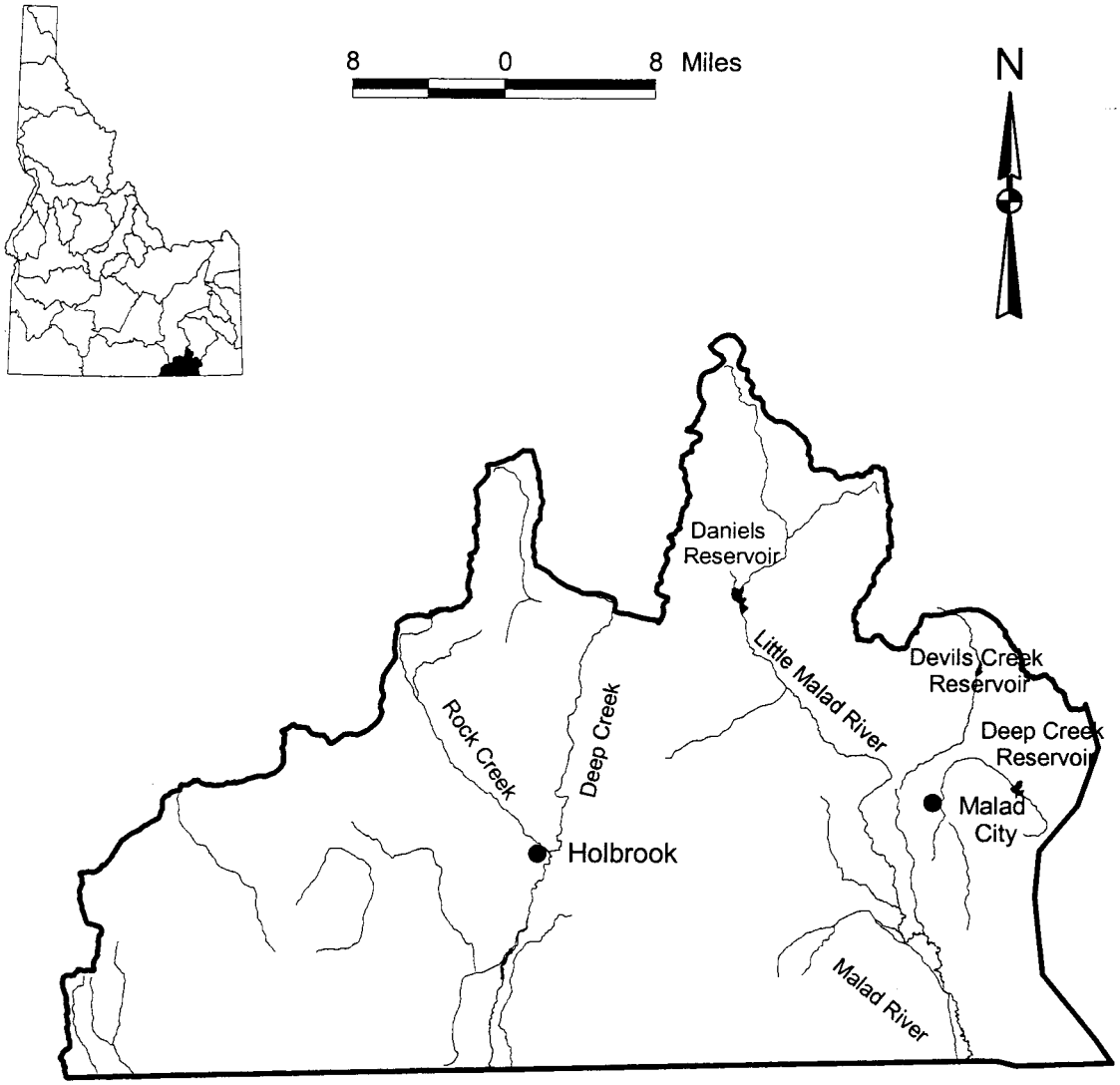
Malad River Drainage



Utah

34. MALAD RIVER DRAINAGE

A. Overview

Streams in the Malad River drainage total 83 miles and cover 86 surface acres. The Malad River has excessive suspended sediment, mostly silt substrate, and eroded banks. Irrigation withdrawals in summer and storage in winter limit flows. These conditions inhibit restoration of native fluvial trout fisheries. Most fishing in the Malad River drainage occurs within the 1,132 surface acres of Daniels, Stone, Sublett reservoirs. Stream surveys in the 1990s and 2000 documented the presence of Bonneville cutthroat trout in First, Second, and Third creeks that are tributaries to Deep Creek Reservoir east of Malad City.

Daniels Reservoir has trophy trout rules, i.e., a limit of two trout, which must be at least 20 inches long and use of bait is prohibited. In 1994, anglers fished an estimated 29,555 hours (80 h/acre) on 375 acre Daniels Reservoir. Boat and tube anglers accounted for 78% of fishing effort and 74% of the catch. Catch rates averaged 0.7 trout/h. Anglers harvested an estimated thirty-nine trout or 0.1% of their catch. Harvested trout averaged 20.3 inches. May through September were the most heavily fished months; however, best catch rates occurred early in the ice-fishing season, December when anglers averaged 2/3 trout/h. If the ice-fishing season roughly corresponded to the months of January, February, March, and December, then ice fishing would have accounted for 18% of effort and 27% of the catch for 1994. Recent stocking has included sterile rainbow trout and fertile Bonneville cutthroat trout. Natural reproduction of hatchery trout and native Bonneville cutthroat trout occur in the Little Malad Spring that flows into Daniels Reservoir.

Devil Creek Reservoir (142 acres) is a popular hatchery-trout and kokanee fishery less than a mile from, and within view of Interstate Highway 15. Rough fish over populated this reservoir in the late 1990s. Department personnel renovated Devil Creek Reservoir with rotenone in 1999 and restocked with rainbow trout and kokanee in 2000. Small reservoir fisheries near Malad City include Crowthers (33 acres), Pleasantview (47 acres), and St. Johns (48 acres). Crowthers and Pleasantview are managed for put-and-take trout. St. Johns is managed for a mixed warmwater fishery with bluegill, yellow perch, crappie and largemouth bass. The bass are managed as a quality fishery.

Stone Reservoir is located on Deep Creek in Curlew Valley approximately six miles north of Snowville, Utah. It is stocked with rainbow trout annually and has self-sustaining populations of largemouth bass and crappie.

B. Objectives and programs

1. Objective: Maintain the trophy trout fishery at Daniels Reservoir but with protection of Bonneville cutthroat trout.

   Program: Obtain Bonneville cutthroat trout eggs from Wyoming or adfluvial Bonneville cutthroat trout eggs from Utah for stocking into Daniels Reservoir. Stock half cutthroat trout and half sterile rainbow trout. Maintain sterile rainbow trout program.

   Program: Seek improved riparian and stream bed conditions on the Little Malad Spring.

2. Objective: Improve fish passage for Bonneville cutthroat in tributaries of Deep Creek Reservoir.

   Program: Alter the outlets of road culverts to decrease difference in water height below and within the culverts.

3. Objective: Decrease population of Utah chubs in Pleasantview Reservoir

   Program: Either stock largemouth bass to partially mitigate the chub problem or renovate the reservoir if physically possible. Chubs may not be susceptible to rotenone to eliminate chubs, carp, and goldfish that could have come downstream into this reservoir from Devil Creek Reservoir.

4. Objective: Restore the quality of the Crowthers Reservoir rainbow trout fishery.

   Program: Renovate Crowthers Reservoir to eliminate chubs, carp and goldfish that may have come downstream into this reservoir from Devil Creek Reservoir.

5. Objective: Improve the quality of the game fish fishery in Stone (Curlew Valley) Reservoir.

   Program: Work with the local irrigation district to see if common carp can be eliminated in the reservoir. If necessary, considered using triploid grass carp to control vegetation.

Drainage: MALAD RIVER

Water	Miles/acre	Fishery			Management Direction
		Type	Species Present	Management	
Malad River from Utah border upstream to Malad City	15/	Mixed	Brown Bullhead Channel catfish Green sunfish	General with year around season	Improve riparian conditions
Malad River tributaries	65/	Coldwater	Cutthroat trout	Two cutthroat trout limit	Improve riparian conditions and inspect culverts to ensure that there are no problems for upstream passage
Daniels Reservoir	/375	Coldwater	Bonneville cutthroat trout Sterile Rainbow trout	Trophy trout	Stock as fingerlings, half rainbow, half cutthroat trout. Seek opportunities to improve tributary habitat
Pleasantview Reservoir	/47	Coldwater	Rainbow trout	General	Stock largemouth bass or renovate to mitigate for Utah chubs
Crowthers Reservoir	33	Coldwater	Rainbow trout	General	Survey and renovate to remove non-game species if necessary
St. Johns Reservoir	/48	Mixed	Rainbow trout bluegill, largemouth bass, yellow perch and white crappie	Quality bass	Conduct lowland lake survey to evaluate fishery quality
Stone (Curlew Valley) Reservoir	/304	Mixed	Rainbow trout Black crappie Largemouth bass Yellow perch	General	Do standard lowland lake sampling to evaluate fishery status. Provide catch rate of 0.5 fish/hour. Consider additional forage fish for bass if crappie disappear.