



Miramonte Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Eric Gardunio, Fish Biologist

Montrose Service Center

General Information: Miramonte Reservoir provides quality fishing for rainbow, Snake River cutthroat and brown trout. This reservoir, located on Dan Noble State Wildlife Area, covers 405 surface acres at full capacity and is open year round to angling. Trapping crayfish is also very popular at this productive reservoir.

Location: From Norwood, go 1.5 miles east on Hwy 145 to USFS Rd 610 (Dolores-Norwood Rd); then 17 miles south to reservoir.

Primary Management: Coldwater Optimum Management Category 405 (Put and Grow)

Amenities

- Boat Ramps (2)
- Campground
- Restrooms
- Parking Areas
- Docks
- Bird Watching Areas

WARNING !!!

Prevent the Spread of Zebra Mussels and other Aquatic Nuisance Species

- Clean, drain, and dry your boat after each use.
- Adult mussels can attach to any surface and can live several days out of water in moist, shaded areas. Microscopic mussel larvae, known as veligers, can be transferred in water contained in live wells, bilge or ballast tanks.
- Watch for anglers dumping smallmouth bass illegally into the reservoir.

Previous Stocking

2005

Rainbow Trout (5"): 7212

Rainbow Trout (2"): 50,000

Snake River Cutthroat (3"): 9,167

Brown Trout (3"): 15,089

2014

Rainbow Trout (2"): 70,985

Brown Trout (2"): 7,502

Snake River Cutthroat (3"): 10,300

Cut-bow Trout (2"): 24,467

2013

Rainbow Trout (4"): 70,000

Rainbow Trout (10-12"): 25,000

Rainbow Trout (19"): 223

Brown Trout (6"): 11,255

Sportfishing Notes

Rainbow Trout

- Good spots include Barnes Point, the south shore, and both boat ramp coves
- Best fishing times include from ice out to late June and the first month after ice up. During warmer months, trolling from a boat is effective
- Good baits include black wooly buggers, beadhead nymphs, crawfish imitations, Mepps spinners, and worms

Brown Trout

- Good spots include both boat ramp coves
- Best fishing times include ice out and early October to ice up
- Fishing is best in early evening and at night
- Good baits include streamers, crawfish imitations, marabou jigs, and minnow imitations

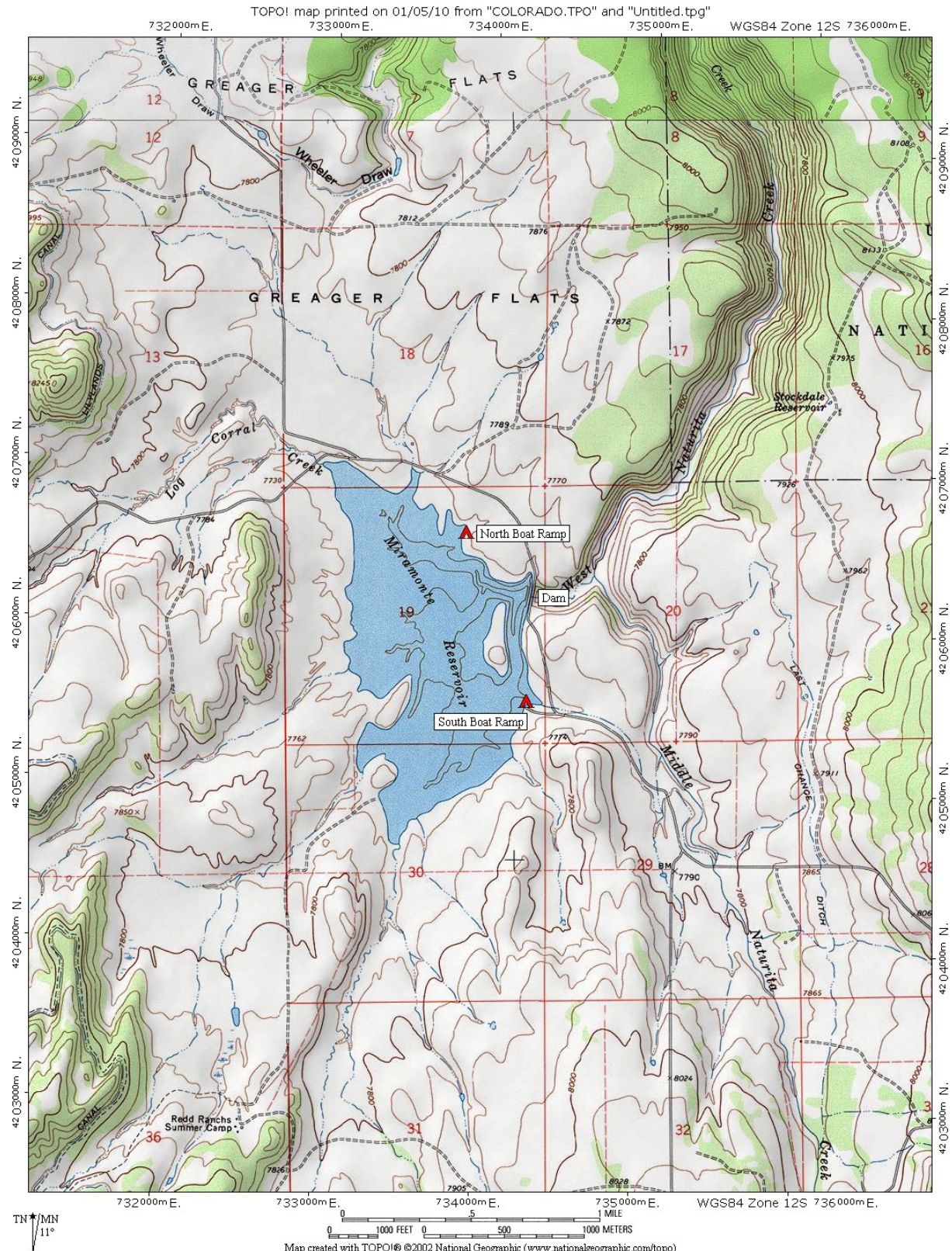


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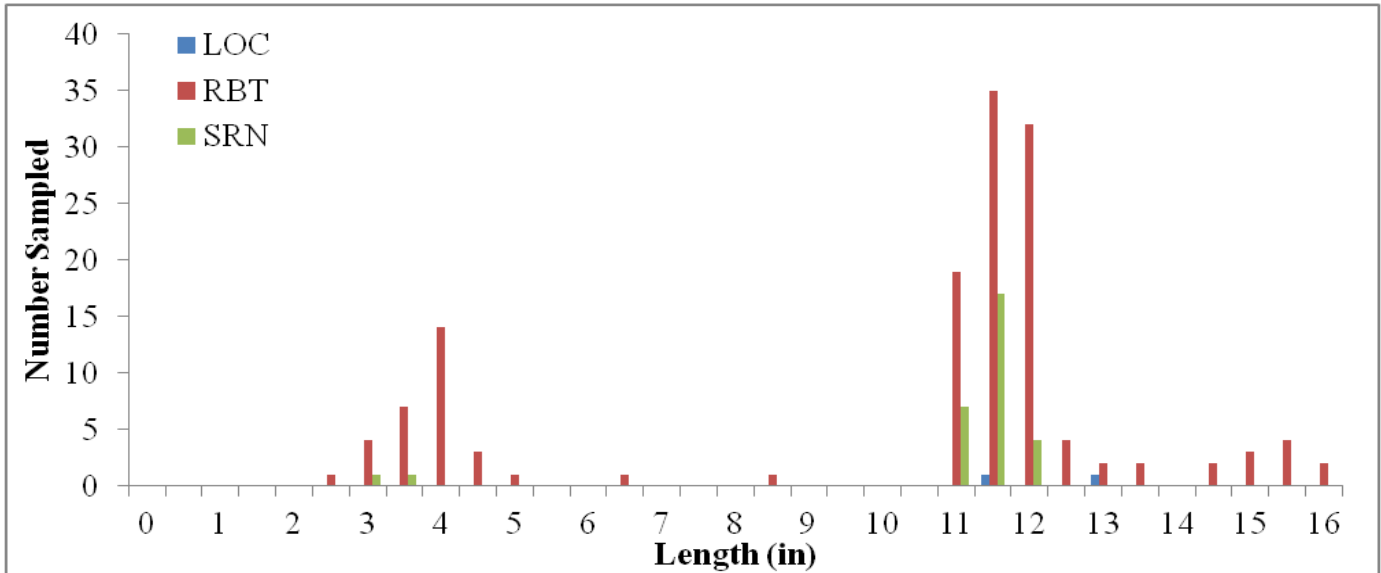


Figure 1. Number of brown trout (LOC; blue), rainbow trout (RBT; red) and Snake River cutthroat trout (SRN; green) sampled from Miramonte Reservoir in July of 2015 via boat electrofishing. There are three age classes of rainbows in the reservoir up to 16 inches in length. Only one age class of brown and two age classes of cutthroat trout were sampled, with the larger fish running from 11-13 inches in length. The larger brown and cutthroat trout sampled were from the 2014 stocking, indicating good growth to these sizes in a single year.

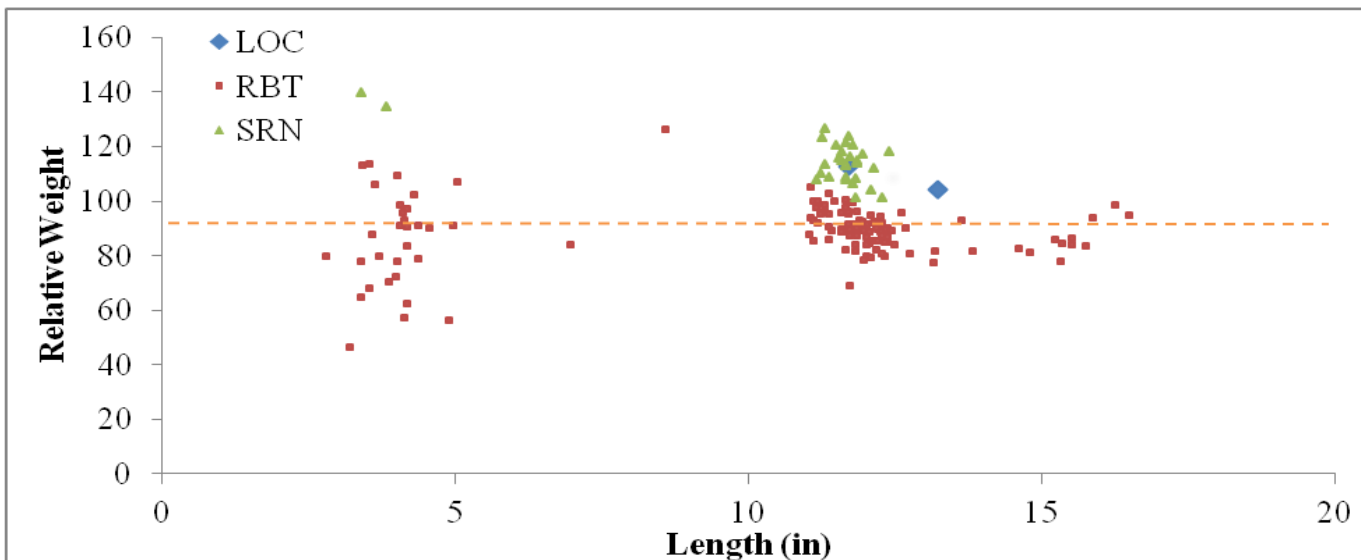


Figure 2. Relative weight (body condition) for brown trout (LOC; blue), rainbow trout (RBT; red) and Snake River cutthroat trout (SRN; green) sampled from Miramonte Reservoir in July of 2015 via boat electrofishing. The dashed yellow line represents a relative weight score of 93 indicating a healthy fish in average body condition, marks over the line represent fish in good to great body condition. In this survey, rainbow trout appeared to have average body condition, while brown and cutthroat trout had condition above average.



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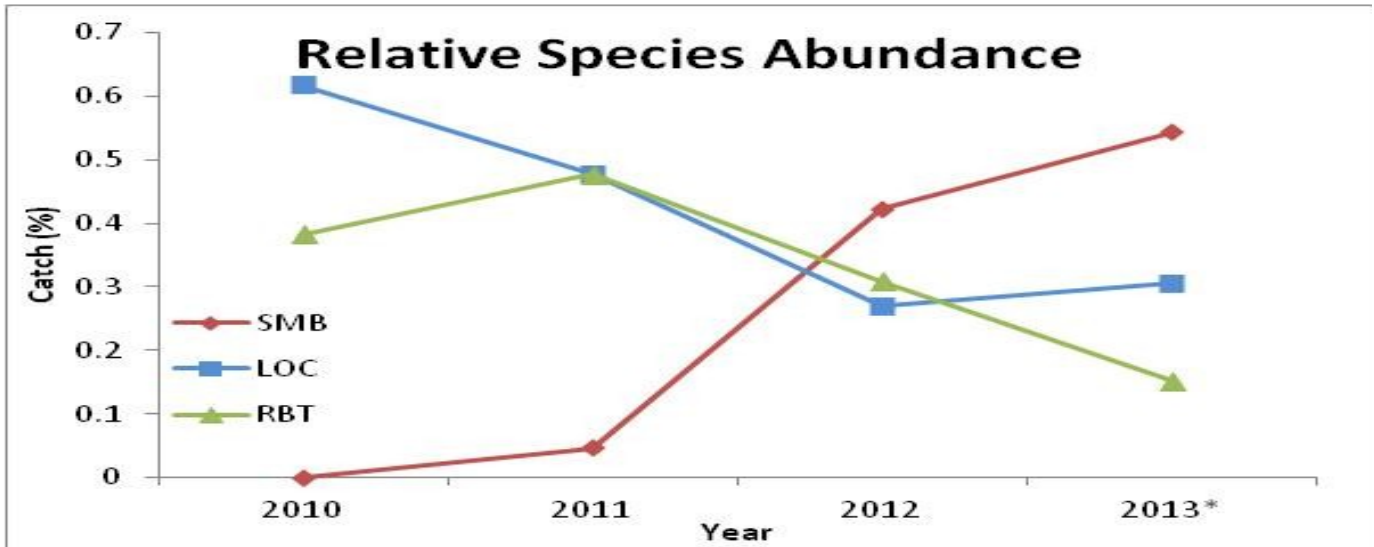


Figure 3. Relative percent of smallmouth bass (SMB; red), brown trout (LOC; blue) and rainbow trout (RBT; green) captured in standard surveys 2010 to 2013. Smallmouth bass effectively took over the reservoir by 2013 when the lake was reclaimed. Smallmouth bass were only growing to 15 inches in length, but were consuming nearly all of the trout fry that were stocked, preventing CPW from being able to manage for the quality trout fishery that Miramonte is known for.



Management Summary

The trout populations of Miramonte Reservoir are bouncing back from the 2013 reclamation project that was necessary to remove smallmouth bass. Stocking will consist of primarily rainbow trout, with lower numbers of brown and Snake River cutthroat trout. Stocking lower numbers of these two species allows a trophy component to be added to Miramonte Reservoir since they utilize different habitat and food sources than the rainbows, allowing them to have higher growth rates. This appears to be working since both brown and cutthroat trout have higher body condition than rainbows. The fishery should continue to improve in future years as these fish continue to grow. For now, the fishing is good, and Miramonte should be on any anglers list for the coming year.