



Date	August 25-27, 2005	Time	
Location	Hazard Lakes	Weather	Sunny
Fish Species	Middle Hazard – Brook, Rainbow Upper Hazard – Brook trout	Size Range	Rainbow 10"-12" Brook 8"-10"
Fish Caught	Middle Hazard – a few Rainbow; Upper Hazard – Many Brook trout		
Flies Used	Royal Wulff		
Techniques	Float dry flies		
Comments	Don't plan on fishing Middle Hazard from the bank. Upper Hazard lake is a beautiful lake and an easy 2 mile hike with excellent Brook trout fishing!		

I took my family camping over the weekend to Hazard Lake Campground north of McCall. It is about 22 miles from Highway 55 between McCall and New Meadows. It's a decent gravel road suitable for cars as you pass Brundage Ski Resort at about 7 miles.

A huge 1994 fire scarred much of the land in the Hazard Lakes vicinity leaving a stand of dead trees with new undergrowth. It's still beautiful in its own way.



Looking northwest from the road above Lloyd Lake at the effects of the 1994 fire
We saw a moose on the drive up just as you turn off the highway. We also had deer in our camp as well as several chipmunks that entertained the girls. Spruce Grouse were also seen on the trail to Upper Hazard Lake.



A Moose & young Spruce Grouse

The campground is at Middle Hazard Lake. Lower Hazard Lake, which is much bigger is within a mile below the campground but we never hiked to the lake. Upper Hazard Lake is an easy 2 mile gradual uphill hike from the south end of the campground (unit 7) with a short climb up a small ridge as you get close to Upper Hazard lake.



A view from the campground (unit 7) looking out at the lake

I caught a couple 10"-12" Rainbow from the raft on **Middle Hazard Lake** one evening. It was slow fishing. There were plenty of fish jumping that evening but I couldn't seem to find the right fly. I tried several flies but I think I needed to go smaller and I was out of my size 18 and 20 flies. I fished off the point of rocks on the south end of the lake which seemed to have a lot of activity. There was an older couple that caught a few Rainbow and Brook trout from a canoe that went 14" which is nice for a Brook trout.

The lake has very few opportunities for bank fishing. I would highly recommend a raft or canoe to fish this lake. I tried fishing from the bank the next day but the fish seemed to be just out of reach of my fly in one of the few places I could find to fish from the bank. I did hook one fish from the bank but it wasn't worth the walk or the time. The edges are shallow and most of the edges are surrounded by different grasses and lily pads.



Middle Hazard Lake from the west shore

I should also mention that there are numerous alpine lakes in this region full of mostly Brook trout. There are a few lakes with Rainbow and Cutthroat as well. I want to come back and hike into Lake Serene some day which is a trophy Cutthroat fishery. We passed Brundage Reservoir and Goose Lake on the way up which are both good fisheries that are road accessible.

Upper Hazard Lake is a beautiful lake! I took Kalyn (8) and Cami (5) on the hike to the lake with me. Most of the area along the hike had been burned. I would hook the Brookies and they would land them. We caught a lot of fish in the 8"-10" range and I considered it excellent fishing for small trout. There were also plenty of places to make easy back casts.



Upper Hazard Lake

Cami was leading the way along trail when she was startled by a half dozen Spruce Grouse. We could have gathered them up in a butterfly net. This area made for a nice family outing!





Brook trout