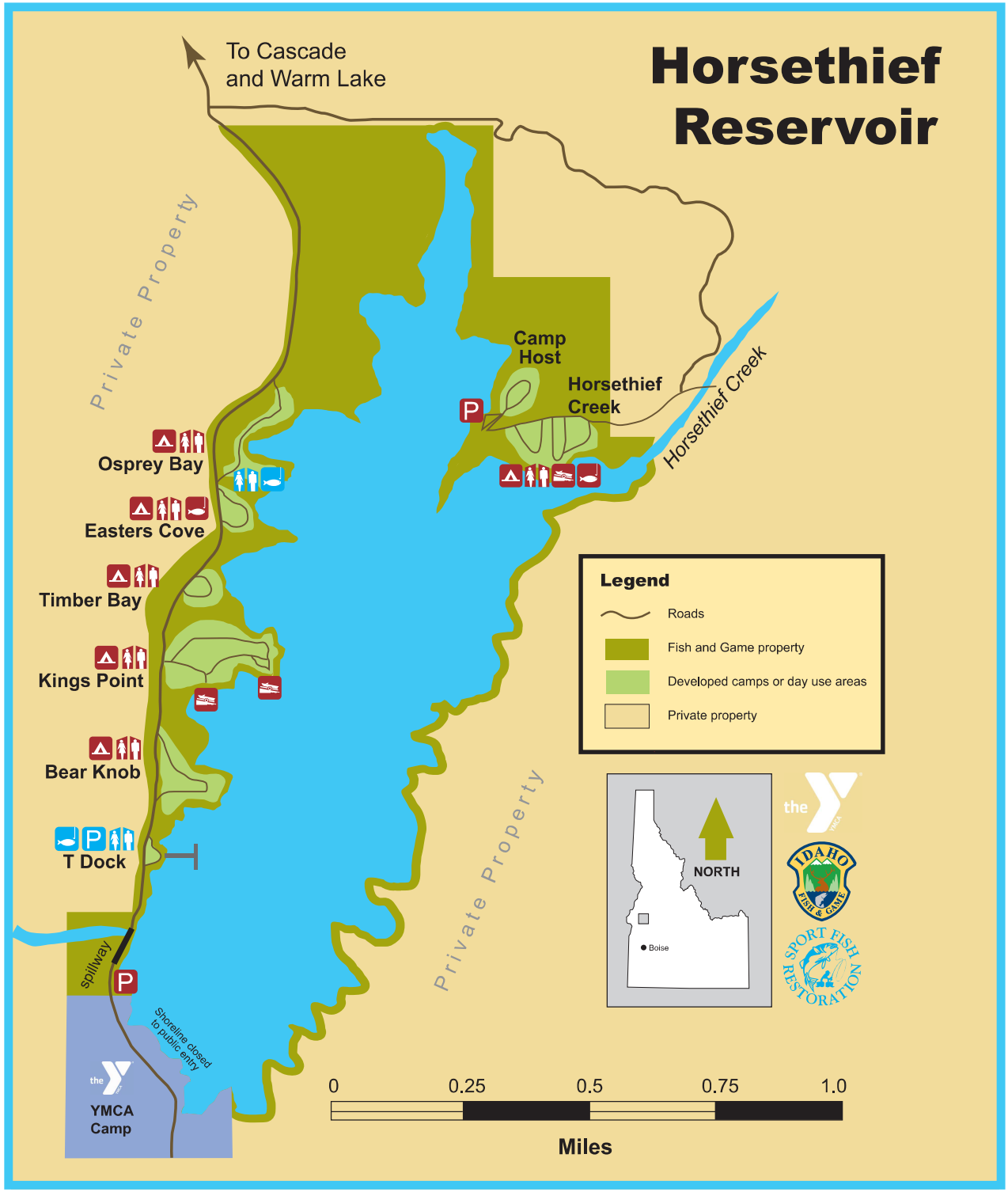

Horsethief Reservoir

Fishing and Camping Area

Horsethief Reservoir

Fishing and Camping Area

Owned and managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (F&G), Horsethief Dam and Reservoir were constructed in 1967 to provide a quality fishing experience for visitors. This 452-acre property and 270-acre reservoir have become a favorite destination. Catchable-sized rainbow trout and fingerling brown trout are stocked regularly and provide great fishing.

Recently, camping use has increased substantially. To preserve the scenic beauty of the area, protect wildlife habitat, and ensure a quality experience for visitors, a number of improvements and changes have occurred or will be occurring shortly. Foremost amongst these changes is the implementation of a camping fee ($20/site/night) and development of an experimental partnership with the YMCA to manage camping and the campground area. No fees will be charged for general parking, boat ramp, or day use.

In short, IDFG will retain ownership of the property, reservoir, and infrastructure as well as retain its current role regarding fisheries, infrastructure and water management. The YMCA will transition to the lead in campground managment. Changes will allow the YMCA to hire a full-time staffer to oversee the Y-Camp, to manage campground hosts, and to respond to problem situations at both facilities. Furthermore, collected fees will be re-invested, in Horsethief improvements. In future years, plans call for implementation of a reservation system and improved campsites.

While some users may find the new fees troubling, we hope that better maintenance and future improvements will help ensure a safe and family-friendly experience for those who enjoy this high-quality fishing and camping area.

Visiting Horsethief Reservoir

Camping -
- Camp in designated sites only
- Register and pay fees ($20/night/site) before setting up camp
- A maximum of 8 people, 2 vehicles, 1 camping unit (RV) and 2 tents/campsite
- All tents/vehicles/RV must fit entirely within your designated site
- All sites are first come, first serve – No saving sites please!
- Quiet hours are from 10pm to 7am
- Camping season dates are flexible and depend on weather and other factors

Fires/Firewood Cutting -
- No firewood cutting on Horsethief Reservoir site
- Open fires in provided fire rings only
- Follow campfire restrictions set by Idaho Dept. of Lands *https://www.idl.idaho.gov/fire/*

Fishing/Hunting -
- Check Fish & Game fishing brochure for rules and seasons *https://idfg.idaho.gov*
- No hunting - all of Horsethief Fishing and Camping area is a safety zone
- No shooting of any gun, weapon, or other projectile launching device

Vehicles and Boats -
- All county, state and federal licensing and operating rules apply
- Motorized vehicles may be operated on public roadwoays only
- Motorized vehicles are allowed for transportation only (i.e. - no joy riding)
- The entire reservoir is a No Wake Zone

Pets -
- Pets must be leashed or under close control at all times
- All pet waste must be removed by the owner or attendee
- No horses or other livestock allowed

Property Boundaries -
- See the attached map for approximate boundaries
- Much of the east side of the reservoir (including some docks) is private property
- The south end/tip of the reservoir is for YMCA guests only
- Much of the land surrounding the access area is private and closed to the public
- Please be respectful of private property

Further information -

- Learn more about Horsethief Reservoir Fishing and Camping Area by contacting:

(386/212-7123 - Campground Liasion)

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

3101 S. Powerline Road

Nampa, Idaho 83686
(208) 465-8465
https://idfg.idaho.gov

YMCA
1050 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 344-5501 (Boise Office)
(208) 344-5502 (Y-Camp)
(386) 212-7123 (Campground Contact)
http://www.ymcatvidaho.org
In case of emergency, contact:
Valley County Sheriff's Office
(208) 382-5160