

Ziller, J. and Wade, M. 2000. "A History of Fish Management in Waldo Lake, Oregon." *Lake and Reservoir Management*. 16 (1-2): 144-148. (Reviewed by Jessica Bliss)

There was a conference in 2000 that compelled a handful of Lake Waldo enthusiasts and experts to publish reports on their discoveries. I came upon a fantastic chunk of these reports; together, they cover nearly every current issue going on at Waldo. Most relevant to my interests this week was a history of the fish stocking programs conducted since 1889, when the first documented release occurred.

The authors, Ziller and Wade, very methodically list the numbers and types of fish that have splashed into the clear waters of Waldo. They include a simple chart of this information that allows for easy observation of stocking trends: rainbow and brook trout made up the bulk of releases until 1969, when kokanee salmon and cutthroat trout introductions began. Few rainbow releases have been done since, and all stocking ended in 1990. Ziller and Wade augment this rather dry sequence of events with a brief discussion of current angling observations, in which they describe the phenomenon of unexpectedly large brook trout that inhabit the lake. It's thought that the increasing productivity of the lake is the root cause of the size increase; larger populations of benthic organisms provide heartier meals than anticipated.

Critique

Although I was glad to have this information presented independently and straightforwardly, I didn't learn anything new that hasn't been published in a number of other articles that I've reviewed. It's written as if the authors were quite bored with their research, and perhaps were bullied into writing it. The recommendations at the conclusion of the report (to either end stocking, continue it, or change nothing at all) are painfully simplified and obvious. I would've liked to read something more creative. In any case, if all you want is a pithy report with numbers and dates, this one's for you.

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