

The Stocked Lakes of Donnelly Training Area

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game stocks 16 lakes on Donnelly Training Area. Depending on the lake, you can fish for rainbow trout, Arctic char, Arctic grayling, landlocked salmon, and lake trout.

Anglers fish from the bank on most of these lakes because there is fairly deep water near shore. Inflatable rafts, float tubes, and canoes can also be used, but the lakes are too small for motorized boats, and there are no launch facilities.

Fishing here can be an enjoyable family event: safety concerns are easy to address because the lakes are small and access is convenient. Many kids have caught their first fish in these stocked lakes.

The many small lakes along Meadows Road and Windy Ridge Road were formed by icemelt from a retreating glacier. Aspen, stunted spruce, birch, and alder sparsely cover the surrounding land. At higher elevations on Windy Ridge, you can see how the limbs of the few trees growing there are twisted and bent in the direction of prevailing winds.

Access Rules and Requirements

In addition to your current Alaska sport fishing license, you must obtain a Recreation Access Permit (RAP) before fishing these stocked lakes, because they are on Army land. The RAP and your use of it (via an automated call-in system) helps the Army estimate recreational use on Army land. You can get your RAP card at the Fort Greely front gate Visitor's Center. Permits are also available at the Natural Resources office in the hangar at Allen Army Airfield (873-1614 or 873-1615), or at the Fort Wainwright Visitor's Center. You must have the RAP card in your possession while on Post.

Fishing Tips

In some of the deeper lakes, there are naturally occurring populations of lake chub, sculpin, Arctic grayling, and longnose sucker. Of the hundreds of accessible lakes that exist on Donnelly Training Area, only these 16 are deep enough to stock game fishes. You can use a variety of tackle to catch these stocked fish. Artificial flies such as egg-sucking leeches, muddler minnows, woolly worms, and shrimp patterns are very popular. Spinners and small spoons, and still fishing with salmon eggs, night crawlers, and shrimp also work well. During winter months, try jigging shrimp, salmon eggs, or squid on a red hook.

As water temperatures warm during summer, fish seek deeper, cooler waters in the lake. During spring and fall, look for fish to be hanging around the shoreline.

You can reach 14 of the 16 stocked lakes on Donnelly Training Area via Meadows Road or Windy Ridge Road (see map).



Getting There...

About 8 miles south of Delta Junction, at MP 257.6 Richardson Highway, Meadows Road provides access to most of the Donnelly Training Area stocked lakes. Bullwinkle, Sheefish, Bolio, Luke, Mark, North Twin, South Twin, No Mercy, Rockhound, and Doc lakes all lie within a few miles of Meadows Road.



North Twin and South Twin lakes have picnic tables, and outhouses. Bolio Lake has a picnic table. The other lakes have no facilities.

At mile 7.5 on Meadows Road, Windy Ridge Road cuts off to the east. Windy Ridge Road takes you to Chet, Nickel, "J", and Ghost lakes and then connects to the Old Richardson Highway (a gravel road), which leads back to the Richardson Highway at MP 256.

The other two lakes, Weasel and Koole, can be accessed as follows: Weasel Lake lies south of Donnelly Dome on the Richardson Highway. There is an access road at MP 242.7. Turn north and proceed about one mile. Weasel Lake is about 50 yards off the trail on the right (east) side.

Koole Lake is in the northwest corner of the Donnelly Training Area (64°12' N, 146°34' W), 52 air miles SE of Fairbanks. This remote, 320-acre lake

has no road access, but it can be reached by floatplane in the summer. During winter, you can reach Koole Lake on the winter trail. Cross the Tanana River and follow the trail, which starts at MP 306.2 Richardson Highway near Birch Lake. Koole Lake is stocked with rainbow trout. ADF&G has a trail map to Koole Lake. Contact us at 459-7228 to obtain a map.

In winter, Donnelly Training Area stocked lakes provide good ice-fishing opportunities. Some anglers pack portable icehouses to



their favorite lake for shelter from the wind and cold. Because it is dark inside the houses, and the sun illuminates the water through the ice, anglers can see the fish that approach their bait.

Three inches of ice will normally support one person on foot. Ice is usually thick enough to walk on by November, and on many of these lakes the ice thickness will exceed 30 inches during a normal winter.

Always use caution and common sense when traveling across ice.

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If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-6077, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.

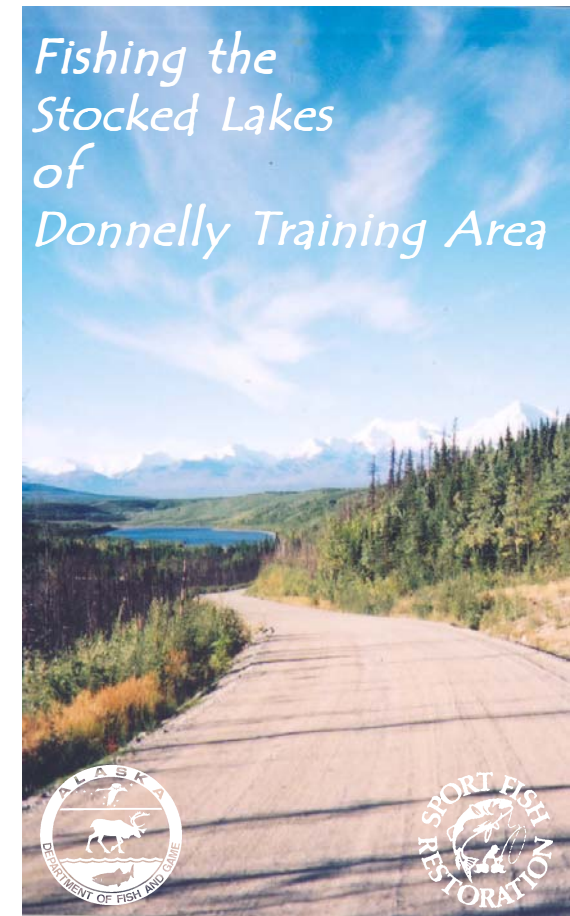
Lake name	Road access	Species
Meadows Road lakes: <i>Turn west at Mile 257.6 Richardson Hwy-follow gravel road to these 10 lakes</i>		
Sheefish Lake (8 acres)	At mile 1.2, take trail 1/2 mi SW to fork, then SE 0.25 mi to lake.	AC, GR
Bullwinkle Lake (4 acres)	At mile 1.2 take trail 1/2 mi SW to fork, go past Sheefish Lake, then uphill 0.25 mi.	RT
Bolio Lake (138 acres)	At mile 2, turn on Wahlgren Rd; go 1/2 mi to lake. Bolio Lake test site	RT, GR
Luke Lake (8 acres)	At SE end of Bolio Lake, take trail up the hill about 1/4 mi to the ridge road. Take ridge road 1/4 mi to south.	GR
Mark Lake (18 acres)	At mile 5.3, turn SE on Mark Lake Rd; go 1/3 mi to lake.	RT, AC, LS
North Twin Lake (20 acres)	At mile 5.6, take Twin Lakes turnoff and go 1.4 mi to lake.	RT, LT
South Twin Lake (20 acres)	At mile 5.6, take Twin Lakes turnoff and go 1.4 mi to lake.	RT
No Mercy Lake (3 acres)	At mile 5.6, take Twin Lakes turnoff, go 1/4 mi to Twin Lakes. Trailhead begins between the Twin Lakes. Walk 1/2 mi east to fork in trail, take left fork, go 150 yd to lake.	RT
Rockhound Lake (3 acres)	100 yd east of No Mercy Lake	RT
Doc Lake (3 acres)	1/2 mile north of No Mercy Lake	RT
Windy Ridge Road lakes: <i>Turn south at Mile 256 Richardson Hwy and follow gravel road (Old Richardson Hwy) to these four lakes (or access them from Meadows Rd--take the left fork at 7.5 mi)</i>		
Ghost Lake (5 acres)	At mile 5.1, turn north, drive 0.2 mi and park. Go west on ATV trail 1/2 mi to lake	RT, AC, LT
Nickel Lake (5 acres)	Mile 5.4	RT, GR, AC, LT
"J" Lake (11 acres)	Mile 5.4	RT, GR, AC
Chet Lake (8 acres)	Mile 5.6	RT, AC, LT
Donnelly Dome area: <i>Turn north at Mile 242.7 Richardson Hwy</i>		
Weasel Lake (8 acres)	At mile 242.7, turn N on dirt road, travel about 1 mi, turn right, about 50 yd of trail.	RT
Koole Lake: (320 acres) No road access. (RT) NW corner of Donnelly Training Area (64°12' N, 14634'W). 52 air miles SE of Fairbanks. Can reach in winter via snowmachine on trail at MP 306.2 Richardson Hwy.		

RECREATIONAL FISHING on DONNELLY TRAINING AREA

PERMIT REQUIRED
For more information, call DTA Natural Resources Specialist at (907) 877-1616

MILITARY TRAINING HAS PRIORITY OVER FISHING ACTIVITY. For your safety, you may not gain access to certain areas during military training exercises. When training is taking place, a sign and a red flag raised on a pole will alert you that you may not proceed beyond that point. Before planning your fishing trip, call the USATRAK check in system (873-3181) to hear a recording of scheduled post closures. You must have a RAP card with a permit number to access this system.

Species Key: AC - Arctic char GR - Arctic grayling LT - lake trout
RT - rainbow trout LS - landlocked salmon



Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Fairbanks (907) 459-7228
Delta (907) 895-4632
www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Region3/SF_R3home.cfm

