

DEBOER LAKE

DeBoer Lake is a small alpine lake snuggled in a basin at an elevation of 1420 feet. There are no roads or trails ; access is restricted to float-plane. The vegetation is of alpine character and the lake is surrounded by ridges which are frequented by mountain goat.

Over the past decade it has become apparent that a once good sport fishery for rainbow trout has gone down hill. Through work this past summer (1974) we may soon have a better understanding of the productivity of this lake. DeBoer Lake does not thaw until early July and use is then light. Some people fly in to hike in the back country and in August a few goat hunters establish a camp at the forest service cabin. The cabin is an A-Frame style cabin, with oil stove for heat plus an outhouse and skiff. Lake water is good to drink. One must supply their own stove oil and again, a valid forest service permit must previously be obtained at the forest service office in Petersburg.

The cabin is located near the inlet stream. It is pleasant hiking in this region but it is impossible to walk the shoreline of the lake. Grizzly bear are in the basin and hikers should be aware of this fact. The inlet stream is small- only about 26 feet wide near the entrance to the lake. The first 400 yards appear to be an adequate spawning ground for rainbow but beyond this point the gravel bed disappears and is replaced by bedrock. Also, in this section, which covers perhaps 200 yards, the stream climbs sufficiently to possibly exclude fish from further points upstream. At the head of this stretch of stream, DeBoer Creek consists of five or six small tributaries which drain the head of the basin. This locality is very pleasant to hike through.

The outlet stream is a sheer drop from the southeast end of the lake, falling 1000 feet in two-thirds of a mile. ~~Approximately~~

Deboer Lake is only 15 minutes by air from Petersburg, Alaska. It is located on the western side of Thomas Bay, an area with impressive glaciers and granite spires. Because of good fishing in the Peterburg area, a lake like DeBoer is not used extensively, but if fishing were improved it would no doubt increase in popularity.