

PROGRESS REPORT - November 1987

Fish Management Plan - Lemolo Reservoir

- Management plan adopted by the Commission 1980

- Objective 2 has been met but we have not been doing much creel sampling there (Objective 1). Beginning January 1988, the angling season will no longer be year-round.

L2-20/j

L. H. ...
1980 adopted

FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

LEMOLO RESERVOIR

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Division
November 1980

TROUT MANAGEMENT PLAN

LEMOLO RESERVOIR

INTRODUCTION

Lemolo Reservoir is a Pacific Power and Light Company power production impoundment at RM 93 on the North Umpqua River (Fig. 1). It was first filled with water in 1954 and first stocked with trout in 1955.

Access is via a 4 mi paved road from the North Umpqua Highway (Oregon 138). The US Forest Service manages the land surrounding the reservoir and maintains the campgrounds. A resort is present.

In September 1980, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission accepted the Department's recommendation to continue to manage Lemolo Reservoir for a wild brown trout fishery. The Commission also adopted a regulation of 5 trout 6 inches or over per day beginning in 1981.

HABITAT

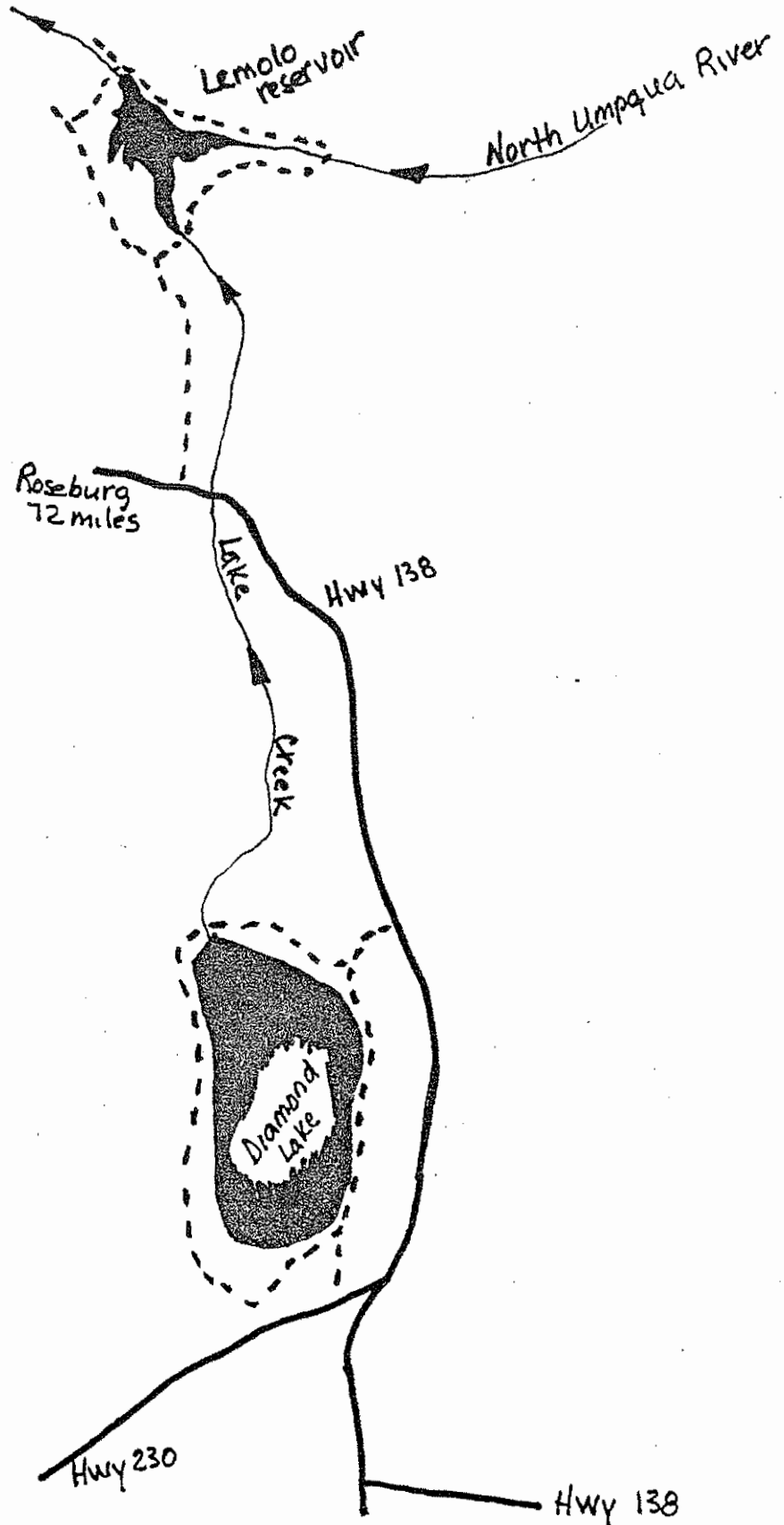
Surface area of Lemolo Reservoir fluctuates from 415 acres at full pool to 65 acres minimum (drawdown of 40 ft). The average minimum pool during the past 10 yr has been 140 acres. Drawdown begins in the fall and the reservoir does not fill until late May-early June. Maximum water depth is 100 ft. The annual drawdown severely curtails fish production. Aquatic vegetation is practically nonexistent.

Lake Creek (draining from Diamond Lake) and the North Umpqua River are perennial tributaries and both contain spawning gravel for trout.

FISH POPULATIONS

The Department has stocked various species and numbers of trout fingerlings in the reservoir since 1955. Rainbow fingerlings were stocked from 1955 through 1972, kokanee from 1960 through 1972, and brook trout from 1961 through 1965. Kokanee and brook trout made virtually no contribution to the fishery. Rainbow contributed better, but the pattern was inconsistent and stocking ceased after 1972. Brown trout reproduce naturally in the two tributary streams and mature fish have been checked at 13 inches long. Roach have been present since at least 1957, but the population has remained insignificant to date.

Most of the fish population in Lemolo is now brown trout, followed in abundance by roach.



FISHERY

Angling pressure is light. Since 1975, the bag limit has been 3 trout/day with a minimum length of 12 inches. A statistical creel program in 1976 showed about 5,100 anglers. Their catch was 2,700 brown trout over 12 inches long, and they reported releasing 4,300 brown trout less than 12 inches.

A "trophy" wild brown trout fishery, anticipated since 1975 with the adoption of restrictive regulations and the preceeding termination of hatchery trout stocking in 1972, has not been successful. The reservoir is maintaining a fair population of brown trout and the fish/net catch in inventory nets has been comparable for the past 10 yr. However, the current landing rate of 0.1 brown trout/h over 12 inches long is not a good fishery.

DISCUSSION

There are at least three problems affecting fishing and fish populations at Lemolo Reservoir: (1) Severe annual drawdown limits food and fish production, (2) the reservoir is located below Diamond Lake (with an excellent trout population) and above Tokatee Reservoir (with a good brown trout population), and (3) restrictive regulations are probably curtailing angler use. The third problem can be corrected, but problems 1 and 2 cannot.

We requested restrictive regulations after hatchery trout stocking stopped and they were adopted beginning in 1975. The brown trout population (numbers and size) has remained healthy when reviewed via inventory nets, but angling success as "creeled" fish/h is poor at 0.1 to 0.2. Although "released" fish information obtained from anglers is of questionable value because fishermen may not specifically remember how many fish they released, its addition to "creeled" brings the total landing rate to 0.4 to 0.5 trout/h. We believe this is an acceptable landing rate based on angler satisfaction.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a landing rate of 0.5 trout/h; a rate that we can attain with wild brown trout and provide a satisfactory fishery.
2. Maintain and/or enhance brown trout spawning gravel in the North Umpqua River and Lake Creek above the reservoir.