Red Fleet Reservoir Survey Summary February-March 2014

We had 329 total respondents to the survey.

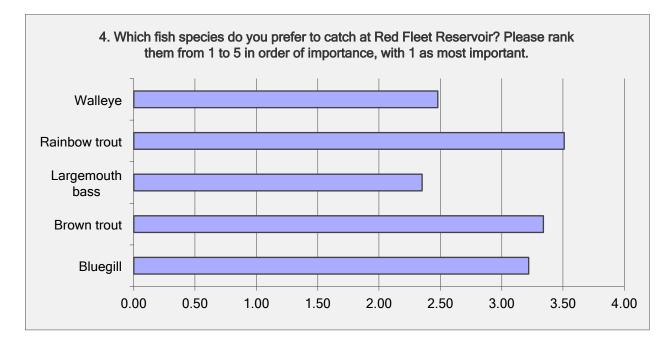
Response Percent	Response Count
15.2%	50
47.1%	155
21.3%	70
16.4%	54
d question	329
d question	0
	47.1% 21.3% 16.4% d question

2. How would you rank the quality of the fishery at Red Fleet Reservoir?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	10.2%	28
Good	46.7%	128
Fair	36.5%	100
Poor	3.6%	10
No opinion	2.9%	8
answ	ered question	274
ski	oped question	55

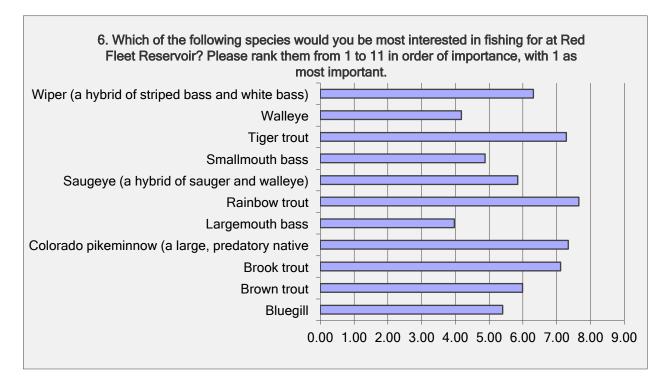
3. Which of the following species do you target most often when fishing at Red Fleet Reservoir? (Check one.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Bluegill	4.8%	13
Brown trout	2.2%	6
Largemouth bass	33.5%	91
Rainbow trout	10.3%	28
Walleye	35.3%	96
No specific species	14.0%	38
answe	ered question	272
skip	ped question	57



Question #4 is an average rating and shows that largemouth bass received the most #1 selections with walleye a close second. Bluegill received many #3 selections, brown trout #4 and rainbow trout were most often selected as a #5 preference.

Question #5 asked whether the individual would be more likely to fish Red Fleet Reservoir if there were additional species present. The response was split exactly down the middle with 126 respondents answering "yes" and 126 respondents answer "no."



Highest preference for Question #6 was given in the following order: Largemouth bass Walleye Smallmouth bass Bluegill Saugeye Brown trout Wiper Brook trout Tiger trout Colorado pikeminnow Rainbow trout

Species mentioned in #7 include yellow perch (19), tiger muskie (17), black crappie (11), northern pike (7), channel catfish (5), splake (3), shad (3), kokanee (3), lake trout (2), smallmouth bass (2), spotted bass (2), white bass (1), peacock bass (1), true muskie (1), native fish (1), Kamloops rainbows (1), razorback sucker (1), northern perch (1), white crappie (1), cutbow (1), food for black bass (1), the most extensive forage base possible (1), golden trout (1). Eighty-eight total respondents.

8. The Green River, below Red Fleet Reservoir, has many unique native species that are highly vulnerable to non-native predators such as walleye. Which of the following would you support to help protect the river's native fish? (Check all that apply.)			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	
Use of sterile sportfish	41.4%	104	
Chemical eradication of walleye	12.4%	31	
Regulations to encourage fishing for illegally introduced fish	69.7%	175	
Regulations to discourage the illegal introduction of fish (e.g., no harvest allowed)	29.5%	74	
Other (please specify)		48	
answered question		251	
skip	ped question	78	

"Other" responses to this question included the following, which were copied and pasted verbatim (except for one use of ***):

provide an array of sport fish angles are interested in- that will grealy help curb illegal stocking, othewise anglers manage the fishey and you don't.

Saugeyes

let nature take it's course leave the lake alone

Why do you think walleye are there?

Why is it that walleye are the enemy they co-exist in lakes everywhere?

let nature take its course. I don't like bucket biology, but don't think we should eliminate fish upstream if they are already in the Green river drainage.

load of BS, Quite spending our money on crap!!

Dont Know

just leave the water as is. walleye were put there because people like to fish for them and eat them!!!!!!!! Walleye are the best fish anglers can harvest

Chemical eradication - everyone loses. If it's the only way, I would support it though.

control escapement of fish out of the reservoir

Better management of water use and natural rearing areas to help influences better reproduction of native fish.

loaded question - are walleye from Red Fleet a threat to these fish?

Outflow structure to prevent escapement

Native predators such as Colorado Pike Minnow

I think it is hogwash and a trick to get water to California.

Grate on outlet chemicals kill all fish

Nothing. They will survive, they have this long.

leave it alone

walleyees have been in green river for decades, listed as native in lake powell, they were in river when lake established, why all this cattering to usfws?

An end to you guys supporting the Fish and Wildlife on the endangered fish program and kicking them off our rivers. Let the sportsmen demand how the fisheries are managed, not the federal government and biologists that support native fish that most of us consider rough fish.

F*** the recovery program we hate it. It should have no bearing on how our lakes or rivers or managed. No more killing our lakes and rivers. Favor sportfish over chubs, suckers, and squawfish. no new regulations.

None of the above. I was required to check one. You won't get rid of the walleye. Accept it and manage them. Stop wasting money on stocker trout.

Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass and Walleye thrive in other Utah lakes. Why waste the time and money to eliminate Walleye and possibly ruin a good warm water fishery?

A screen at the outlet. What would be nice is if we could actually have a selective harvest on natives that aren't endangered, like flannel mouths.

Leave the fish alone

Native better rid the states of their dams to go back native,oh and who is the responsible party for the striper in lake Powell wait until they figure out there in a river!

Leave the walleye alone. It's a gov. BOONDOGGLE

Most anglers don't give a damn about the native trash fish. We want game fish all the way and all efforts to kill gamefish in the rivers or lakes will be met by the general public with vehement opposition.

leave the walleye there they are a hell of a lot better than the carp your trying to protect must keep all walleye caught

Don't Poison the water, why would killing everything even be an option. Walleye are great to eat. Monitor the regulations and get people out fishing for them.

I would like to see more warm water species stocked and slot limits put in place to manage them.

Ease the BS state regs and encourage walleye tournaments

Screen below Red Fleet to stop fish from traveling down stream.

Control measures to keep unwanted fish from traveling through the red fleet dam.

Make the green a sport fishery not a T&E sanctuary. I know this we be a tough sale.

utah game fisheries should not be burdened with policy that does not in support them spear- fishing

None. Leave it as it is.

9. Would you be in favor of chemically removing fertile walleye from Red Fleet Reservoir in order to stock sterile walleye? (Sterile fish can be more easily managed to maintain a higher-quality fishery.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	27.5%	69
No	58.2%	146
Don't know	8.0%	20
No opinion	6.4%	16

answered question	251	
skipped question	78	

We received additional comments from 135 respondents. The comments are as follows (again, copied and pasted verbatim):

-There is currently a war mentality between some anglers and DWR. This really isn't desirable for anyone. DWR needs to determine what anglers want and make significant progress at delivering that. This survey is a great step in the right direction. It is vey important to provide variety in reasonable travel distances- it's too expensive to travel a long ways and burning all that gas makes little environmental sense. When DWR works hard to provide this variety, there will be support to increase greater penalties for illegal stocking- which there needs to be. Catch and kill regs is just a tit-for-tat, so there type of regulation. Push and people push back. It doesn't matter who started it, the shoving just continues. When managing for ANY predatory species, you MUST address forage fish to sustain the predators, whatever species the predators might be (trout, walleye, etc.) Chemically treating Red Fleet is incredibly expensive. If you haven't got a plan that is supported by anglers- they will simply implement their own-AGAIN. Without question, success in the future will occur when anglers and DWR mutually agree upon a management strategy that will provide the fishing the anglers want. DWR needs to be the sole managers; to get thee you need to provide what the customers want. It is difficult to maintain coherence without too much repetition. You should make the comment box bigger so we can read all comments without scrolling. Thank you so much for the survey. You're headed in the right direction.

-I have a comment about the Colorado Pikeminnow on this list in question #6. Isn't it one of "Utah's unique & highly vulnerable species"? If the state is so worried about the Walleyes getting into the Green River then why would it even be a possibility to introduce the Colorado Pikeminnow into waters that contain non-native predatory species? Even though it is a predatory fish, it is still an endangered species and it is not classified as a game fish.

-It's an awesome reservoir in terms of location and scenery. It would be great to provide a fishery that was unique to the area, being it has almost the same species as Steinaker Resevoir, just down the highway. I also think it would benefit the region having a unique suite of fish, like wipers and crappie. Consider providing a suitable forage, such as gizzard shad being they are already in the drainage. Shad abundance could be controlled with naturally recruiting crappie and largemouth bass, and stocked wipers. Rainbow trout and/or brown trout could also be stocked for a two story fishery, depending on zooplankton availability.

-Remove bag/possession limits on illegally stocked fish.

-Quit worring about trout and manage your walleye lakes better!!!!!!!!!!!

-Please no more trout. I love to eat fish and I would rather catch one walleye to ten trout species!

-Poisoning lakes is futile and wasteful, , what about gill nets.

-Abandon stocking program altogether and concentrate on other state parks

-leave redfleet alone let it do its thing..all you are gona do is by getting rid or tring to eradicate walleyes is make those that break the law do it again somewhere else..its kinda simple if you look at it -walleyes more... I think we are all happy with the hundreds of thousands of trout that taste like hell.

That goes for many other lakes, anglers want walleyes and panfish

-Listen to the anglers here.

-I think you should try and promote a walleye lake somewhere in utah make walleye the fish that people come to fish then monitor the lakes usage and compare to non walleye lakes you might be suprised.

-If possible, I would like to see Red Fleet become like Starvation.

-Have more warm water fish

-I like having another walleye lake in the Uintah basin. I think if the numbers and size increase it would help benifit the local economy.

-Just moved to the state and would like to fish it.

-I don't think leaving the walleye in that lake would be a bad thing. Leave it like it is for another 10 years and see what happens, it could be a good thing, just like it was for Starvation.

-Keep the lake a place that is easy for children to fish. Panfish are needed for this. Walleye simply cause a boom and bust cycle. I prefer consistent fish populations.

-IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT WALLEYE WERE UNLAWFULLY INTRODUCED BUT UTAH NEEDS MORE WALLEYE LAKES IN A BAD WAY

-none, leave it alone!!

-leave it alone

-This survey is worthless. Why not propose options for individuals.

-leave it be. there are more than enough lake that are full of trout. utah needs more lakes with other fish besides trout!!!!!!!!!!!!

-I would like to see walleye stay in the lake, if the walleye are not in there I would not fish as often as I do for walleye, I would travel to starvation

-more water

-I love to catch and keep Walleye and have focused on them at Red fleet for 3 straight days from my boat last year. Total caught was Zero Walleye, many trout, and tons of Blue gill. Great trip but I did not see a Walleye problem.

-I've only fished there once and it was a fantastic trip for us. It was before the Walleye were being talked about a number of years back and we have very much wanted to return. What appealed to me the most about that lake that pulled me there in the first place was both the mix of the "little lake powell" look & feel that it has as well as the non-trout species (bluegill and largemouth). When we got there that is what we caught and it was great fun for the whole family. So while I like to also catch walleye (and trout too) I'd not like to see the gills or other species lost out on.

-Red Fleet is really a really nice area and catching brookies from the cold water that flows in would be really neat. I know it's already a slight possibility, but to actually manage for a population of them would be special. Tigers are everywhere, but a sterile hybrid might serve well to control problems. Hopefully the current biomass will support another predator. Chemical treatment should be avoided, if possible. There are already trophy sized game fish in the reservoir and perhaps that should be embraced. I realize the walleye weren't invited, but they're there and supposedly growing well. Maybe the addition of wipers (another open water predator) would provide an opportunity to keep their numbers in check once they take hold. Stop stocking rainbows. They're a dime a dozen and it might open a niche for other species to advance. It's not my lake and I hardly go there, but I'd like a reason to make more trips that way.

-Lower limits. Encourage catch and release.

-get rid of the trout and start a warm water fishery including white bass, walleye, and other fish besides every reservoir in Utah as a trout fishery

-Plant wipers

-Very few stillwater reservoir waters in Utah are actually managed for trophy brown trout. I support this. Introduction of sterile brook tout if it makes biological sense would be awesome!

-let nature manage it man can always mess things up

-I know Colorado has many small lakes about the same size and elevation as red Fleet that are managed as cold and cool water fisheries. They have their ups and downs but for the most part a very productive. My friend in Colorado brags about going out and getting walleye, wiper, trout and largemouth all from one body of water and it is managed that way. And these are not small fish; he gets wiper to over 10lbs, trout in the 5lb range, nice walleye and largemouth bass also. It has a forage base from what I understand; I believe it is gizzard shad. But I know the feds will freak out about that idea. Just hate to see a potentially great fishery be wasted. As a kid I use to catch big rainbows and Largemouth out of Red fleet, but that seemed to go downhill over 15 years ago. I would hate to treat the lake to go back to 10 inch rainbows as the best you can do.

-open up the spawning streams for taking of walleye during the spawn so they are easier to catch. Like it is a Willard Bay.

-Walleye seems to be a very popular sport fish in Red Fleet. If they truely are a threat to native and even TE fishes downstream in the Green then lets remove the problem if in fact that is an issue. -none at the moment

-I agree with trying to minimize the walleyes and concentrating on the bass and trout fisheries. -I HEARD THAT THEY WANT TO KILL THE FISHERY BECAUSE OF WALLEYE.. I THINK THAT THIS IS A BAD IDEA BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE SO LONG FOR THE BASS TO COME BACK. I FISH AT YUBA AND THE STATE MANAGES THIS FISHERY FOR WALLEY AND THE WALLEY STILL HAVE A HARD TIME POPULATING THE LAKE. I BELIEVE IF THEY SET SOME LIMITS OR EVEN MANDATORY NO RELEASE ON THE WALLEY THAT THIS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP THE POPULATION DOWN.

-Why not nurture the walleye in redfleet, there are already walleye in the green river below that will never get removed, just basically do what starvation did, make a better fishery

-Wold like to see Red Fleet managed as a warm water fishery. If the lake starts to produce bigger and a more abundant large and small mouth bass fishery it will become a place of destination for many bass anglers through out the state much the same as Sand Hallow has become.

-Warm Water fishery are far and few between trout are rapidly falling back in the taste test -Add perch

-i believe that the trout are the healthiest they have ever been in and the walleye have helped create a healthy balance in the lake currently. That could change, however if the harvest of walleye is no longer encouraged.

-Whatever action is taken at Redfleet, the public must be supportive or we will wind up in the same boat we are now.

-The addition of a prey species would increase the support capacity of sportfish. There are very few warm water fisheries in Utah (especially northern) and the pressure on these fisheries has increase Dramatically in the last 10 years. PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE or manage to cold water fishery. As you and I know - if the DNR created and managed to more warm water fisheries in Utah (especially Northern) it would likely help to lower this illegal introduction of warm water species into fisheries that are not managed for such. As you and I know (I am sure your statistics show) that the supply of warm water fisheries in northern Utah has not kept pace with the demand by anglers for these fisheries/species and unfortunately people then "take matters into their own hands" to try and find a way to increase supply of the species they perfer. An honest look to increase the warm water fisheries in Utah - especially within 90 minutes of SLC, since that is where majority of anglers reside - is a necessary at this point as demand has outstripped supply and is unfortunately leading to "bucket biology" that is increasing the management difficulties for DNR. Thank you for your time and consideration of this input as I feel it is important for anglers and fisheries management alike - as we need to be on the same team and work together to improve the fisheries and sport in the state. Please guit with the trash fish story being the issue. There are 2 reasons they are struggling. 1 is dams that are not going away in that the water has changed and 2. it is all about water for California and having to have more in the rivers to protect these trash fish.

-More info on chemical eradication.

-I like to fish for sport fish, but I also feel that conservation of native species are important.

-Leave the walleye

-Start planting sterile walleye now and use regulation to catch non sterile walleye also add perch for walleye food. We also have a lot of other lakes for trout fishing lets have something a little more diverse closer to vernal.

-Stop poising fisheries. Waste of tax money

-Stop wasting tax money on regulating the walleye

-manage the current walleye population with the introduction of perch and northern pike

-We have enough trout lakes and reservoirs in the area. People travel a long ways to fish for walleye specifically. We need place regulations allowing them to grow larger and encourage the largemouth bass as well.

-We have lots of fisheries that are good quality for trout It is nice to have a variety of fishing opportunities here in the basin. I would think that the lower green is infected with Walleye because of Lake powell and Starvation. I don't think that it would be cost effective to try and remove them. -better ramp in low water

-screen the spillway so walleyes cannot escape. problem solved

-Sterile fish suck and don't make for better fisheries. Naturally reproducing sportfish are best because never enough steriles are stocked. Quit threatening to kill our lakes and stop shocking the rivers. Leave the sportfish and let the squawfish and suckers go extinct. I would imagine that bucket biology would go down if shocking and poisoning stopped.

-Stop killing our lakes and rivers. Stop removing sport fish from our rivers in favor of the natives that years ago you guys poisoned. The natives are not sport fish.

-Native fish are very important to me. I can fish for non-natives anywhere. The Colorado River fish are unique and deserve more respect.

-Do not poison. Bass fishing is worth conservation.

-QUESTION # 8 GIVES YOU NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT ONE OF YOUR CHOICES INSTEAD OF BEING ABLE TO ENTER ANOTHER CHOICE. RED FLLET SHOULD BE MANAGED AS A QUALITY

BASS AND WALLEYE FISHERY NOT AS A PUT AND TAKE TROUT FISHERY.

-Quit trying to play god. You don't need sterile fish just so you can be in control. Let the walleye thrive. -T&E fish are very important.

-Although I really like to fish for walleye, I realize they can create problems in a reservoir such as Red Fleet. With Starvation successfully being managed for walleye, I don't see a pressing need to develop another walleye fishery in the basin.

-Leave it as is and let it continue to grow as another great warm water fishery in Utah.

-I love it as is.

-Remove the walleye by fisherman. No limit set on them.

-Rehabilitate brush creek into a more productive fishery.

-This state needs way more naturally sustaining sport fisheries just like red fleet. Don't fix something that is not broken.

-Shad

-Lets not kill the fish that are in RF just to get rid of walleye. Just make a no limit on them and ask people to take them home.

-I would like to see a good bass and walleye fishery

-Leave it alone it's fine. Do not waste time and money fixing a problem we don't have.

-No fish killing by the state.

-Game fish like bass and walleye bring in more money to the state than those "native green river" fish. - Think about the fishing public, not some minnow in a river.

-Leave the walleye in the lake they thrive there with out help it cost nothing to replant them unlike the trout

-Leave it alone thank you

-Manage what is there without chemicals. killing the lake is no answer...

-None. Bass are starting to thrive. Utah needs more warm water lakes and not less. Let Americas #1 sport fish the bass grow. I visit vernal often just to fish for your bass. Red fleet is just starting to become a good fishery.

-Quit this endangered fish boondoggle! A fish can't be endangered when they can be produced by the millions. What a Fraudulant use of tax payer money!

-Quit trying to shove sterile gamefish and native trash fish down our throats. Rotenone rarely achieves a 100% kill in fisheries where it is used (see Panguitch, Strawberry, Lake John, Lake Davis, ponds even). The State of Utah needs to take a strong stand and say NO to gamefish removal or stocking restrictions as part of the recovery program for the trash fish. Illegal introductions are the fault of fishery managers who won't manage for the gamefish that WE demand, and due to removal projects in the rivers (though they are relatively ineffective). Continued removals and continued threats to kill fisheries will resort in MORE illegal stocking and more hatred of fishery managers in Colorado and Utah, which are already some of the most loathed in the nation. It's your fault, not anglers.

-Thank you for actually asking the public!!! Please tell Colorado to follow your footsteps!

-See it managed for trophy bass

-More largemouth bass

-Walleye and bass need to stay in redfleet just for the sport of catching them

-Slot limit on bass

-Red Fleet has shown that it provides a natural habitat for walleye and many other game fish that naturally propagate in this environment. This saves the DWR a lot of monies that it would otherwise spend on stocking of desirable species here and elsewhere. Remember that this is taxpayer and sportsmen's (and women's) dollars you are spending, please. It would be good to show good stewardship of this reservoir to encourage activities that would add to the economy of the area (e.g., fishing tournaments, open house for activities at the lake, kids' activities, etc.) This is a beautiful reservoir and has an outstanding park that was developed and is managed well by the State of Utah. It should be used to bring guests in to enjoy its offerings.

-Red Fleet is just starting to produce quality fish. Let the lake run its course. Hold Walleye tournaments on the Reservoir to harvest as many walleye a year as possible. People come from Colorado, wyoming, utah to fish at starvation and Red fleet. It is becoming a great fishery. Leave the water alone.

I'd like to see fertile walleye stocked in red fleet along with fertile smallmouth bass, possibly northern

pike, and channel catfish.

-Warm water species fish provide great opportunities for families to enjoy the outdoors and brings in a lot of money for the state and surrounding businesses, so removing a species in a manner that would affect other game fish would drastically hurt the lake and commerce that it provides

-manage the lake as a warm water fishery, do not poison it.

-I didn't know bass were there. Now I want to fish it.

-Manage as a great fishery, do not kill

-There are enough trout fisheries in this state..We need more warm water fisheries, I come and stay in vernal and fish red fleet for the Bass..Please leave it be..

-Killing the walleye just kills everything else too

-Encourage walleye tournaments instead of regulating by unnecessary fees. You have no problem killing Burbot and supporting those activities, but fail to use the same tool on Red Fleet eyes. DO NOT KILL THIS LAKE OFF. IT IS STARTING TO BECOME A GREAT FISHERY. JUST PUT BIGGER BAG LIMITS ON THE WALLEYE TO CONTROL THEM

-I love fishing these waters. I don't want to waste good fishing time or the states money on chemically 'killing" all the fish in the reservoir. I believe we should embrace the new species to the water and realize that killing is not the answer to conservation! Maybe finding a way for them to live together is a better answer to the so called problem.

-Quit wasting \$1000's worrying about quagga mussels. Larry Dalton has retired so start to use some real science, not scare tactics.

-kill all walleye they are trash fish like carp

-I love walleye!...but making them sterile, might be a good option.

-are you going to rottnot poison the res. because of the walleyes ??

-Take the limit off the walleye

-There is way to many trout fishery's in Utah. We need more bass fishery's here. And there is way more money in bass fishing

-leave it alone and see how it does.it seems that the more govt help we get ,the worse things become.
-Walleye are already in the Green, they were there before they were in Red Fleet. I DO NOT not support managing Red Fleet to satisfy US Fish and Wildlife. I really enjoy the walleye, large and smallmouth. I almost never fish for trout in Red Fleet. Walleye 1st. Largemouth 2nd, Smallmouth 3rd.
-Manage the lake for variety not just trout

-More spearfishing encouragement. Possibly a tournament that limited its focused on the fish species that is wanted for removal. I.e. the spearfishing tournament at Deer Creek that focuses on carp. -Keep the Walleye. It's unfortunate that they were illegally introduced, however, now that they are there it's nice to have a place to catch them in the immediate Vernal area.

-Introduction of yellow perch or other small game/bait species to support walleye and big trout. -Spotted bass

-The fishery should be managed for anglers, not for what a few DWR employees want. Perhaps the DWR should look at "why" fish are being moved by anglers illegally, instead of fixing the problem after the fact. Not everyone wants to fish for rainbows. If you want accurate creel surveys, stop asking anglers using green powerbait what they like to catch. Seems pretty straightforward. -24 hour spearfishing for illegal plants.

-Just for your information if you didnt know there is already smallmouth bass in red fleet. I would not like to see the lake chemically treated, because it would take years to get the lake to be half the fishery it already is.

-Don't kill the fish in red fleet. Kill the fish in utah lake

-Not so much the fish but add a couple of docks to fish from other than what's already there -Walleye and bass are what makes Red Fleet a lake worth traveling to. I support the idea of sterile walleye, sauger, or wipers as long as they are stocked enough to provide quick and relatively easy fishing. Thanks for providing us with opportunity to voice our opinion.

-I am tired of all of the fisheries in Northeast Utah being so focused on the trout species. I would like to see a fishery slightly more like Lake Powell... Sans-trout.

-I hate walleye. They are perfect for the lakes environment but I'd rather see a T&E species in their stead. I'm a fisheries major at USU and would just love to catch pikes.

-Lake trout also please

-I would much rather see "no limits" than chemical eradication

-Removing walleye will not have much impact the native species in the Green River. Walleye are already in Lake Powell and they can simply swim upstream.

-Please leave the walleye alone people enjoy catching them

-Improved access areas. There is only one good access being the boat ramp. East side has two areas that could be improved and be closer to the shoreline. Release public data on website showing walleye capture surveys.

-Manage Red Fleet for trophy Walleye

-continue as a multi level fishery

-Get rid of walleye that were illegally introduced to set a presedence on illegal stocking!

-Dont poison all the fish in there just raise the limit on walleye etc and let the anglers do the job.

-wait til a crash occurs to fix walleye problem

Sixty-eight respondents said they would like to serve on a committee to help update the fishery management for the reservoir. We will be in contact with those that provided contact information once we are ready to move forward. We received 115 email addresses and will keep these folks in the loop regardless of whether they wish to serve on the committee or not.