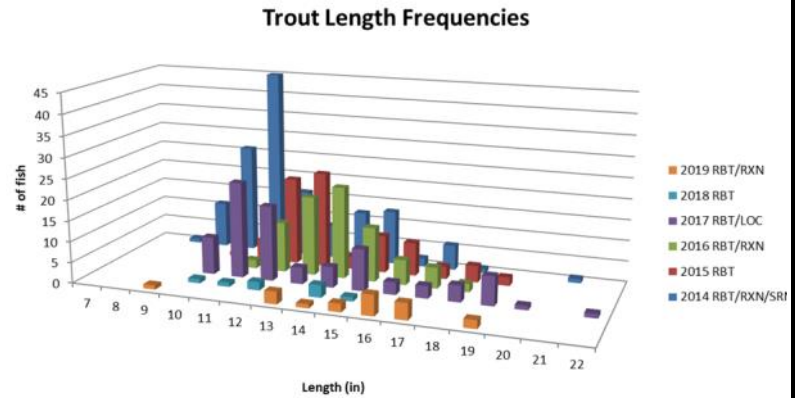


# DEWEESE RESERVOIR

## FISH SURVEY DATA AND 2020 FORECAST

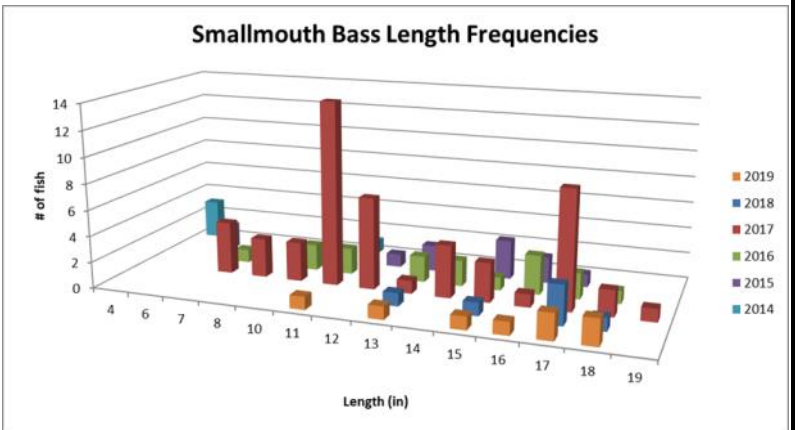
### RAINBOW TROUT / CUTTBOW

Rainbow trout and cutbows are typically stocked from late April to late October. Most stocked fish are approximately 10 inches in length, although larger fish are stocked on occasion. In 2019, fall gillnet sampling indicated that rainbows/cuttbows were an average size of 15.9 inches in length, which is a larger average than 2018. Trout grow fairly well in DeWeese and good-sized fish are present. Fishing for trout in 2020 should continue to improve over conditions seen in 2019 with higher water levels.



### SMALLMOUTH BASS

Only eight smallmouth bass were sampled during gillnetting in 2019. Bass are notorious for avoiding gillnets, so this number is not indicative of a lower population. Smallmouth bass were last stocked in 2000; since then the population has been maintained through natural reproduction. These fish survive well and reach good sizes. However, because they are so successful at reproducing, there are many young fish in the lake that compete with each other for food. As a result, these fish tend to grow slowly. We allow (and encourage) harvest of small bass with the intention of having fewer young fish that can grow into quality fish in a shorter period of time. Please keep this in mind as you are fishing for bass at DeWeese. **There is a bag and possession limit of five bass, but there is no size restriction.** Fishing in 2020 should be much like previous years with many opportunities for master angler awards.



### TIGER MUSKIE

Tiger muskies are stocked into DeWeese Reservoir to control the number of white suckers. White suckers compete with sport fish for food, thereby leading to a reduction in growth of these fish. Tiger muskies are not produced in Colorado at this time, and stocking is dependent on out-of-state trades. These fish have been stocked since 2012 after several years of unavailability. The population is made up of few, very large fish and many younger fish. The population has grown significantly over the past few years. **There is a regulation on tiger muskies, and the bag and possession limit is one fish over 36 inches in length.** Tiger muskies play an important role in the success of this fishery, so following fishing regulations is of utmost importance.

