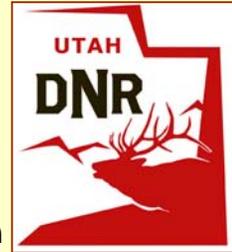


Manning Meadow Reservoir

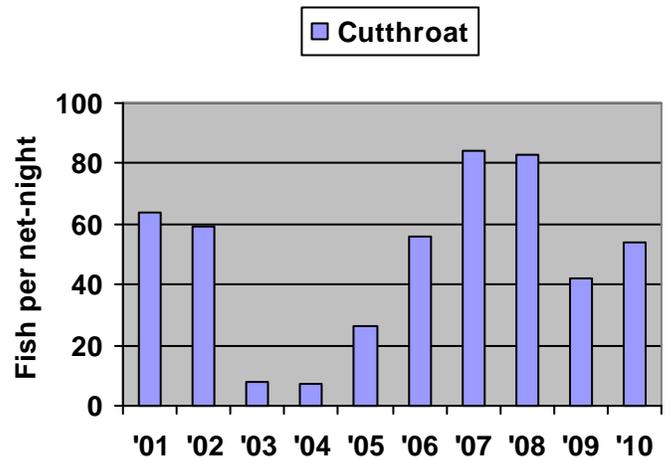
Summary of the 2010 Survey



Mike Ottenbacher, Regional Aquatics Manager, Southern Region

Manning Meadow Reservoir is managed primarily as a brood stock lake for the subspecies of cutthroat trout that is native to southern portion of the Bonneville Basin. Annual gill netting is conducted to monitor the trout population as well as collect samples for the disease testing which is required for all native trout brood stocks. Nets are set at standard locations in conjunction with fish-trapping operations every spring. Data collected are used to make adjustments in stocking to maintain a healthy population of adult cutthroat trout, as well as provide an opportunity for anglers to catch a mature native trout.

Bonneville cutthroat trout are currently stocked in Manning Meadow Reservoir as 2-inch fry produced from the Manning brood stock. At waters in the Southern Region where trend netting is conducted, a density of trout that produces a catch rate of 30 trout per net-night or more usually produces good fishing. Netting catch rates at Manning Meadow Reservoir have been above 40 fish per net night in recent years (54 fish/net-night in 2010). The low netting catch rates in 2003, 2004 were associated with years when trout densities were relatively low as the result of a shift from stocking subcatchable (7-inch) cutthroat to fry. The relatively high, stable densities of cutthroat trout documented in recent years should mean good success for anglers in the foreseeable future.



Special regulations at Manning Meadow Reservoir are designed to maintain a healthy population of mature Bonneville cutthroat trout to maximize egg production from the native trout brood stock. Angler harvest is limited to fish over 22 inches. Although growth and condition of trout is good at the current densities, few fish are above 18 inches. This is likely due to a forage base that is limited to invertebrates, with no crayfish or forage fish that produce some larger fish at other waters. Good numbers of 15-17 inch cutthroat are available for catch and release at Manning Meadow.

