

Coal Mine Road Lakes



The Coal Mine Road Lakes are a group of eight small lakes located on Coal Mine Road just 22 miles south of Delta Junction. At mile 242.4 of the Richardson Highway, Coal Mine Road takes off to the east winding through subalpine terrain toward the Granite Mountains and the Jarvis Creek drainage.

The many small lakes along the road were formed by icemelt from retreating glaciers. Stunted spruce, aspen, birch, and alder sparsely cover the surrounding land. At higher elevations, the limbs of the few trees growing there are twisted and shaped in the direction of the prevailing winds.



Coal Mine #5 Lake

In the 1970's, two of the eight stocked lakes on Coal Mine Road were used by ADF&G as rearing ponds for Arctic grayling. Ten years later the remaining six lakes became part of the ADF&G Stocking Program. Today, all eight lakes are managed as recreational fisheries, and all are stocked with at least two species of game fish.



Ken's Pond Photo by Susan Pace

In addition to fishing, the area offers opportunities for camping, hunting, berry picking, wildlife viewing, and photography. The beautiful vistas surrounded by snow capped peaks and hanging glaciers offer breathtaking views throughout the year.



Mt. Moffit & Mt. Hayes Photo by Mike Kingston



Rangeview Lake

The road is not maintained and not suitable for large motorhomes. During winter months the road is closed by drifting snow making the road impassable to highway vehicles until mid June.

The lakes are found along the road starting at about 1.5 mile, where the road forks.

Last Lake is located at the fork, the east (left) fork leads to Coal Mine #5 Lake and Backdown Lake, while the south (right) fork leads to the remaining five lakes. Brodie, Paul's, Rangeview, Dick's, and Ken's Lakes are easily accessible and most lie a short distance off the road. The largest of the lakes is Coal Mine #5 at 13 acres, while the rest average about 5 acres in size.

There are no facilities in the area. Campsites are limited and quite primitive.

For more information call ADF&G:

Delta	907-895-4632
Fairbanks	907-459-7228
Tok	907-883-2971

getting there . . .

Turn east off the Richardson Highway at mile 242.1 – travel on the gravel road 1.5 miles to the fork.

AT THE FORK IN THE ROAD

Last Lake 2.5 Acres
Mile 1.5; east of road – 20 yards

EAST (LEFT) TURN AT FORK

Backdown Lake 6 Acres
Mile 2.2; Go south on trail – 100 yards
Coal Mine #5 13 Acres
Mile 2.3; Go north on trail – 400 yards

SOUTH (RIGHT) TURN AT FORK

Brodie Lake 5 Acres
Mile 1.6; lake 100 yards east of the road
Paul's Pond 5 Acres
Mile 2.3; lake 10 yards east of the road
Rangeview Lake 4.5 Acres
Mile 2.5; lake 10 yards south of the road
Dick's Pond 5 Acres
Mile 3.9; lake 400 yards west of the road follow trail to lake
Ken's Pond 5 Acres
Mile 4.5; lake 600 yards west of the road follow trail to lake



Dick's Pond

Fishing Tips. . .

You can use a variety of tackle to catch these stocked fish. Artificial flies such as the egg-sucking leeches, muddler minnows, wooly worms, and shrimp patterns are very popular. Spinners and small spoons, and still fishing with baits such as salmon eggs, night crawlers, and shrimp also work well.

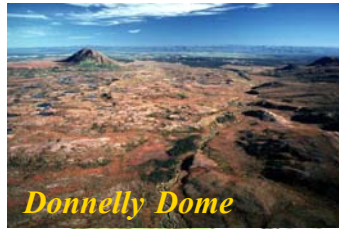
As water temperatures warm during summer, fish seek deeper, cooler waters in the lake. During spring and fall, look for fish to be hanging around the shoreline.

In the winter, stocked lakes provide good icefishing 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 good lake ice will normally support one person on foot. Ice, however, does not freeze evenly across the lake surface. Always use caution and common sense when traveling across ice.



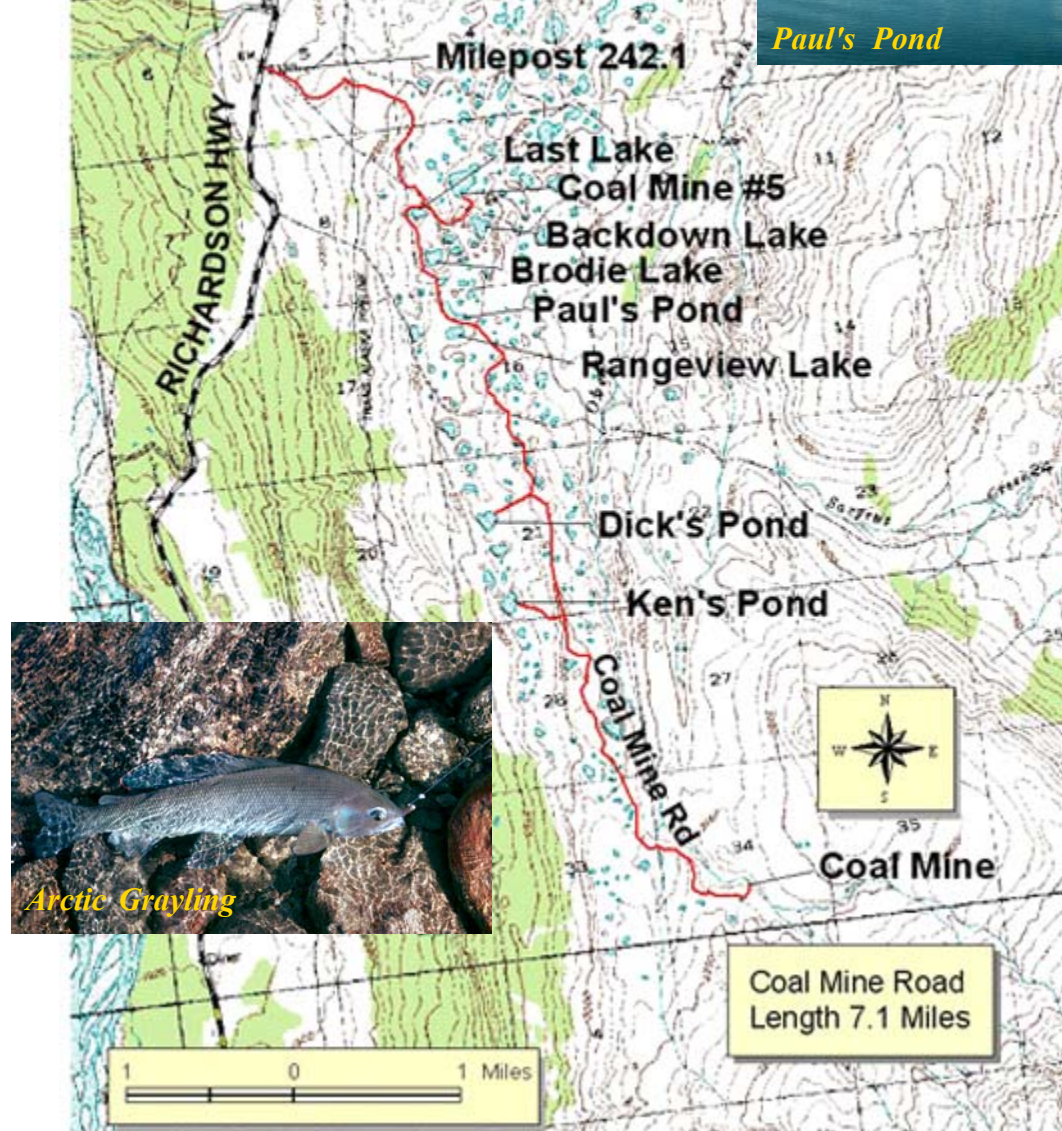
Photo by Susan Pace



Donnelly Dome



Paul's Pond



Arctic Grayling

Species Identification

Arctic Char have dark olive or brown backs with faint pink spots, silvery sides, a white abdomen, and white leading edges on their paired fins and tail. Spawning male char turn brilliant red or gold with red spots.

Arctic Grayling are steel blue to dark purple on the back, fading to bluish gray with black spots from just behind the gill plate to mid-body. Their pelvic fins are orange striped. Adult Arctic grayling have a large, sail like dorsal fin with iridescent red and aqua-to-violet spots.

Lake Trout have whitish-yellow spots covering the head, the entire back, sides and deeply forked tail.

Rainbow Trout are blue-green to olive on the back, with small black spots - which may spread below the lateral line. Small reddish-pink band stretches about mid-line along each side. The lower sides are silver, fading to white beneath.

Lake Name	Species Present
Last Lake	RT, AC
Backdown Lake	RT, AC
Coal Mine #5 Lake	RT, LT*
Brodie Lake	AC, GR
Paul's Pond	GR, AC, LT*
Rangeview Lake	GR, AC
Dick's Pond	AC
Ken's Pond	RT, AC

KEY

AC = Arctic char RT = Rainbow trout

GR = Arctic grayling LT* = Lake trout

*Lake trout are no longer stocked, but are present from past stockings

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