

HENRYS FORK DRAINAGE

Henrys Fork is a small drainage on the north slope of the Uinta Range situated some 25 miles south of Mountain View, Wyoming. This basin is typical of other north slope drainages and characterized by narrow river valleys draining steep glacial headwater cirques, and broad timbered slopes in the lower basin. Precipitous rocky ridges at the head of the drainage extend to the north and broaden into lofty tundra-covered plateaus, 11,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level. There are extensive areas of treeless alpine tundra in this drainage. The highest point of land is the prominent Gilbert Peak which stands at 13,442 feet in elevation.

The Henrys Fork Drainage is composed of some 50 natural lakes and numerous small ponds and potholes of less than one acre in size. Nineteen of these waters currently hold fish populations or are under experimental fisheries management. These lakes vary widely in elevation from 8,970 feet at G-101 to 11,443 feet at Cliff Lake. Lakes are concentrated in the headwater region and many are situated in rugged basins well above timberline.

Access to the drainage is provided by good Forest Service roads from Mountain View or Lonetree, Wyoming. Much of the lower country in this drainage is roaded due to timber, oil and gas developments. The major access point to lakes in the wilderness area is the Henrys Fork Trailhead located adjacent to the Henrys Fork Campground. In an attempt to keep horses and pack animals out of the campground, the Forest Service has developed facilities some distance below the campground complete with mangers and unloading facilities.

The primary trail providing access to the backcountry is the Henrys Fork Trail which begins at the Henrys Fork Trailhead and follows the drainage system south over Gunsight Pass into the Uinta River Drainage. Henrys Fork can also be reached via Smiths Fork to the west or Beaver Creek to the east on the interbasin Highline Trail. The Basin Trail provides direct access to many of the lakes along the western end of the drainage. All trails which receive maintenance or regular use are identified on the Henrys Fork Drainage map by Forest Service Trail number.

Henrys Fork is a popular backcountry retreat, and about one-third of the fish producing waters in this drainage support heavy fishing pressure. However, there are plenty of opportunities for anglers seeking solitude at the more remote and/or smaller lakes which seldom see visitors. Dollar Lake is a popular camping and stopover spot for groups attempting Kings Peak, and Alligator is commonly fished by day groups hiking in from the Henrys Fork campground.

Cutthroat trout are the most common species encountered in lakes of

the Henrys Fork Basin, although brook trout are often taken by anglers as well. Fish populations are supplemented by aerial stocking of fingerling trout as needed.

Most of the Henrys Fork Drainage south of the trailhead is contained within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, and the usual restrictions apply regarding the use of motorized equipment.

U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps useful in the Henrys Fork Drainage include the Mount Powell, Kings Peak, Gilbert Peak NE and Bridger Lake quadrangles. Fishermen may also wish to pick up a copy of the High Uintas Primitive Area map available at local ranger stations of the Wasatch and Ashley national forests.

ALLIGATOR, G-38. Alligator is an elongated natural lake located in dense lodgepole forest at the lower end of the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 14.5 acres, 10,033 feet in elevation, with 26-foot maximum depth. Alligator experiences a minor water level fluctuation of 1-2 feet annually. The lake is situated 3/8 mile west of the Henrys Fork Trail on an unmarked side trail which begins some 2 1/4 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead. Good campsites are available with a small amount of horse feed to the west. Spring water is not present and thick timber makes fly casting difficult. Due to the east of access, Alligator is fished heavily. Remember to apply minimum impact camping techniques and carry out your refuse.

BEAR, G-7. This scenic natural lake is situated in rocky timbered terrain at the northeastern end of Flat Top Mountain. Bear is 16.9 acres in size, 10,767 feet in elevation, with a maximum depth of 37 feet. Bear is located 6 1/2 miles from the Henrys Fork Trailhead or 8 1/4 miles from the China Meadows Trailhead in the Smiths Fork Drainage. From the Henrys Fork Trailhead follow the Henrys Fork Trail southwest to Elkhorn Crossing and then proceed west on the Highline and Basin trails to the lake. There is a more direct trail from Elkhorn Crossing which follows the drainage system west to Sawmill and Bear lakes, but this trail is obscure and steep and is not maintained. Bear is a popular lake and receives moderate to heavy angler utilization. Good campsites are available with very little horse feed and no spring water sources. Bear Lake is stocked with brook trout, but a few cutthroat trout may still persist in the lake. Remember to pack out your refuse and exercise minimum impact camping.

BLANCHARD, G-3. Blanchard is a large natural lake with irregular shorelines situated above timberline, 1 mile southwest of Henrys Fork Lake. Blanchard is easily located by following the drainage system connecting these 2 lakes. Blanchard is 31.3 acres in size, 11,164 feet in elevation, with 29-foot maximum depth. The surrounding terrain is open alpine tundra with low stunted conifers, boggy meadows and dense patches of willow. Camping areas are not available due to the absence of cover and fuelwood. Inlet and outlet sources contain excellent flows, but spring water is not present. Horse feed is scattered and poor. Blanchard contains a good population of pansized cutthroat trout and provides some good fly fishing on occasion. This lake receives a moderate level of angling pressure.

CASTLE, G-11. Castle is a spring-fed natural water situated in an elongated glacial depression above timberline in the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 11.5 acres, 11,363 feet in elevation, with 10-foot maximum depth. The lake gets its name from a steep broken ridge which rises to 1,000 feet above the lake to the north. Castle lies in a small drainage basin and receives limited inlet flow. Access is 3/4 mile northwest of Blanchard Lake over open rocky terrain or 1 steep mile southwest of Island Lake. Campsites are unavailable due to the absence of timber and the windswept nature of the area. Better campsites with horse feed are available to the northeast in the vicinity of Island Lake. Several small spring water sources are present at Castle. The Castle Lake fishery is sustained by aerial stocking of brook trout. Angling pressure is generally light at this remote natural lake.



Castle, G-11

TO MT. VIEW WYOMING
23 MILES

WYOMING

Key to Forest Service Trails

- [105] Highline Trail
- [114] Big Meadow Trail
- [116] Basin Trail
- [117] Henrys Fork Trail
- [118] Joulous Creek Trail

TO CHINA MEADOWS
1.5 MILES

TO BEAVER CREEK
DRAINAGE


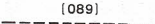
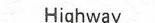
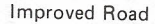
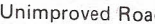



TO BULLOCKS PARK
1.5 MILES

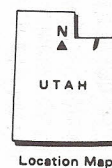
TO WEST FORK
BEAVER CREEK
2 MILES

TO HESSIE LAKE
1.5 MILES

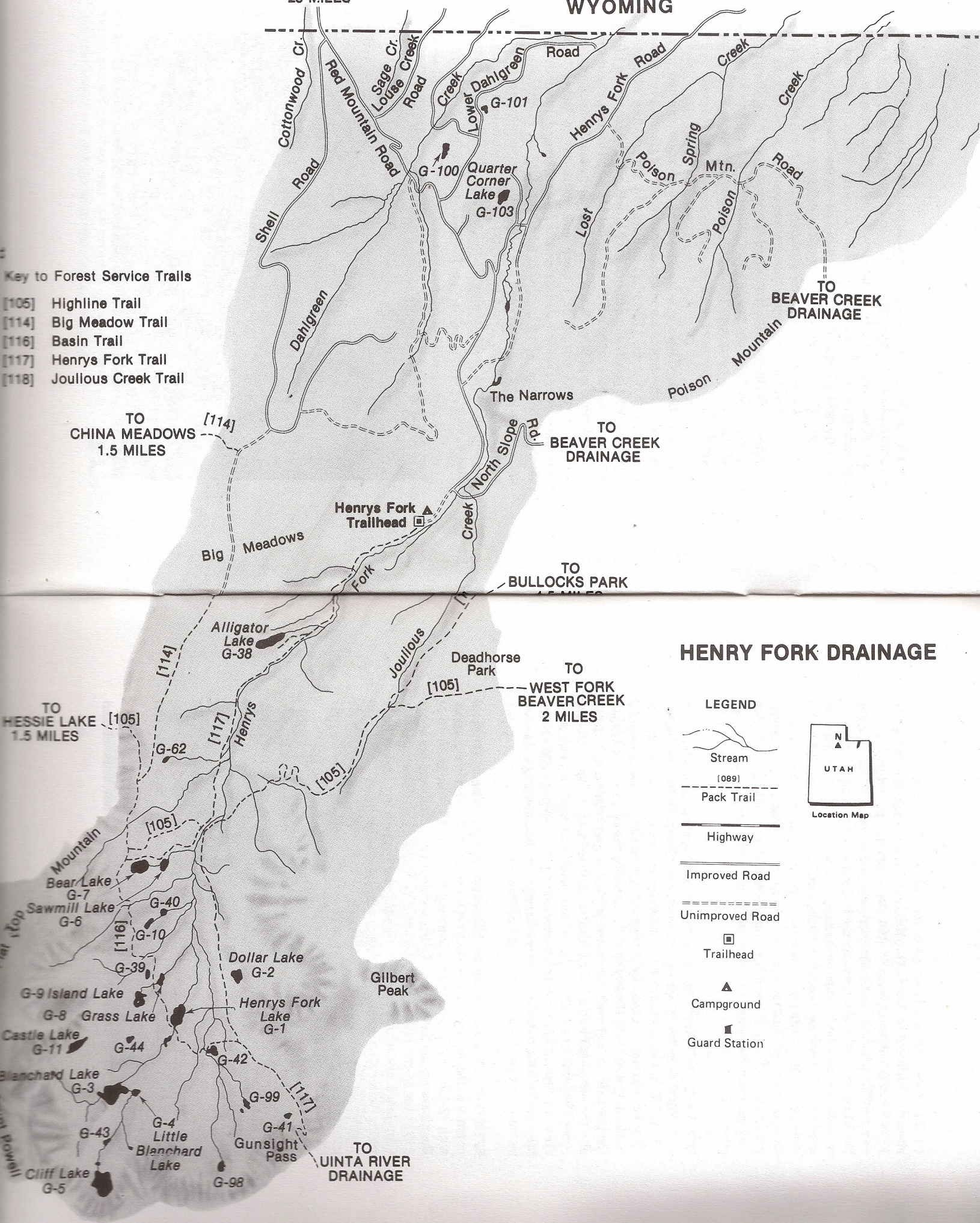
HENRY FORK DRAINAGE

LEGEND

-  Stream
-  Pack Trail
-  Highway
-  Improved Road
-  Unimproved Road
-  Trailhead
-  Campground
-  Guard Station



Location Map



CLIFF, G-5. Cliff is a large, deep, natural lake situated some distance above timberline at the head of the Henrys Fork Drainage. It is 33.1 acres, 11,443 feet in elevation, with 69-foot maximum depth. Access is 1 mile south of Blanchard Lake up the gently sloping ridge to the large cirque basin containing the lake. The surrounding terrain is treeless alpine tundra with steep talus slopes. As a result, camping areas and horse feed are not available. Cliff is easily accessible on horseback, but there are no suitable places to tie pack animals at the lake. Good spring water sources can be located, however. This remote alpine lake receives relatively light angler use and is stocked with cutthroat trout. These fish are unusually wary and may be difficult to catch. Weather conditions change rapidly at this high elevation.

DOLLAR, G-2. This scenic natural lake is located in partly timbered terrain at the eastern margin of the Henrys Fork Basin. Dollar is 9.7 acres, 10,785 feet in elevation, with 18-foot maximum depth. Dollar is a popular stopover and camping area for groups attempting Kings Peak. Access is 7 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to the last patch of tall timber encountered on the trail before breaking out into the open alpine meadows at the head of the basin. Dollar is located some 250 yards east of the trail from this point. Excellent camping areas are available with spring water sources and a good supply of horse feed in large parks to the north and west. Dollar receives moderate angler use and sustains a populations of brook and cutthroat trout.

G-10. G-10 is a shallow meadow lake situated in partly open, timbered country in the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 5.4 acres, 10,772 feet in elevation, with 12-foot maximum depth. Fisherman access is 1 1/4 miles south of Bear Lake on the Basin Trail. G-10 is visible from the trail and lies about 350 yards to the northeast at the lower end of a large alpine meadow. Camping areas are available with limited and boggy horse feed. A good spring water source can be located adjacent to the Basin Trail. G-10 supports a brook trout population and experiences light angler use patterns. Angler success can be unpredictable due to a potential for occasional winterkill at G-10.

G-39. G-39 is an oblong, natural lake with boggy shorelines situated in partly timbered terrain in the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 2.6 acres, 10,820 feet in elevation, with 7-foot maximum depth. G-39 is located adjacent to the Basin Trail 2 miles south of Bear Lake or 1/2 mile northwest of Henrys Fork Lake. Marginal camping areas are present with a limited amount of horse feed. Spring water is not readily available in the lake vicinity. G-39 received experimental stocking of brook trout during 1985 to further evaluate the potential of this water to sustain a fishery. The lake sustains light recreational use at present.

G-40. This small meadow lake is located 1/8 mile northeast of and

immediately downstream from G-10 in the Henrys Fork Drainage. G-40 is 3.6 acres, 10,740 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. G-40 is productive in nature and characterized by floating, boggy banks and islands. Camping areas for small groups can be located in the lake vicinity with a limited amount of wet horse pasture. Spring water sources are not available. This lake contains marginal fish habitat and has not previously produced a fishery. However, experimental stocking was rescheduled in 1986 to evaluate wintering conditions at this water.

G-41. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-42. G-42 is a small natural lake located in open brushy terrain 1/2 mile south and east of Henrys Fork Lake on the Basin Trail. It is 4.6 acres in size, 10,900 feet in elevation, with 2-foot maximum depth. G-42 sits in a boggy meadow and is characterized by an irregular shoreline and floating banks. The lake is very shallow in overall depth and is not capable of sustaining fish populations through the winter. However, G-42 contains a seasonal population of brook and cutthroat trout which are migrants from the adjacent stream. Campsites and spring water are not available at G-42, but suitable camping areas can be located at the nearby Henrys Fork Lake. Horse feed is abundant in the lake vicinity. G-42 experiences light annual recreational use.

G-43. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.



G-39



G-62

G-44. This small glacial lake is located at the top of a steep rocky ridge 1/2 mile southwest of Henrys Fork Lake. G-44 is 1.5 acres, 11,140 feet in elevation, with 7-foot maximum depth. G-44 sits in timberline terrain composed of stunted conifer, willow and boulder fields. Although not available at the lake, campsites and horse feed can be located in timbered areas to the north and east at the base of the ridge. Spring water is unavailable at the lake. G-44 contains marginal game fish habitat, but experimental stocking of cutthroat trout was scheduled in 1986 for continued evaluation of the fishery potential. G-44 is currently subject to light fishing pressure.

G-62. This small natural lake is situated in partly timbered country at the foot of a red rock talus slope near the northern extremity of Flat Top Mountain. G-62 is 2.2 acres, 10,630 feet in elevation, with 7-foot maximum depth. Access is 4 1/4 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to a point where 2 small streams cross the trail in close proximity. Leave the trail and follow the northern-most of these streams west for 3/4 mile to the lake. Marginal campsites are available at G-62 and horse feed can be located in parks to the south. Spring water sources are not available. G-62 was stocked with brook trout on an experimental basis during 1985 to further evaluate the habitat potential of this water. The lake presently experiences light angler use.

G-98. G-98 is a spring-fed natural lake located in open terrain at the head of the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 5.4 acres, 11,208 feet in elevation,

with 10-foot maximum depth. The immediate terrain is composed of alpine tundra and steep talus slopes. G-98 contains a glacial turbidity and has extensive shoal areas to the south. Access is 8 miles southwest of the Henrys Fork Trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to its junction with the Basin Trail near Gunsight Pass. From this junction, proceed directly south following the major drainage system for an additional 1 1/2 miles to the small lake basin at the foot of the headwall. Campsites are not available and horse feed is limited. Spring water can be located in plentiful supply. G-98 is not presently stocked pending further inventory work and evaluation.

G-99. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

G-100. G-100 is an irregular pothole lake located in a natural glacial depression in thick timber at the lower end of the Henrys Fork Basin. The lake is 7.9 acres maximum, 9,070 feet in elevation, with 13-foot maximum depth. G-100 contains no inlets or outlets, and fluctuates according to annual precipitation patterns. The lake is situated near the Bridger Lake Oil Field, and there are numerous roads in the lake vicinity. From the Red Mountain Road southeast of the Dahlgreen Creek crossing proceed 1/4 mile northeast on foot through dense timber to the lake. There are numerous small ponds and potholes in the area, and G-100 can be difficult to locate. Suitable sites for camping activities are available, but there is no running water in the lake vicinity. G-100 received experimental stocking of brook trout during 1985. At present, recreational use is very light.



Grass, G-8

G-101. This lake does not sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

GRASS, G-8. Grass is a shallow natural lake situated in a broad alpine meadow within sight of the Basin Trail, 1/2 mile northwest of Henrys Fork Lake. This water is 5.5 acres in size, 10,740 feet in elevation, with only 4-foot maximum depth. Despite shallow water conditions, grass supports a good resident population of pansized brook and cutthroat trout sustained by natural reproduction. Grass experiences moderate fishing pressure, and provides some excellent fly fishing on occasion. Campsites and horse feed are available in the general area. Spring water sources are present as well.

HENRYS FORK, G-1. Henrys Fork Lake is a scenic alpine water located within the timberline transition zone near the head of the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 19.7 acres, 10,830 feet in elevation, with 19-foot maximum depth. Timber is sparse and patchy in the surrounding terrain, but good campsites are available with ample horse feed and spring water sources. However, these campsites are heavily used and fuel wood is scarce. Anglers are encouraged to carry backpack stoves and apply minimum impact camping techniques. Trail access is 8 miles southwest of the trailhead on the Henrys Fork Trail to the junction with the Basin Trail, and then west on this latter trail for 1 mile to the lake. Henrys Fork Lake can also be reached on the Big Meadows and Basin Trails from the Smiths Fork Basin. Henrys Fork contains an excellent cutthroat trout population and provides some good fishing on occasion.



Henry's Fork, G-1

ISLAND, G-9. Island is an aesthetic alpine lake situated in partly open, timbered terrain at the base of a steep talus ridge, 3/8 mile west of Henrys Fork Lake. It is 10.4 acres, 10,830 feet in elevation, with 5-foot maximum depth. There are no direct trails to the lake, but access on foot or horseback is not difficult. Island is characterized by irregular and rocky shorelines with a small island near the center of the lake. The lake is very shallow, and rocks protrude above the surface in several areas. Marginal camping areas can be located with some wet meadow horse pasture and a good source of spring water. Island is stocked with brook trout and produces an occasional cutthroat trout. These fish are extremely wary due to shallow water conditions. Fishing pressure at Island is regarded as light.

LITTLE BLANCHARD, G-4. This small glacial lake is located above timberline some 50 yards east of, and immediately upstream from Blanchard Lake. Little Blanchard is 3.6 acres, 11,169 feet in elevation, with 8-foot maximum depth. The surrounding terrain is rolling alpine tundra with low willow, open meadows, and scattered boulders. Campsites are not available and horse feed is poor due to the high elevation of this water. Little Blanchard contains a large population of slowly growing cutthroat trout. The open shorelines are ideally suited to fly casting. Fishing pressure directed to Little Blanchard is light.

QUARTER CORNER, G-103. This lake does not presently sustain fish life. It is shown on the map as a landmark.

SAWMILL, G-6. Sawmill is a natural moraine lake in thick timber located immediately downstream from Bear Lake in the Henrys Fork Basin. It is 7.2 acres, 10,661 feet in elevation, with 21-foot maximum depth. The lake derives its name from an old sawmill site located nearby. Access is 3/4 mile south and west of Elkhorn Crossing on an obscure trail which follows the minor drainage to Sawmill. This trail is steep and is not well maintained. Sawmill is a popular lake and receives heavy fishing pressure. Good campsites are available but tend to be overused. Users are encouraged to implement minimum impact camping techniques and carry out all nonburnable refuse. Horse feed is sparse, but spring water is readily available. Sawmill contains a large population of brook and cutthroat trout and provides some fair fishing on occasion. Cutthroat trout stocking has been discontinued due to the high levels of brook trout reproduction in this water.