

## LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANS

**Water:** Fish Lake

**Management Type:** Trout Only

**Location:** Located 15 miles northwest of Omak, Washington, Sections 16 and 22, T36N, R25E in Okanogan County.

**Size:** 102 acres, 60 feet maximum depth, 2,856 acre feet

**Water Source:** Spring flow from Gibson Creek and subsurface flow

**Outflow:** Intermittent and sub-surface flow below Schallow Pond (spring/early summer only)

**Management History:** Since its inception, Fish Lake has been managed as a production fishery, owing to its excellent productivity, and close proximity to WDFW campgrounds. Opens on the last Saturday in April and continues until October 31<sup>st</sup>. Rainbow trout have been the predominant species planted into the lake.

Due to the illegal planting of spiny ray fishes, plants of catchable rainbows have been on the increase in recent years to try and counteract species competition and provide for a longer lasting trout fishery. Based on opening day creel data since 2015, the average size of yearling rainbows, and angler catch rates have decreased (Table 1). In 2020, catch rates increased but that was due to significant quantities of catchable plants that were put into the lake prior to opening day (unsustainable).

Table 1. Catch rates and average yearling trout size for Fish Lake 2015-2021

Year	# Fish/angler	Average yearling trout size (inches)
2015	3.0	10-11
2016	1.0	10-11
2017	1.5	9-10
2018	1.2	9-10
2019	1.2	9-10
2020	2.0	9-10
2021	3.0	9-10

### **Current Management Objectives**

Continue to manage this lake for a trout only fishery. Provide at least 2-3 yearling and one carryover rainbow trout per angler trip for up to 2,000 angler trips per season.

**Fishery Objectives:** Continue to plant fingerling rainbow trout to provide a 10-12 inch yearling

rainbow with a catch rate of 3-4 fish per angler day, including one 2+ carryover rainbow 14-15 inches.

**Angler use objective (# angler days):** Season – 2,000 +

**Stocking Objectives:** Fingerling rainbow trout stocked at between 200 and 250 fish per acre and at 75 fish per pound annually during April/May.

### **Management Strategy**

- Check yearling growth; should be about 11 inches, adjust stocking rate as necessary.
- Expect 80% loss of yearling fish by end of season due to harvest and hooking mortality.
- Maintain about 10-15 percent of the catch at age 2+ years old, 14-15 inch fish.
- Monitor angling activity and catch rates annually at opening day surveys.
- Monitor all fish species periodically by electrofishing or netting.
- Control spiny-ray species with rotenone when trout survival is inadequate