

## 2015 ANNUAL FISHING GUIDE

### NORTHWEST ZONE

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Check this out:

- \* 2015 [Family Fishing](#) and [Free Fishing Weekend](#) events.
- \* Find trout stocking schedules and Google maps with driving directions to all stocking sites on the ODFW [Trout Stocking page](#).
- \* Take a friend fishing, clamming or crabbing during Free Fishing Weekend June 6-7 – no license required!
- \* The [Oregon Angler with Disabilities Site Map](#) highlights 133 sites across Oregon that may be suitable for anglers with physical disabilities.

Due to reduced amounts of rainfall, it is likely many north coast streams will experience lower than average flows. This could lead to increased water temperatures. The same is true for district lakes, which will likely warm up sooner this year. Anglers practicing catch-and-release should limit their activities to cooler periods in the morning and evening. Play fish quickly and release gently to minimize stress to the fish. Higher elevation lakes or further upstream areas of streams will remain cooler longer into the summer and provide better fishing conditions.

#### TROUT

Most lakes in the Northwest Zone are open all year for trout fishing and many will be stocked multiple times through the spring. Depending on location, spring stocking consists of legal-sized trout (8 to 10-inches), "larger" trout (about one pound each), and "trophy" trout (about two pounds each) planted from February to May. "Larger" trout are stocked in June in some areas. [Trout stocking schedules](#) for the Northwest Zone can be found on the ODFW website. Anglers will note that in some north coast lakes there will be fewer stockings than in recent years. However, more fish will be stocked at one time, so the actual number of fish planted will remain the same. Early season stocking was not affected by poor weather this year, and all lakes have been stocked as scheduled. Fall "trophy" trout stocking is scheduled for mid-September in some lakes, but may occur earlier or later, depending on water temperatures and hatchery water supplies.

Anglers should check out the weekly Recreation Report for in-season updates to the stocking schedule, especially this year, as low spring flows may lead to hatchery water shortages, necessitating early releases.

Trout fishing in many northwest Oregon coastal streams and lower Columbia River tributaries opens Saturday, May 23. Anglers are allowed to retain two trout over 8-inches (only one can be over 20-inches) from north coast streams. Lower Columbia River tributaries remain catch-and-release for trout. While trout are not stocked in coastal streams, fishing can be very good for native coastal cutthroat trout. Be sure to check the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations to check the status of specific streams in your area, especially in the Nehalem and Necanicum rivers, where many tributaries are now closed to fishing.

Many coastal streams have resident cutthroat trout (those that live in the river year-round) and sea run cutthroat trout (those that migrate to the ocean to feed prior to returning to spawn). The sea-run component typically gets larger than the resident form and are very "bright" or "chrome," much like a salmon or steelhead when they return from the ocean. Sea-runs typically start to return to coastal rivers in July and

can offer good fishing in the bays early on. Many anglers troll small versions of lures, spinners and flashers to entice a bite in tidewater. Depending on the water year and river temperatures, sea-runs can typically be found in the lower reaches of a river by late July and tend to hold in deeper cool pools, near tributaries entering the mainstem river or just below riffles. Large downed wood often is preferred hiding cover. Many different small flies (dry and sinking) or small spoons and spinners can be very effective.

Many area rivers are restricted to artificial flies and lures above tidewater from May 23 through Aug. 31. No bait is allowed in the Nestucca River above Blaine at all times. Please refer to the 2015 Sport Fishing Regulations.

#### SALMON AND STEELHEAD

Spring Chinook fishing is expected to be similar to 2014. North coast returns generally track with the Willamette run, which is forecasted to have a run of 55,440 or slightly less than the 2014 return. Fishing has been better than usual in April, and will get better in May. Anglers are reminded that only adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook may be retained in the Nestucca and Tillamook Bay systems, and Lower Columbia River tributaries (except Young's Bay and tributaries where any fin-clipped spring Chinook salmon may be retained). Check on specific rules for the location you are going prior to fishing.

Summer steelhead fishing in the Wilson, Trask, Nestucca and Siletz rivers should be at least fair this year. Many areas typically have limited fishing pressure during the early and later stages of the return and can offer excellent catch rates. Mid to late April is when anglers can start to see some summer steelhead returning in the lower sections of the rivers with peak returns in June and July. Although fishing may slow during the summer low flow period, anglers who adjust their technique can still catch fish. And don't overlook the fall fishery -- fall rains generally bring good fishing for steelhead that have been holding over the summer and become more active with more water and cooler temperatures.

Summer steelheading on local rivers does not require a boat (although small pontoon boats allow access to more water) and it can be an excellent family fishing opportunity during the warm days of spring and summer, especially if you're also pursuing cutthroat trout.

Look for ample public fishing access on the Wilson River along Hwy 6, on the Nestucca River above Blaine, and on the Siletz River around Moonshine Park just north of the town of Logsdon. Spring flows in these rivers do not depend on snow pack; however reduced rainfall this winter and spring has rivers running at lower flows. If this pattern continues through the summer, expect very low, clear fishing conditions.

Fall Chinook and coho begin entering coastal estuaries in late summer/early fall. Bay fisheries generally begin producing regular catches around Labor Day, and continue through the fall. One exception is the Nehalem Basin, where early returning "summer" Chinook begin entering the bay in July and August, ahead of the fall run that comes later. River fisheries begin after fall rains raise river water levels sufficiently to draw migrating fish upstream. Larger coastal estuaries and rivers support runs of fall Chinook and coho. The Necanicum, Nehalem, Tillamook and Nestucca basins provide ample opportunity to catch these fish. Hatchery coho are released in the Trask River and North Fork Nehalem River. Hatchery fall Chinook are

released in the Necanicum, Trask, and Nestucca basins to supplement fisheries in those systems. In recent years, conservative fisheries on wild coho salmon have been implemented in some areas. Due to reduced allowable take levels in 2015, these fisheries are likely to be scaled back or not allowed in all areas this fall. Check for [in-season rule changes](#) this summer.

Several local streams host early returning (late November through January) hatchery winter steelhead. The North Fork Nehalem River is generally one of the better early season streams, with hatchery steelhead also available in the Necanicum, Kilchis, Wilson and Nestucca rivers, and Big Creek, Gnat Creek and the North Fork Klaskanine River in the Lower Columbia. Some stray hatchery steelhead also migrate up the Trask River, although none are planted there.

The Wilson and Nestucca rivers, which have wild broodstock programs in addition to early returning stocks, will have hatchery steelhead available throughout the winter and into early spring (generally through mid-April). Wild steelhead are available throughout the winter in all the streams open to fishing, with the run generally peaking in March.

Fishing conditions for winter steelhead often depend on rain patterns and water levels. Water levels and turbidity can increase after heavy rains and some rivers will clear faster than others after rainstorms. Flooding waters can carry a lot of wood and debris, and anglers should always use caution when floating rivers as new hazards can appear throughout the season. Road access may also be blocked after severe storms so be sure to check road conditions before heading out.

Several fishing techniques can be productive for winter steelhead. Side drifting or "bobber-doggin" is very popular with boaters, but pulling plugs or anchoring and casting can also be effective. Bobber and jig, drift fishing, or casting spinners or spoons are proven methods that work well for bank anglers (and boaters too). Fly anglers generally have better catches when flows are lower or in smaller streams.

Typically you will want to fish brighter offerings with a slower presentation when the water is higher and/or off color, and more subtle baits fished more quickly as the water clears. Various shades of red, pink or orange are effective colors, but don't be afraid to experiment with white, chartreuse, black or other colors. Eggs and sand shrimp are always effective baits. Other baits that can be effective at times include prawn meat, crawdad tails and night crawlers.

#### BASS AND WARMWATER

From the smallest ponds to the largest lakes, anglers will find in the Northwest Zone many good opportunities for warmwater fish including largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish and yellow perch. Despite their collective name, warmwater fish can be caught year-round in Oregon. However, fishing is best in the spring, summer and fall when water temperatures are warmer and the fish are more active.

Yellow perch will be the first to start biting as lake temperatures approach 50°F. Bass can be caught early in the season, but fishing picks up in the spring as water temperatures approach 60°F and the larger fish move into the shallows to spawn. They'll remain active throughout the summer, but will be found in deeper water during the hottest weather.

During the warm summer months, weeds in some areas can pose a challenge in many of the shallow coastal lakes, but determined anglers learn how to fish in and around the cover.

Crappie fishing is best in the spring and fall when they move into shallower waters. Bluegill fishing in many coastal lakes and ponds remains good through the summer making these an ideal fish for young anglers and families to pursue.

Look for the Warmwater Fishing in Oregon brochures for the [North Coast](#) and [South Coast](#) Areas to help you decide where to fish and how to get started.

To learn what's biting and where, check out the [ODFW Weekly Recreation Report](#). Each week our biologists update fishing conditions on rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and ponds throughout the state.

## **Alphabetical listing**

### **Alsea River**

TROUT: Resident cutthroat trout fishing is typically fair to good in late May and June or until mainstem river temperature warms considerably. Sea-run cutthroat trout are present from July through September in tidewater and the lower river reaches, and tend to follow the fall salmon up river around October. Small spinners and flies work well for cutthroat trout early in the season and egg patterns once salmon start to return. Use of bait is not allowed May 23 – Aug. 31 above tidewater.

WINTER STEELHEAD: The Alsea Basin provides good fishing opportunities for hatchery winter steelhead from December through March. The target release of 124,000 smolts into the Alsea is split between the traditional Alsea hatchery broodstock (60,000) and wild Alsea broodstock (80,000). There are two release points for winter steelhead smolts. One is in the lower river in proximity to Five Rivers, and the other is directly from the Alsea Hatchery on the North Fork. The Alsea offers excellent bank and boating access for nearly the entire mainstem river, which allows anglers to really focus in on moving or staging fish through the season and under variable river conditions.

During higher river levels (6 feet or more), bank anglers should focus their efforts in the upper basin on the North Fork and/or around the Alsea Hatchery. A parking lot just below the hatchery provides anglers with off-road parking and access to the river. Most river access near the hatchery is on private property, which is clearly posted.

The Alsea contains a lot of bedrock shelves and deep slots that make side drifting difficult. Popular tactics include pulling plugs or divers with bait, drifting bobbers with bait or jigs, fly fishing with egg patterns and swinging spoons across riffles.

FALL CHINOOK & COHO: Good fishing for fall Chinook is expected for in the bay and lower river as returns are forecasted to be only slightly less than the 2014 return. There is optimism for the possibility of a limited wild coho fishery in the Alsea River for 2015. The fall salmon fisheries, in particular for coho salmon, are determined in early summer and often are not approved until. Anglers are advised to check for

[temporary rules](#) and scheduled salmon fisheries prior to fishing during the fall salmon season.

The Alsea River enters the ocean at the town of Waldport at mile post 156 along Hwy 101. There are several boat launches in tidewater from the lower bay up approximately 9 miles on Hwy 34. Hwy 34 follows the Alsea River up to the town of Alsea at mile post 40 and offers many public access points, parks and drift boat launches along the way including a few campgrounds.

Alsea Bay can offer excellent crabbing opportunities during the summer and fall months. Boat rental options and public docks are located in the town of Waldport for those looking to get out on the bay to harvest some Dungeness crab for dinner.

### **Big Creek and Gnat Creek (Lower Columbia)**

TROUT: Catch-and-release fishing for cutthroat trout during the summer season is expected to be fair.

SPRING CHINOOK: A similar forecast (compared to 2014) of hatchery spring Chinook to the lower Columbia River should provide some fishing opportunities in these streams located east of Astoria along Hwy 30. The season is open Jan. 1 to July 31 for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook. The daily bag limit is two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and/or steelhead and five adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook. Anglers casting spinners and drifting small baits, such as salmon roe, will experience the most success. There are good bank access areas adjacent to Gnat Creek and Big Creek hatcheries and at the mouth of Big Creek. The Blind Slough select area can be good at times for boaters trolling herring or plugs. See page 87 of the 2015 regulations for a map of the area. Check regulations for the Columbia and select areas before fishing as they can change on short notice.

FALL CHINOOK AND COHO: Fall Chinook and coho return to Big Creek Hatchery. Some opportunity is available for early returning Tule fall Chinook in August. Anti-snagging rules are in effect (check regulation pamphlet). The stream is closed during September to ensure enough Chinook are collected at the hatchery for broodstock. Later returning hatchery coho are available in October when rains come and the stream re-opens to fishing.

WINTER STEELHEAD: Hatchery winter steelhead smolts are released in Gnat Creek (40,000) and Big Creek (60,000). Fishing for steelhead is restricted to the lower portions of the streams below the hatcheries. Hatchery fish are primarily available during late November, December and January, with numbers of fish tapering off quickly after that. These streams are small and are primarily fished from the banks. Access is available at the hatcheries, at Big Creek County Park, and along roads following the streams.

Anglers may call 503-458-6529 for recorded Big Creek fishing information. Or, join [Big Creek Hatchery on Facebook](#).

**Big Creek** (located south of Yachats approx. 8 miles on Hwy 101) can provide good fishing as steelhead move into the river at high tide. A good road borders the stream and most areas are owned by the US Forest Service. Occasional hatchery steelhead strays also can be caught.

**Coffenbury, Lost, Sunset and Cullaby lakes, and Vernonia Pond:** These lakes will be stocked with trout throughout the spring. The lakes are open all year, but are stocked in the spring when water conditions are good. In addition, larger “trophy” trout will be stocked later in the year Coffenbury, Lost and Sunset lakes.

Bass anglers should consider Coffenbury, Sunset and Cullaby lakes and Vernonia Pond where conventional bass gear (grubs, spinner-baits, and plugs) can provide good fishing. An earthworm under a bobber is an excellent way for kids to catch their first fish. Other panfish species also are available.

Vernonia Pond is located in the city of Vernonia, on Hwy 47. Sunset and Cullaby are just north of Seaside a short distance off Hwy 101. Coffenbury is located west of Warrenton in Fort Stevens State Park. Lost Lake is located on Oregon Dept. of Forestry land west of Hwy 26 (follow Nehalem River Rd to Spruce Run campground, turn on Lost Lake Rd and travel several miles to the lake).

Both Coffenbury and Lost Lakes are featured in ODFW's [Easy Angling Oregon](#) publication. Coffenbury offers fishing opportunities for hatchery trout, as well as bass and panfish. Surveys conducted by ODFW in 2006 showed good numbers of bluegill and some very good-sized largemouth bass. Lost Lake is located high in the coast range and generally offers an excellent family trout fishing opportunity, particularly in the spring and early summer.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will host a Free Fishing Weekend event at Coffenbury Lake (inside Ft. Stevens State Park) on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Dane Osis at (503) 861-3170 ext. 41 for more information.

Coffenbury Lake, Lost Lake and Vernonia Pond periodically receive excess adult hatchery steelhead. Check the weekly [Recreation Report](#) on the ODFW website for updated information on fish releases.

Other lakes may also receive fish when available. Steelhead caught in these lakes are considered trout, and do not have to be recorded on a harvest tag. Only one trout over 20-inches is allowed per day.

**Cummings Creek** (located approximately 4 miles south of Yachats on Hwy 101) is a smaller stream located in the Cummings Creek Wilderness area. Anglers can have fair to good wild winter steelhead fishing in a secluded old-growth setting.

**Devils Lake (Lincoln City):** Adipose fin-clipped trout are available year-round but the spring and early summer months are the most productive. Approximately 20,000 rainbow trout are stocked during the spring months. Only adipose fin-clipped trout may be kept in order to protect rearing coho salmon juveniles, which are often misidentified as kokanee. Public access can be found at any of the five parks along the lake. The lake provides good recreational boating opportunities.

There will be a youth fishing event at the Salmon River Hatchery near Lincoln City on Free Fishing Weekend, Saturday, June 6 from 8 a.m. to noon. Contact Brian Vinyard at (541) 994-8606 for more information. To register call the Lincoln City Community Center at (541) 994-2131.

**Drift Creek-Alesea:** Fair to good catch-and-release wild steelhead fishing as well as the occasional stray hatchery steelhead. Also good fishing for resident and sea-run cutthroat trout from May through October.

A large portion of the river is within the Drift Creek Wilderness Area providing good hike-in opportunities in a remote, old-growth setting.

**Drift Creek-Siletz** (located just south of Lincoln City): Good catch-and-release wild steelhead fishing with the occasional stray hatchery steelhead. There can also be good fishing for both resident and sea-run cutthroat trout from May through the October.

A large portion of the fishable river is located within the Siuslaw National Forest with several good hike-in opportunities.

**Mid Coast Lakes:** Nearly all mid coast lakes have been stocked repeatedly this spring with catchable and trophy-sized rainbow trout. Many lakes in the Florence area will be stocked before the May 23 trout opener and/or Free Fishing Weekend June 7-8. Be sure to check the [online stocking schedule](#) for exact locations or call the local ODFW office. The Florence area has numerous day use and overnight camping facilities located on or near multiple lakes and trail systems offering families a variety of outdoor activities to consider.

Other lakes in the Florence area offer good fishing for warmwater fish. Mercer, Siltcoos, Sutton, Tahkenitch and Woahink lakes have populations of largemouth bass, perch and bluegill. Siltcoos and Tahkenitch also provide good trolling opportunities for big cutthroat trout. These lakes also contain juvenile coho salmon which can reach 8-12 inches in length but are illegal to harvest. They are often misidentified as kokanee, which are not in these lakes.

ODFW will host a Free Fishing Weekend event on Saturday, June 6 at Cleawox Lake near Florence from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Christine Clapp in Newport (541) 265-8306 ext. 253 for more information.

ODFW will host a free Family Fishing Event on Sunday, July 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery in Logsdan, east of Siletz. Contact Christine Clapp in Newport (541) 265-8306 ext. 253 for more information.

**Necanicum River and Tidewater:** Fishing for coastal cutthroat trout is open from May 23 through Oct. 31. Fishing for sea-run cutthroat trout should be good in tidewater sections beginning in July with spinners and flies producing good results.

Fall Chinook return to the system beginning as early as September. Fishing is best in tidewater until rains raise the river, usually in October. Bobber and bait, and casting spinners are favorite techniques in tidewater. The Necanicum is open for adipose fin-clipped hatchery coho, although none are planted. A few strays are caught each year. Wild coho harvest is prohibited.

The Necanicum River offers excellent small-stream steelhead fishing throughout the winter. The river is stocked with 40,000 smolts at a several locations up to Black's Bridge. Hatchery steelhead are caught in the early winter months, with the peak of the run in late December/early January. Wild fish are more commonly caught later in the season. The Necanicum is open to steelhead fishing through March 31 downstream of the Hwy 53 Bridge at Necanicum Junction.

The Necanicum River is usually one of the first North Coast streams to clear following heavy rains. Boaters should keep a wary eye out, especially after storms when wood can move around.

Tidewater fishing in the Necanicum estuary during the spring can produce good catches of starry flounder. Anglers should use sand shrimp fished on or near the bottom for best success.

The Necanicum River follows Hwys 26 and 101 to Seaside before entering the ocean. Bank access is available along Hwy 26, especially at Klootchie Creek Park and around Black's Bridge (about 1.5-2 miles above Klootchie Creek). Lower river access is available in the Peterson Point area. Boaters may launch at the park, and takeout at a site along Hwy 101 just south of Seaside.

### **Nehalem Bay and River (including the North Fork Nehalem)**

**TROUT:** Fishing for coastal cutthroat trout in the Nehalem Basin is expected to be good this year. Anglers using flies and small spinners will find increasing numbers of returning sea-run coastal cutthroat beginning in July. The North Fork Nehalem River will also provide good fishing opportunities for coastal cutthroat trout. Check regulations for open areas as there are additional tributary closures in place this year.

**FALL CHINOOK AND COHO:** Chinook do not typically begin arriving in consistent numbers until July. Peak fishing is August through October. Changes to the early run Chinook (through Sept. 15) bag limit take effect this year. Check the regulations before you go. Hatchery coho are caught in the bay beginning in late August, with the peak in September. Wild coho fisheries are not likely to occur this year- check for updates this summer. Trolling herring or spinners is the most popular technique, but bobber and bait can be effective in upper tidewater areas. Casting spinners for coho can be productive in the North Fork after rains draw fish upstream. Check [ODFW website](#) for changes in open areas, dates and/or bag limits before going fishing.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** The Nehalem basin offers abundant winter steelhead fishing opportunities. Hatchery steelhead (90,000 smolts) are released in the North Fork Nehalem at or below Nehalem Hatchery on Hwy 53. The best fishing for hatchery steelhead is usually in December and January, with the first fish appearing by mid-November most years. Hatchery steelhead are recycled regularly from Nehalem Hatchery during the peak of the run. Call 503-368-5670 for recorded fishing information.

The main Nehalem River is a very productive catch-and-release fishery for wild steelhead. Best fishing is February to early April and it's usually much less crowded than the North Fork during the peak of the hatchery return. Some very large steelhead (occasionally topping 20 pounds) are caught from this river. The Salmonberry River, a tributary of the Nehalem about 7 miles above Nehalem Falls, can provide superb fishing for large winter steelhead. The Salmonberry closes March 31. Access to the Salmonberry remains limited. The Nehalem River Road bridge over the Salmonberry has been rebuilt and is now open; however, the railroad right of way remains closed to public access. Anglers are advised to check with the Port of Tillamook Bay for current status of access restrictions.

The Nehalem is the largest river system on the North Coast. Headwaters flow from the coast range near Vernonia, and wind to the ocean, entering on the north coast near the town of Wheeler. The estuary and tidal areas are primarily fished by boat. The Nehalem River can be accessed off Nehalem River Road below Hwy 26, and in various locations upstream of there. The lower river can be boated from the Beaver Slide (below Nehalem Falls) to Roy Creek County Park.

The North Fork can be accessed from Hwy 53. Bank access is available near the hatchery and on neighboring industrial forestlands, subject to restrictions by the landowner. The Nehalem Hatchery Barrier Free Fishing Platform offers additional access to anglers with a disabled angler permit. Boaters may float the North Fork below the hatchery, but extreme caution is necessary. Several bedrock rapids make drifting this river hazardous, and it should be attempted by only experienced boaters. Rafts are highly recommended.

Note: The Nehalem River Road bridge across the Salmonberry is open and access from Hwy 26 to the coast is available.
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### **Nestucca Basin: Nestucca, Little Nestucca and Three Rivers**

**TROUT:** Fishing for sea-run coastal cutthroat trout in the Nestucca basin is expected to be good this year. The run usually begins in July and lasts much of the summer. Fishing will be better in the lower river and bay in early summer, with fish moving further upstream later on. Look for these fish to hold in riffles or on edges and tail-outs of deep pools as the summer progresses.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** The spring Chinook season on the Nestucca River is open from April 1-July 31. The spring Chinook runs in is expected to be similar to last year. Only adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook may be kept in the bays and rivers.

The Little Nestucca, is open May 23-July 31 for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook salmon. Spring Chinook are not stocked in this river and the fishery is limited to a very small number of strays from other rivers. Three Rivers is open April 1 - July 15 below the hatchery for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook and adipose fin-clipped summer steelhead. While Three Rivers receives considerable fishing pressure, fishing success can be very good as fish tend to congregate in the river below the hatchery. Bank access and parking are available off of Hwy 22 immediately downstream of the hatchery. Small (1/8 or 1/16 ounce) jigs floated under a bobber can be very effective for summer steelhead on Three Rivers and other areas. Where bait is allowed, try tipping your jig with a sand shrimp tail or earth worm – this technique can be very productive. Gear restrictions are in effect from May 1-July 15 in Three Rivers. Check the regulations before you fish.

**SUMMER STEELHEAD:** Summer steelhead also are available in the Nestucca. Summer steelhead returns are expected to be similar to or a little better than last year. As the rivers begin to clear in the late spring, anglers should use small spoons or spinners (#2s and #3s) or small baits where allowed (earth worm, sand shrimp, salmon eggs, crayfish tail). Later in the summer, fish early in the morning or in the evening for best success. ODFW staff survey these rivers every August and regularly see summer steelhead throughout the river. These fish will be available and in good condition through October or later. Look for a good bite to turn on after the first fall rains.

FALL CHINOOK AND COHO: Fall Chinook begin returning to the system in August, with fishing generally improving after Labor Day. Trolling herring near the mouth is popular, as is bobber and bait in tidewater areas. Further upstream, bobber and bait or backtrolling plugs can produce fish. Limited wild coho fisheries have been authorized in recent years. Check for [regulation updates](#) this summer for any changes to fall salmon fisheries.

WINTER STEELHEAD: Early-returning hatchery winter steelhead (40,000 smolts marked with an adipose and left maxillary fin clip) are available from late November through January, with a peak in late December/early January. Wild broodstock hatchery steelhead (70,000 smolts; adipose only clipped) are available in the Nestucca through the spring. Past creel surveys show most fish are caught January to early April.

Since 2008, most of the early returning hatchery smolts have been released in Three Rivers, with a portion released at Farmer Creek boat launch. The wild brood hatchery smolts are released in Three Rivers; in the main stem Nestucca River at Farmer Creek and First Bridge boat launches; and in Bays Creek (a tributary just above the fifth bridge). This release strategy should optimize harvest opportunities and help spread the fishery out.

Wild steelhead are caught throughout the winter, with a peak in March.

The Nestucca River Road parallels the upper Nestucca River, beginning at Beaver and continuing upstream to the angling deadline at Elk Creek. Best bank access is above Blaine, with many pullouts along the river. The use of bait is prohibited in the Nestucca River above Moon Creek. Fishing in the upper Nestucca is best later in the season, as primarily wild fish return to the upper river. The Nestucca River upstream from Moon Creek closes March 31 and reopens concurrent with trout season

Boat access to the upper river is available at boat ramps located at the first and fourth bridges above Beaver, at a boat slide above the fifth bridge (a wooden boat slide was constructed in 2011, with concrete steps added to make access down the bank easier) and at the sixth bridge. The launch site at sixth bridge is located on private property, and anglers are asked to be courteous and pack out their trash in order to insure access in the future. Only experienced boaters should launch upstream of the fourth bridge due to some hazardous water.

The lower Nestucca River offers limited bank access, but some very good boat access. Launching/takeout is available at boat ramps located at First Bridge, the Rock Hole (end of Bixby Road), Farmer Creek wayside, the mouth of Three Rivers and Cloverdale. Bank access also is available at those sites. A separate fee (**not** the county pass) is required at Cloverdale to cover the cost to lease access from the Sanitary District. Day passes are available at the launch, or season passes are available from the sporting goods store in Hebo. Repairs to the lower end of the Cloverdale launch were completed recently. Use caution as there is a drop off at the end of the concrete. This is especially prevalent at lower flows.

Three Rivers, a tributary entering the Nestucca at Hebo, offers very good bank access in the lower river and excellent opportunity for anglers targeting early-returning hatchery steelhead, as well as later returning wild broodstock hatchery steelhead. Good numbers of steelhead ascend Three Rivers on their return to Cedar Creek Hatchery.

Bank access on Three Rivers is available at the hatchery, at the "heart attack" hole (on the south side of the stream), on the "S" curve just above Hebo, and by the sewage treatment plant in Hebo. The upper Three Rivers is accessible along Hwy 22, but fewer fish are present above the hatchery weir and bank access is limited. When available, fish are recycled downstream from Cedar Creek Hatchery.

The Little Nestucca River offers fair opportunity for steelhead. A few stray hatchery steelhead may be present throughout the winter season. Wild fish may be caught and released through the winter, with the run peaking in March. Limited public access is available along Little Nestucca River Road between Hwy 22 and Hwy101. The river closes March 31.

**Newport area lakes (Big Creek Reservoirs 1 & 2 and Olalla Reservoir):** These reservoirs are stocked multiple times during the spring and will be stocked just prior to the May 23 trout opener and prior to Free Fishing Weekend June 6-7. Olalla Reservoir also receives surplus adult steelhead and has some warmwater species. Olalla Reservoir is located just east of Toledo near mile post 7 along Hwy 20. Big Creek reservoirs are located on the north end Newport off 31<sup>st</sup> street.

ODFW will host a free Family Fishing event during Free Fishing Weekend on Saturday, June 6 at Big Creek Reservoir near Newport from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Christine Clapp in Newport at (541) 265-8306 ext. 253 for more information.
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**Salmon River** (located north of Lincoln City along Hwy 18) offers fair-to-good fishing for wild winter steelhead, from late December through March. Beginning in 2015, Salmon River is open for the harvest of wild winter steelhead. Check current regulations for bag limits and open area. Fall Chinook fishing can also be fair to good in the bay through tidewater and up into the lower river section. Bank access can be found in the lower river near the Salmon River Hatchery or along the Van Duzer corridor. Anglers are advised to check for special regulations prior to fishing for salmon.

#### **Siletz River**

**SUMMER STEELHEAD:** The Siletz River offers anglers the opportunity to fish for steelhead year-round. The Siletz has both summer and winter steelhead native runs as well as summer and winter steelhead hatchery programs. Anglers are reminded that only hatchery fish can be retained.

A hatchery summer steelhead program with a target smolt release of up to 50,000 fish each spring offers anglers an excellent opportunity to harvest fresh steelhead by early summer. Summer steelhead start arriving in May with a peak in mid-July. A second push of summers arrives with the first fall rains.

Most summer steelhead fishing is done from the bank because river levels are typically too low for drift boats by early June. Good public bank fishing can be found in the vicinity of Moonshine Park, which offers good riverside camping and/or day use facilities.

The upper Siletz River (above Moonshine Park) offers excellent bank fishing for steelhead and cutthroat trout but is open to public vehicle traffic only on weekends
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as this area is private timber company lands. Hiking or biking in is a popular option during the week days but log truck traffic can be busy at times.

During the summer flows, fly fishing the gorge area can be very productive by swinging flies across riffles in the early mornings. Other techniques such as casting lures or using a bobber and bait/jig can also produce good results.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** Winter steelhead begin arriving in late November with a peak in January-March. The winter steelhead hatchery program in the Siletz Basin utilizes a wild broodstock and can provide excellent fishing throughout the season.

During peak winter steelhead season drift boat fishing can be very productive but many sections of the river can be busy during favorable flow conditions. Popular techniques used from a drift boat include side drifting, pulling plugs or drifting a bobber and jig. Bank fishing can also be very good in the upper river around Moonshine Park. Effective bank fishing techniques are flow dependent but include swinging spinners and spoons across riffles, drifting a bobber and bait or jig, plunking, and bouncing a corky or bead along the bottom.

A portion of hatchery fish returning to ODFW fish traps are also recycled to provide additional fishing opportunities. These fish are tagged with a small colored tag near the dorsal fin. Anglers are encouraged to report these tagged recycled fish so that the benefit of the recycling program can be assessed.

Bait is allowed in the Siletz year-round. Fresh bait such as eggs, worms or sand shrimp work well for summer steelhead. Casting spinners and drifting brightly colored jigs also works well. Anglers prepared for a variety of conditions or techniques are often the most successful.

**FALL CHINOOK & COHO:** For the 2015 salmon season, the Chinook forecast is predicted to be slightly lower than the 2014 run. The forecast for coho is favorable and there may be a limited wild coho fishery again in 2015. Be sure to check for [temporary rules](#) before fishing during the 2015 fall salmon season.

The Siletz River enters the ocean on the south end of Lincoln City. Siletz Bay can offer good crabbing, clamming and fishing opportunities and there's easy access from beach in community of Taft in Lincoln City. Hwy 229 follows the Siletz for about 24 miles up to the town of Siletz and has a several boat launches and camping opportunities. Upstream of the town of Siletz are two more boat launches and good bank access around Moonshine Park.

### **Siuslaw River**

**TROUT:** Resident cutthroat trout fishing is typically fair to good in late May through June. Sea-run cutthroat trout fishing begins around July and extends through September in tidewater and the lower river reaches. Sea-run fishing also should be fair to good. Bait is restricted above tidewater from May 23 – Aug. 31. Small spoons, spinners and flies can be very productive for cutthroat trout.

**FALL CHINOOK & COHO:** Fishery managers predict the 2015 fall Chinook returns will be slightly lower than the 2014 run. Fishing should be very productive in the bay and lower river this fall. The coho salmon return may allow for another limited wild coho fishery. The coho fishery will be determined by this summer. Anglers are strongly advised to check for [temporary rules](#) prior to fishing during the fall salmon season.

WINTER STEELHEAD: Steelhead returns typically peak from late January through February and last into March. There also is an extended fishery in the Siuslaw River from Whittaker Creek downstream to 200 yards below the mouth of Wildcat Creek through April 15.

The Siuslaw winter steelhead broodstock incorporates wild winter steelhead and thus tends to return later than traditional coastal hatchery stocks.

Lake Creek and its major tributaries can be a productive catch-and-release fishery for wild steelhead, and provide opportunities to catch hatchery steelhead near the town of Deadwood, where 15,000 hatchery winter steelhead smolts are released into Green Creek.

Popular techniques used from a drift boat include side drifting, pulling plugs or drifting a bobber and jig. Effective bank fishing techniques are flow dependent but include swinging spinners and spoons across riffles, drifting a bobber and bait or jig, plunking, and bouncing a corky and bait along the bottom. Some early season scouting during lower flows to learn which technique will work for an area can pay off.

The Siuslaw River near the Whittaker Creek campground offers good boat and bank access and is where a target of 70,000 winter steelhead smolts are released each spring. A good portion of the returning hatchery fish collected at this site is released back into the fishery. This area can be heavily fished during the peak season by boat and bank anglers, particularly on weekends.

The Siuslaw River enters the ocean at the town of Florence between the Alsea and Umpqua rivers. Hwy 126 follows the Siuslaw and Hwy 36 follows Lake Creek. There are a few boat launches in tidewater up to Mapleton and a few launches and day use parks along the mainstem Siuslaw and Lake Creek above the town of Mapleton. Siuslaw Bay can offer anglers great crabbing opportunities and fishing for a variety of marine species as access roads are open to both the north and south jetties.

**Ten-Mile Creek** (located approximately 6 miles south of Yachats on Hwy 101) consistently produces good catches of wild winter steelhead when conditions are right. Much of the creek-side property is in private ownership. Occasional hatchery steelhead strays also can be caught.

**Thissell Pond (Near Fall Creek Hatchery):** Thissell Pond has been stocked several times over the spring season and will be stocked just before and after the May 23 trout opener and Free Fishing Weekend June 7-8. Thissell Pond is located off Hwy 34 near mile post 27 and up Fall Creek road about 2 miles.

A youth fishing event will be held during on Saturday, June 6 at Thissell Pond from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact Matt Frank at the Alsea Fish Hatchery at (541) 487-7240 for more information.

**Tillamook bays and rivers** (including the Wilson, Trask, Kilchis and Miami rivers) TROUT: Fishing for sea-run coastal cutthroat trout in the Tillamook and Nestucca basins is expected to be good this year. The run usually begins in July and lasts

much of the summer. Look for these fish to hold in riffles or on edges and tail-outs of deep pools as the summer progresses.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** The spring Chinook season is open April 1-July 31 in the bay and the Wilson and Trask rivers. The spring Chinook runs in the Wilson and Trask are expected to be similar to last year. Only adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook may be kept in the bays, rivers, and the spring Chinook terminal area in the ocean off the mouth of Tillamook Bay. Trolling herring in the lower bays and in the near shore ocean just outside the jetty tips (especially in May) is productive. Trolling large-bladed spinners for spring Chinook in Tillamook Bay near Memaloose Boat Ramp (south side of the bay) has become increasingly popular in recent years.

While Chinook can be caught on both the incoming and outgoing tides, many anglers concentrate their effort as the tide is receding. Don't hesitate to fish shallow flats and channels when the tide is out as spring Chinook will often hold in these areas.

Bobber and salmon eggs are the most popular techniques in the upper sections of tidewater and in the rivers. Gear restrictions are in effect in the Trask River from the Cedar Creek boat slide down to the Lorens Drift wood boat slide from May 1-July 31. Check the regulations for details.

The Tillamook, Kilchis and Miami rivers are open May 23-July 31 for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook salmon. Spring Chinook are not stocked in these systems and the fishery is limited to a very small number of strays from other rivers.

#### SUMMER STEELHEAD:

Summer steelhead also are available in the Wilson and Trask rivers. Summer steelhead returns are expected to be similar last year. As the rivers begin to clear in the late spring, anglers should use small spoons or spinners (#2s and #3s) or small baits where allowed (earth worm, sand shrimp, salmon eggs, crayfish tail). Later in the summer, fish early in the morning or in the evening for best success. ODFW staff survey these rivers every August and regularly see summer steelhead throughout the river. These fish will be available and in good condition through October.

**FALL CHINOOK AND COHO:** Fall Chinook and coho begin entering the bay in late summer. Hatchery coho peak in September, with Chinook peaking in October. Chinook can be caught through December. Limited wild coho fisheries have been approved in recent years but due to fishery constraints may not occur this year. Check the ODFW website beginning in June for updated regulations. Typically, lower bay anglers favor trolling herring. Further up the bay, trolling herring is still a good option, but more anglers also opt for large bladed spinners or plugs. Some anglers anchor and cast for coho in the west channel of the bay with medium to large spinners. Bobber and bait is the predominant technique in tidewater areas and upstream, with backtrolling plugs and backbouncing bait added to the mix. Stream fisheries generally begin in October with fall rains raising the rivers.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** The Wilson, Kilchis and Trask rivers offer excellent winter steelhead opportunities. Hatchery steelhead usually begin returning in late November, with good fishing through January. Approximately 40,000 early returning hatchery smolts are released in each of the Kilchis and Wilson Rivers. The Kilchis is stocked up to Kilchis Park. An additional 100,000 wild brood smolts are released in the Wilson River, primarily in the lower river up to Siskeyville, but a small proportion (25 percent) are released in the South Fork. Wild broodstock hatchery steelhead are

available in the Wilson River throughout the winter and early spring (primarily January to mid-April). The Trask River is not stocked, but hatchery strays are present.

The Wilson, Kilchis and Trask rivers offer good access to some great wild winter steelhead fishing, which peaks in March.

The Little North Fork Wilson River and first mile of the South Fork Wilson River are open Dec. 1- March 31 for steelhead fishing. These streams provide good opportunities when the main stem Wilson River is high.

The Tillamook and Miami rivers are open to steelhead fishing though March. A few stray hatchery fish and smaller populations of wild fish are present in each stream. The Miami River offers access in the upper stretches along Miami Forest Road; however, public access is very limited on the Tillamook River.

The daily bag limit is two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and/or steelhead and five adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook.

There is good boat access in upper tidewater on the Nestucca, Tillamook, Trask and Kilchis rivers. Bank access on most streams can be found off major highways, county roads or forest roads. Most of Tillamook River is through private land.

Hwy 6 follows the Wilson River from the lower reaches to the fishing deadline at the South Fork. The Kilchis River is accessible at the Mapes Creek launch, Kilchis Park, and along Kilchis Forest Road up to the deadline at the confluence of the North and South forks.

The Trask River is accessible at Trask Hatchery and Lorens Drift off Chance Road and along Trask River Road. The North and South Fork Trask (open for winter steelhead Dec. 1 to March 31, and trout from May 23-June 15) are accessible by forest roads that follow each stream. The North Fork Trask steelhead deadline is at Bark Shanty Creek and the South Fork steelhead deadline is at Edwards Creek.

Sturgeon fishing in Tillamook Bay (open all year for catch-and-release only) can be productive throughout the winter and spring. Fall Chinook gear is adequate for this fishing in the shallow water. For sturgeon, anglers should use sand shrimp or mud shrimp, and target channel edges on the outgoing tide. Perch and several bottomfish species are caught regularly through the spring in the lower bay. Try any of the many rocky areas or along the jetties using sand shrimp or small to medium sized plastic grubs fished near the rocks or just off the bottom. Check regulations for updated rules for rockfish.

**Tillamook area lakes (Hebo, Cape Meares, Smith, Spring, Lytle, Town, Tahoe, Battle, North and South lakes, and Lorens Pond):** These lakes are stocked throughout the spring (except Battle Lake, which is stocked once annually with fingerling trout). Although open all year, they are stocked heavily around spring break to provide fishing opportunities for youth and adults. Several of the lakes have some carryover trout (up to 18-inches long) from last year. In addition, larger "trophy" trout will be stocked later in the year in some lakes. The locations of and directions to many of these lakes can be found on the [ODFW website](#).

Lorens Pond recently underwent a substantial restoration. Upgrades included an angling platform, deepening of the east end of the pond, new trails, improved parking, and some tree plantings. An ADA accessible trail was constructed to the new fishing platform, as well as a disabled parking spot. A portable restroom was also been added.

Trout stocking at Lorens Pond has been increased to provide additional opportunity at this site.

Battle Lake is stocked with fingerling trout by backpack, as the lake is now hike in only. The fishery will rely on fingerling trout to grow to legal-size. Sampling after the first year of fingerling stocking indicated that the fish grew well and were in good shape, but were not quite legal-size by the next spring. The lake has been stocked for four years now, and there is a mixture of size classes present, with some fish exceeding 12 inches.

Nedonna Pond and Trask Hatchery will host a Free Fishing Weekend event on June 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go to the ODFW [website](#) for details.

Cape Meares and Town lakes, and Lake Lytle all have populations of largemouth bass, which can provide a good opportunity for anglers in the spring and summer as water temperatures increase. While these populations are modest, ODFW surveys in 2006 showed that many of these bass are large. Launch facilities are available at Cape Meares Lake, Town Lake and Lake Lytle, although anglers fishing from float tubes and from shore have had good success in the past.

Cape Meares Lake, Loren's Pond, Lake Lytle, and Town Lake periodically receive excess adult hatchery steelhead in the fall and winter. Check the weekly [Recreation Report](#) on the ODFW website for updated information on fish releases.

Other lakes may also receive fish when available. Steelhead caught in these lakes are considered trout, and do not have to be recorded on a harvest tag. Only one trout over 20 inches per day is allowed.

The dam at Town Lake was replaced in 2014. The lake level should remain stable, and the fishing dock is back in place and available for use. The outlet at Cape Meares Lake was undermined during a storm event last winter. Repairs may take place this summer, but angling activities should not be affected.

**Yachats River** (located in the town of Yachats) is a productive winter steelhead river with access to public properties from a county road bordering the stream. It offers good catch-and-release opportunities for wild steelhead from the forks down to tide water. There are occasional stray hatchery winter steelhead caught in the Yachats.

### **Yaquina River**

TROUT: Resident cutthroat trout fishing should be good in late May and June, and fair numbers of sea-run cutthroat trout are expected from July through September in the tidewater to lower river reaches.

FALL CHINOOK & COHO: Fall Chinook fishing in the bay to upper tide water is expected to be fair from early September through October. Chinook returns are

forecasted to be around average. Anglers are encouraged to check on [temporary rules](#) prior to fishing during the fall salmon season. A limited wild coho salmon fishery is also a possibility for this fall in the Yaquina with approval expected around late July.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** The Yaquina Basin receives approximately 20,000 winter steelhead smolts of an early-returning Alsea hatchery stock. These smolt are released into Big Elk Creek with peak adult returns in December and January. Good bank access is available along upper Big Elk Creek near the smolt release site (river-mile 21 below Grant Creek) and several miles downstream. There is a lot of private property so anglers are advised to use caution.

The Yaquina River enters the ocean at the town of Newport at mile post 142 along Hwy 101. There are several boat launches in tidewater and some camping opportunities close to Newport. Crabbing, clamming and bottom fishing can be very good in the bay with public access to both the north and south jetties and public fishing/crabbing docks along the bay.

**Youngs Bay, Youngs River and Klaskanine River (Lower Columbia):** These lower Columbia River tributaries are open for fin-clipped spring Chinook through July 31. Trolling in tidewater areas of the upper bay generally produces the best action. Try herring or large spinners fished near the bottom. Bobber and bait also will produce fish in some areas. This is primarily a boat fishery, with launches available in upper tidewater and another southeast of Astoria. See the select area map on page 94 of the 2015 Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.

The Lewis and Clark River, Young's River, and the North and South Fork Klaskanine River also are open to winter steelhead fishing. The North Fork Klaskanine is stocked with approximately 40,000 winter steelhead smolts, and provides good small stream opportunity from late November through January. While anglers will encounter some stray hatchery fish, the other streams offer mostly catch-and-release fishing for wild steelhead.

For more information about fishing opportunities in the Northwest Zone, contact the nearest ODFW office:

**North Coast Watershed District Office**

Tillamook, OR 97141  
503-842-2741

**Newport Field Office**

Newport, OR 97365  
541-265-8306 ext. 224

## SOUTHWEST ZONE

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Check this out:

- \* 2015 [Family Fishing](#) and [Free Fishing Weekend](#) events.
- \* Find trout stocking schedules and Google maps with driving directions to all stocking sites on the ODFW [Trout Stocking page](#).
- \* Take a friend fishing, clamming or crabbing during Free Fishing Weekend June 6-7 – no license required!
- \* The [Oregon Angler with Disabilities Site Map](#) highlights 133 sites across Oregon that may be suitable for anglers with physical disabilities.
- \* [50 Places to go fishing within 60 minutes of Medford](#) and [50 places to go fishing within 60 minutes of Roseburg](#) describe a variety of nearby fishing opportunities.

### TROUT

Most lakes in the Southwest Zone are open to fishing year all year, and trout stocking begins in late February and continues to June at most standing water bodies. Lakes opening on April 25 include Howard Prairie Reservoir and Hyatt Lake.

Drought conditions will play a role in water quality, water availability, and fishing conditions throughout 2015. Anglers will need to expect changes and be good stewards to help fish survive potentially extreme conditions. Anglers practicing catch-and-release especially need to be cognizant of how to handle fish carefully.

Diamond Lake is now open for fishing year-round. Ice fishing can be good when there is sufficient ice. ODFW plans to increase stocking to 275,000 trout for the next several years. Lemolo Reservoir will also enjoy some good fishing. This year Lemolo will open April 1 for catch-and-release for brown trout and a 5 trout daily limit for other species. It will then convert to the normal 5 fish per day daily limit for all species from April 25 to Oct. 31. Brown trout fishing tends to be very good in the lake during the spring. Lemolo has produced some brown trout weighing over 10 pounds. The lake will also be stocked with rainbow throughout the spring and has a good number of holdover trout.

Irrigation reservoirs will see a big demand on water throughout the summer. Some reservoirs in the Rogue watershed (Lost Creek Reservoir, Willow Lake) are full to start the season, and access should be good all year. Other reservoirs (Howard Prairie, Fish Lake) will offer good fishing but access will become difficult for boaters as the season progresses.

Howard Prairie Reservoir and Hyatt Lake often produce large trout, and in Lost Creek Reservoir holdover trout up to 17-inches long mix with limits of legal-sized trout. Good holdover of stocked trout means that large rainbows are also available at Tenmile Lakes, Eel Lake and Garrison Lake on the coast. Although weather can get dry in this region, anglers should expect plenty of water and fish for the beginning of the trout season in local reservoirs and lakes.

Sea-run cutthroat generally appear in tidewater in mid-to-late summer in coastal basins.

Trout fishing in most streams in the zone opens May 23, being the fourth Saturday in May. The late May opener for streams helps to protect salmon and steelhead smolts, most of which have left freshwater streams on their way to the ocean by late May.

Consult the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations to check the status of specific streams in your area.

#### SALMON AND STEELHEAD

The Southwest Zone includes the Rogue and Umpqua watersheds, and all the coastal watersheds between the Umpqua and the California border. The Rogue and Umpqua offer nearly year-round fishing for salmon and steelhead. Spring Chinook are present in both rivers. On the Rogue, spring Chinook returns are expected to be similar to the good returns experienced over the last couple of years (which included almost 10,000 returns to Cole Rivers Hatchery last year alone), and fishing should be good. The Umpqua is expecting a good run of over 10,000 springers.

Fall Chinook fisheries in the Coos and Coquille rivers draw anglers from far and wide, as do winter steelhead fisheries.

#### BASS AND WARMWATER

Most warmwater fish can be caught year-round, but fishing is best from the spring through fall as water temperatures are warm and the fish are more active. Yellow perch are often the first to start biting in early spring with the water approaching 50°F. Good bets for perch fishing are Tenmile Lakes, Willow Lake and Emigrant Reservoir.

As water temperatures approach and rise above 60°F and the bigger bass move into the shallows to spawn, largemouth bass fishing starts to pick up in places such as Tenmile, Eel and Loon lakes and Galesville, Cooper Creek and Lost Creek reservoirs. Bass will remain active and can be caught throughout the summer, but will be found in deeper water during the hottest weather.

In addition to largemouth, the Southwest Zone also offers opportunities for smallmouth bass. Smallmouth will be readily available in the Main and South Umpqua River beginning in spring and throughout the summer. Good smallmouth fisheries can also be found in Applegate, Lost Creek and Galesville Reservoirs. Smallmouth get active a little earlier than largemouth, can be fished for throughout the spring and summer into fall, and are an aggressive and fun fish to catch.

Crappie also provide good fishing throughout the spring, summer and fall and are found in many of these same waters. However, the strength of the fishery can vary within in each water body from year to year so check with the local ODFW office for the latest information. Other panfish such as bluegill are more predictable and can be caught in most of the coastal and inland ponds, lakes, and reservoirs

More detailed information about these and other waters and how to fish them can be found in the Warmwater Fishing in Oregon brochures for the [South Coast](#) and [Southwest](#) areas.

To learn what's biting and where, check out the [ODFW Weekly Recreation Report](#). Each week our biologists update fishing conditions on rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and ponds throughout the state.

**Applegate Reservoir:** Applegate Reservoir is a large impoundment on the Applegate River south of Jacksonville near the California state line. It offers good fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass, as well as rainbow trout. Spring

Chinook salmon are also stocked in the reservoir to supplement the trout fishery and count as part of the trout bag limit

Although Applegate will not fill this year, plenty of fishing opportunity remains. The first release of legal-sized rainbow trout for the year occurs in late April. More rainbows, including some larger fish, will be stocked in late May. These fish, along with some holdovers from last year should provide good fishing throughout the spring and summer. Bank anglers can do well fishing bait from access points at French Gulch, Squaw Creek Arm, Hart-Tish Park, Copper, Carberry Creek and Seattle Bar. Anglers with boats catch fish trolling lures or attractor/bait combinations, or wind-drifting with flies. Anglers targeting the Chinook usually fish deeper than those fishing for rainbow.

Bass fishing picks up with warmer weather. Look for largemouth bass in the shallow bays and around the willows and other woody structure. The more abundant smallmouth can be found along the rocky shores and points.

The availability of the boat ramps change with reservoir levels and seasons. The French Gulch and Copper boat ramps are open. Hart-Tish Park boat ramp and campground will be open from Friday April 24 through Monday April 27, and then will re-open for the season on May 1. Because of lower than normal water levels in the reservoir, the Hart-tish and Copper ramps may no longer be usable after late July. Information about the Hart-Tish boat ramp can be obtained by calling 541-899-9220. Daily reservoir level in feet above sea level can be obtained by calling 1-800-472-2434.

Anglers should be aware that a health advisory has been issued recommending limits on consumption of bass, yellow perch and panfish from Applegate. Information on the Applegate Reservoir advisory, along with general information on mercury and fish can be found on the OHA website at [www.healthoregon.org/fishadv](http://www.healthoregon.org/fishadv).

**Applegate River:** The river is closed to fishing in the spring to protect out-migrating salmon and steelhead smolts, but re-opens for adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout May 23. Two adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout may be kept per day, 8-inch minimum length. Non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be released unharmed. The use of bait is allowed.

The river also offers one of the best opportunities in the area to catch winter steelhead on a fly Jan. 1 – March 31. Swinging traditional steelhead flies and dead-drifting nymph patterns both work well. Fly anglers will find the best conditions when flows are below 800 cfs, but the river can be fishable at higher flows as well. Flow information can be obtained online at the [USGS Wilderville Gauge](#).

The main stem Applegate upstream to Applegate Dam is open to fishing for adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) steelhead from Jan. 1 through March 31. The first winter steelhead are typically caught in the lower river starting in mid-January, with the fishery peaking from mid-February through the end of the season on March 31. Fishing in March can be excellent. Because the Applegate River is smaller than neighboring rivers, it offers good opportunities for wading anglers. Well-defined holes and runs, and a gravel bottom make it easier to fish.

Drifting bait and casting spoons also are popular winter steelhead techniques.

No fishing is allowed from a floating device, but anglers can use small rafts or pontoon boats to access more water. The Applegate River begins in northern California and flows generally northwest to join the Rogue River west of Grants Pass. Much of the river is in private ownership, so anglers must use caution and always avoid trespassing. The National Forest lands on the upper river, Cantrall Buckley Park, Jackson Campground and Fish Hatchery Park are prime fishing sites.

**Agate Lake:** Agate Lake is a fairly shallow irrigation reservoir located off of Hwy 140 a short drive northeast of Medford. Because of its low elevation, fishing picks up here pretty early in the season with good fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie and brown bullhead. The reservoir will likely drop to very low levels in late summer similar to what happened in 2014. Jackson County maintains an improved boat ramp on the lake, plus there is plenty of good access for bank fishing.

**Arizona Pond (Youth Only):** Located in the Arizona Beach State Recreation Area, half way between Gold Beach and Port Orford, Arizona Pond is an excellent place to take the kids fishing. ODFW stocks the lake from late February to the middle of summer with trout up to 4 pounds. Fishing should be good all spring and into summer. Fishing is limited to anglers ages 17 and under.

**Big Butte Creek** above Cobleigh Bridge and **Little Butte Creek** above the forks: Open to trout fishing May 23. Fishing is restricted to flies and lures only in both streams. Anglers may keep two trout per day, 8-inch minimum length in Big Butte Creek, while catch-and-release rules apply to Little Butte Creek. Both streams are closed to fishing for salmon and steelhead. There is no limit on brook trout in the headwaters of both streams.

Big Butte Creek flows past the town of Butte Falls and access is primarily on private timber land, with some National Forest land in the headwaters. Little Butte Creek starts in the Cascade Mountains south of Hwy 140 near Fish Lake. The best access is on National Forest land reached by Forest Service Road 37.

**Burma and Dutch Herman Ponds:** These two old mining ponds are located on BLM land east of the community of Wolf Creek, and are stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout during the spring. The ponds will be stocked in late April. In addition to the trout, these ponds also offer fishing for largemouth bass and bluegill.

**Butterfield Lake:** Butterfield Lake is located about six miles north of Coos Bay, and just west of Hwy 101 in the Riley Ranch Campground operated by Coos County Parks. The lake has established populations of bluegill, largemouth bass and warmouth, and ODFW stocks the lake with legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout. An access road from the campground to the lake allows trout stocking trucks to reach the lake, and provides access for anglers to launch small boats and canoes. Fishing docks also provide angler access.

This is the only known waterbody in this Zone with warmouth, a scrappy little panfish that looks like a cross between a crappie and a bass.
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### **Chetco River**

TROUT: There is fair fishing for resident cutthroat trout in the early season, and for searuns in the late summer.

WINTER STEELHEAD: The Chetco hosts strong returns of both hatchery and wild winter steelhead.

It is the only non-Rogue River stream on the south coast with a hatchery program. ODFW has maintained a wild broodstock collection program on the Chetco River for more than 25 years, releasing up to 50,000 steelhead smolts annually. Releases occur at Social Security Bar, approximately 3 miles upriver from Hwy 101. It is a great fishery, but can be crowded at times.

The majority of the returning hatchery steelhead stay within the lower 8 miles of the river, providing a very good fishery from early December to March. The heaviest concentrations are around the mouth of the North Fork Chetco River up to Loeb State Park.

The Chetco River also has a tremendous wild steelhead population. Both runs return at the same time, and most fish are spawned out by mid-March. The wild fish generally move through the lower river during rain events, providing excellent fishing. The majority of wild fish spawn in the upper river and tributaries. Flows are a key factor in determining when to fish and what method to use. Anglers can keep an eye on the [Chetco River flows online](#). Bank anglers usually start plunking Spin-N-Glos around 9,000 cfs and drift boat anglers do best at 4,000 cfs and dropping. The Chetco is slow to muddy and clears quickly after a rain event.

ODFW has implemented an all angler donated winter steelhead broodstock program. This program allows anglers and commercial fishing guides to be an integral part in maintaining the hatchery program on the Chetco River. Anglers or guides interested in donating winter steelhead can contact the Gold Beach field office at 541-247-7605.

FALL CHINOOK: The Chinook salmon fishery starts in mid-October in the estuary and peaks in mid-November and ends by early December. Access to this fishery is really good. Anglers can fish from one of the many public gravel bars, launch a drift boat, or launch at an improved boat ramp at the Port of Brookings to fish the estuary. Anglers need to check regulations prior to heading out. There are new bobber and fly angling gear regulations that apply Sept. 1 through Nov. 3.

**Cooper Creek, Plat I and Ben Irving reservoirs, Loon Lake, Lake Marie and More:** Most local reservoirs and lakes have already been stocked this year although most will continue to receive additional trout through early June. Hemlock should be open and stocked for Memorial Day, but call the Forest Service for additional road and campground information at 541-957-3200. Only one trout over 20 inches may be kept per day at any of the lakes. The resort boat ramp at Loon Lake is already open and the BLM ramp will open near Memorial Day

In addition to trout, Cooper Creek, Plat I, Ben Irving and Loon Lake also offer good bass, bluegill and crappie fishing opportunity. Check out the Free Fishing Weekend events at Cooper Creek and Diamond Lake June 7 and then Galesville Reservoir and Lake Marie June 8. For Labor Day weekend, Cooper Creek, Ben Irving, Hemlock, Lake in the Woods, Lemolo Reservoir, Red Top and Lake Marie will be stocked with some extra trout for a fall fishery. Some of these lakes will receive "Labor Day Lunkers" which are trophy trout.

ODFW will host Free Fishing Weekend events at Cooper Creek Reservoir, Diamond Lake, Lake Marie, and Galesville Reservoir the weekend of June 6-7. Contact Greg Huchko in Roseburg at (541) 440-3353 for additional information.

### **Coos Bay and Coquille estuaries:**

**CRABBING AND CLAMMING:** Recreational crabbing is a popular family activity in the Coos Bay and the Coquille estuaries. Popular areas for crabbing from docks are the Bandon and Charleston marinas. For those with a boat, the inside of Coos Bay's North Spit, between Charleston and the BLM boat ramp produces lots of Dungeness and red rock crabs. Crabbing can be excellent in the fall, winter and early spring, but typically slows down in the estuaries during late spring and summer, as many crabs will become soft-shelled with the molt.

Numerous clam species such as gapers, cockles and butter clams are available on sand and mud flats of Coos Bay nearly year-round. Marine perch and rockfish species are caught in the bays around concentrations of pilings and rock formations, particularly in spring and early summer.

**FALL CHINOOK AND COHO:** Fall Chinook angling is the premier fishery in the Coos and Coquille estuaries each year. These salmon return to the lower estuaries in mid-August through late October, extending into November if fall rains come late. The fishery typically starts from the jetties at Charleston up to the city of Coos Bay in August and early September. As fall weather occurs, the fish move up the estuary to the head of tidewater, with bright fish continuing to come in through October. When heavy fall rains occur, the Chinook will leave tidewater for the spawning grounds, and the fishery wanes.

Popular boat fisheries in the Coos occur near the North Bend Airport, off the Boardwalk in downtown Coos Bay, in Marshfield Channel, and in the area near the mouth of Catching Slough. Most fish are caught by trolling plug-cut herring behind a flasher. Bank fishing is available on the Coos Bay Boardwalk, in lower Isthmus Slough near Eastside Boat Ramp upper Isthmus Slough off Highway 42, and at the mouth of Daniels Creek. Bank anglers cast spinners/spoons or suspend eggs and/or sand shrimp under a bobber.

Wild coho fisheries have occurred in the Coos and Coquille estuaries since 2009, under approval of NOAA and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. Open fisheries are still subject to annual approval, based on run forecasts and the ability to meet spawning escapement objectives. Although some anglers target coho salmon, many are caught incidentally to the popular fall Chinook fishery. Coho are usually in these estuaries in mid-September through mid-November, and also leave the open fishery areas when heavy rainfall occurs. Trolling plug-cut herring or a pink spinner will entice a coho to bite, and anglers also cast spinners/spoons.

### **Coos, Coquille and Tenmile basins:**

**TROUT:** Coos County streams open May 23 for trout fishing; the late stream opener is designed to protect out-migrating salmon and steelhead smolts, which are usually in the ocean or estuary by late spring. Trout regulations for open streams allow harvest of two fish per day, with an 8-inch minimum size. Note that some streams remain closed to all fishing. In streams above tidewater, fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures only from May 23-Aug 31. Native trout in area streams are primarily coastal cutthroat, although resident rainbow reside in some streams above South Fork Coquille Falls. Check regulations carefully for stream closures, gear

restrictions, catch-and-release areas, and season dates, and contact the Charleston Field Office at (541) 888-5515 if you have questions about regulations.

With a little exploration and hiking, streams on the Elliott State Forest provide excellent cutthroat trout fishing away from the crowds. Keep in mind that the bag limit is only two fish per day on these native fish that are not stocked.

In addition to the spring trout stocking, a few area lakes are usually stocked with "fall trout" which are some of the 9-inch "legal-sized" trout that are held at the hatchery and fed until October. At that time, they are usually 14 inches or greater in size. For 2015, due to a logistical issue at the hatchery, the Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile area lakes will not be stocking these fish as fall trout, but they were added to regular spring loads and stocked as "legals." The fall trout stocking should return in 2016.

**BASS, SHAD, and STURGEON:** Striped bass, shad and sturgeon are available for anglers in the spring. Green sturgeon are listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act, and must be released. This year's fishery for green or white sturgeon is catch and release only. Popular sturgeon fishing areas for the Coos estuary are near McCullough Bridge (where Hwy 101 crosses Coos Bay), Haynes Inlet (the northernmost arm of Coos Bay), and upriver near the confluence of the South Coos and Millicoma rivers (five miles east of the city of Coos Bay). A popular sturgeon fishing area on the Coquille River is near the Rocky Point Boat Ramp.

Shad will appear with warm, sunny weather in late May and into June. In general, shad are available in the Coquille river tidewater from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Popular shad fishing areas are near Sturdivant Park and near Johnson Mill Pond on the Coquille. Shad returns to the Coos and Coquille rivers have been low for the last four or five years.

Striped bass congregate to spawn in upper tidewater of the Coquille River in the late spring. The population of striped bass in the Coos Basin has been nearly non-existent in recent years. The striper bite is usually best at night. The bite typically slows down during the spawning period in late May and early June, but picks up again post-spawning. Surfperch anglers occasionally catch striped bass in the surf in early spring. The minimum length for harvesting striped bass is 24 inches.

Smallmouth bass were recently illegally introduced into the Coquille River Basin. Most of the smallmouth bass are under 12-inches long but there are a few fish 14-inches or bigger. There are no limits on smallmouth or largemouth bass in the Coquille River Basin. The majority of the smallmouth bass are in the South Fork and mainstem Coquille River.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** The winter steelhead season in the Coos and Coquille basins typically begins around Thanksgiving with peak harvest from late December to late February. In some years, steelhead can be available into April.

In the South Coos River, the best hatchery steelhead fishing is in the lowest five miles above the head of tidewater (located at Weyerhaeuser's Dellwood Log Camp). The Big Creek Acclimation Site, also known as the "Fivemile Hole," at milepost 5 is a good place to target adult steelhead returning to the area where they were released as smolts. Above milepost 6, most winter steelhead hooked will be unmarked and

must be released, but you can occasionally find a fin-clipped steelhead for harvest. Access to the South Coos River above the Dellwood Gate is by permit from Weyerhaeuser Company, and is subject to their rules. Anglers should call the Weyerhaeuser hotline number at 1-888-741-5403 for recorded information on access and permits. Fishing access permits can be obtained at Weyerhaeuser's Dellwood office.

Excellent steelhead bank fishing opportunities are available on both the East and West forks of the Millicoma River system.

On the East Fork Millicoma, bank access is available in Coos County's Nesika Park, with several excellent fishing holes and drifts from which to choose. On the West Fork, public access is available at ODFW's Millicoma Interpretive Center (MIC), about nine miles upriver from Allegany. Located on lands administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry, the banks at MIC and for several miles upstream provide excellent steelhead fishing opportunities. The ponds at MIC are used for acclimation of steelhead smolts, so adult fish are drawn back to this area.

Limited boat fishing for steelhead occurs on the East and West Fork Millicoma. There are no developed ramps on either fork, but primitive slides do exist here. Both forks have bedrock and boulder areas that make for difficult boating when flows are low.

There are river gauging stations on the South Fork Coos along with the East and West Fork Millicoma rivers that steelhead anglers can use to look at river levels before they leave home. River levels are updated approximately every 15 minutes onto the [Coos Watershed Association's website](#).

Prime steelhead fishing is available in the major forks of the Coquille River—namely the South, North and East forks. Hatchery steelhead smolts are acclimated and released in areas where angler access and harvest success is good. The South Fork of the Coquille River upstream of the Forest Service boundary is closed to all fishing to protect spawning and rearing steelhead.

The South Fork is the largest of the three forks, and provides good access for boat and bank fishing.

Steelhead smolts are released from acclimation sites at the mouth of Beaver and Woodward creeks below Powers, so adult steelhead are attracted back to these spots. The South Fork between Myrtle Point and Powers is a great area to target these returning fish.

Drift boat launches are located at the mouth of Beaver Creek, at the confluence of the Middle and South forks, and several points in-between. Beaver Creek, Baker Creek, Myrtle Grove State Park and Powers Memorial State Park provide access to popular bank fishing holes.

On the North and East forks of the Coquille River, most fishing is from the bank, although limited drift boating occurs in a few places.

On the North Fork, the most popular steelhead holes are located in Laverne County Park. An acclimation site is located here, so hatchery returns to the area are plentiful.

As an action of the recently-completed Coastal, Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, the smolt releases into the East Fork Coquille River were shifted to the North Fork at Laverne Park, nearly doubling that release. The East Fork will still have returning hatchery steelhead for a few years, but after 2017, it will be designated as a "wild fish emphasis area."

The Middle Fork Coquille River has no hatchery steelhead releases. This river, characterized by boulder and "pocket water", is a spawning and rearing area for wild steelhead. While their presence is very low, adipose fin-clipped steelhead are legal to harvest in the Middle Fork. There are a few public sites along the Middle Fork because most land is privately owned.

River gage information for the South Fork Coquille River at Powers is available [here](#).

Winter steelhead usually do not make their first appearance in the Tenmile Basin until late-December or early January, depending on rainfall.

Steelhead fishing access is available at the Forest Service's Spinreel Park, just west of Hwy 101. Spinreel Park has a small boat ramp where anglers can launch a drift boat or small boat with a motor. This area is popular with bank anglers that plunk or drift eggs. The Forest Service charges a fee for day use in the park. Steelhead smolts are acclimated and released at the mouth of Saunders Creek in Spinreel Park, in Tenmile Creek near Hwy 101, and at the outlet to Eel Lake. Adult hatchery steelhead are drawn back to these areas and provide for excellent catch rates. Steelhead fishing is open in Eel Creek (below Eel Lake) from Jan. 1 through April 30.

Lower Tenmile Creek is an interesting water body to fish for winter steelhead. Consisting of mostly sand bottom, it has a different "feel" than rivers with a gravel bottom. It can be difficult to locate holding fish in this creek, as it does not exhibit the typical pool-riffle pattern like other rivers.

Fishing lower Tenmile Creek downstream of Spinreel Park begins with a hike through the dunes, and offers a unique steelhead fishing experience. With the big lakes acting as a settling basin, Tenmile Creek is often fishable when other area rivers are muddy following heavy rainstorms.

TENMILE COHO: Wild coho fisheries have occurred in the Tenmile Lakes since 2009, under approval of NOAA and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. Along with Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes, Tenmile offers a unique coho fishery in a lake environment. For Tenmile, open fisheries are still subject to annual approval, based on run forecasts and the ability to meet spawning escapement objectives. Coho are usually caught here by casting pink spinners or spoons in the upper ends of the lake arms, near where tributary streams enter the lake. The tributaries are closed to coho angling, as are the canal between the two lakes and Tenmile Creek below the south lake.

**Coos County Lakes and Ponds (Powers and Johnson ponds, Bradley, Middle and Lower Empire, Saunders, Butterfield, Bluebill, Eel, Sru, and North and South Tenmile lakes):** These public lakes are open the entire year, and are stocked with legal-sized trout (8-9 inches) from March to early June. The early June stocking is just prior to Family Fishing events held at Eel Lake and Powers Pond.

Empire Lakes (in Coos Bay), Bradley Lake (three miles south of Bandon, off Hwy. 101), Powers Pond (south Coos County in the town of Powers), and Johnson Pond (three miles south of Coquille) are also stocked with two-pound and larger trophy rainbow trout in the springtime. Native cutthroat trout as well as stocked rainbow trout are found in Eel Lake and the Tenmile Lakes (just off Hwy 101, near Lakeside), and these lakes produce fair numbers of holdover hatchery rainbow trout in the 17 to 20-inch range.

In Eel and Tenmile lakes, from May 1 to Oct. 31, rainbow trout over 20 inches are considered trout, and may be harvested one fish per day, in accordance with Southwest Zone regulations. They do not need to be fin-clipped to harvest during this "trout" fishing period, nor do they need to be recorded on a tag. This regulation allows harvest of some large "holdover" rainbow trout from the ODFW stocking program. During the period when wild steelhead are passing through the lakes on their way to spawning grounds (Nov. 1 to April 30), the regulations help protect these unmarked fish from harvest.

Trout fishing from a boat in Tenmile Lakes has been excellent the past few years from late April to mid-June. Anglers have had the best success catching trout (both stocked rainbow trout and wild cutthroat trout) by trolling "wedding rings" tipped with a nightcrawler. Popular areas of the lake to troll are Shutter Creek Arm and Coleman Arm in South Tenmile Lake and in the lower main part of North Lake.

North and South Tenmile Lakes and Eel Lake are open from Nov. 1 through April 30 each year for harvest of adipose fin-clipped steelhead; however, steelhead are primarily in the lakes from January through April. Some anglers troll the upper ends of the lake arms for steelhead.

ODFW will host a Free Fishing Weekend event at Tugman Park on Eel Lake on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Tom Rumreich at (541) 888-5515 for more information.

For 2015, the US Forest Service/Powers Ranger District will hold their annual Kids' Fishing Derby on May 30. Several groups, including ODFW, will have activity stations at this event, where kids can learn angling skills or make a watershed-related craft.

Hall and Schuttpelz lakes provide a non-stocked trout fishery for wild coastal cutthroat trout. During fish surveys, ODFW fish biologists have sampled cutthroat trout up to 16-inches in these lakes. Schuttpelz Lake is restricted to catch-and-release for trout using artificial flies and lures. Hall Lake is open to harvest of trout and the use of bait. Hall Lake also has a population of small-sized largemouth bass. Hall and Schuttpelz lakes are small coastal dune lakes located right on the border of Coos and Douglas counties. There is a day use area at Hall Lake and a trail from the day use area that leads to Schuttpelz Lake.

Eel Lake, Tenmile Lakes, Saunders Lake, and numerous other small lakes in Coos County support populations of largemouth bass.

The Tenmile Lakes provide one of Oregon's premier largemouth bass fisheries. Numerous competitive bass tournaments are held there each season, and bass exceeding six pounds are weighed-in each year.

Camping, motels, parks, boating facilities and businesses are located in and around the town of Lakeside, on the shores of Tenmile Lakes. Anglers are reminded that a regulation in effect for Tenmile Lakes requires the release of largemouth bass 15 inches or larger.

Johnson Pond, Saunders Lake (five miles north of North Bend, alongside Hwy 101), Powers Pond, Beale Lake, Eel Lake, Horsefall Lake and a plethora of dune lakes within the U.S. Forest Service's "Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area" (on the north side of Coos Bay) also have a mix of warmwater fish available in the spring and summer. Some of the more obscure lakes in the dunes are only accessible by foot or ATV trail.

Access to Sru Lake in the National Forest above Powers is typically limited during the early spring by snow. The road to Sru Lake is usually accessible by late April. This is also the time of year when the lake is stocked with legal-size rainbows. Check with the US Forest Service's Powers Ranger District Office prior to attempting a trip to Sru Lake.

The public parks located on South Tenmile, Eel, and Saunders lakes provide ample access for beginning anglers. Fishing can be done from the bank, or from fishing docks identified with signs at these locations.

Bluegill and yellow perch are popular targets for both beginning and experienced anglers, especially when fishing with kids who like plenty of action. These species tend to be relatively abundant where they are found, and are often found in schools. Bluegills are abundant in Powers and Johnson Mill ponds and the Empire Lakes. These water bodies can be extremely weedy in the summer, making fishing difficult. There are also a few very large bluegills in Butterfield Lake.

North and South Tenmile lakes and Saunders Lake have good populations of yellow perch. Most of the yellow perch anglers will catch are less than 8-inches but anglers have caught perch as large as 14-inches. Yellow perch are excellent to eat and there is no daily bag limit on them. When over-abundant, yellow perch can be detrimental to other fish species.

Equipment for these warmwater species can be as simple as a piece of worm on a hook fished below a bobber and split shot. They can also be caught with a tiny jig tipped with a small piece of worm or other bait to entice the bite. Brown bullhead catfish feed closer to the bottom, and can be taken with night crawlers fished on the bottom using a sliding egg-shaped sinker.

The Empire Lakes and Mingus Park Pond in the city of Coos Bay provide an "urban" trout fishery, but in a park-like setting. These lakes are stocked with rainbow trout to provide fish for youth and family-oriented fishing opportunities. The Empire Lakes are heavily stocked with legal-sized trout and a few loads of trophy trout each year. These lakes have low to moderate populations of warmwater fish such as bluegill, yellow perch and largemouth bass. Anglers have been known to catch 5 pound largemouth bass in Lower Empire Lake.

ODFW will host a free Family Fishing Event on July 4 at Mingus Park Pond from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Tom Rumreich at (541) 888-5515 for more information.

**Curry County Streams:** Most Curry County streams are open May 23 for trout fishing. Exceptions are Hunter, Brush, Hubbard, Mussell/Myrtle, Myers and Thomas creeks, which remain closed to trout fishing. Where open for trout, the daily bag limit is two trout at least 8-inches long.

**Denman Wildlife Area Ponds:** The Kenneth Denman Wildlife Management Area, situated conveniently near Medford, Central Point and White City, offers very good fishing for a variety of warmwater species in ponds found throughout the property. Whetstone Pond, adjacent to the Rogue Watershed District office, is the largest pond. Anglers at Whetstone target largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie and brown bullhead. Carp are also present, and green sunfish are found in some of the ponds. Good bank fishing is available, and boats with electric motors are permitted.

A variety of fishing techniques can be effective. A simple technique is to fish a size 10, 12 or 14 hook baited with worms below a bobber. Casting small lures and jigs is also effective. Largemouth bass will strike surface or shallow running lures fished around cover as the water warms in the spring. Information and a map of all the ponds on the Wildlife Management Area are available at the Rogue Watershed District office of ODFW at 541-826-8774.

A parking permit is required on the Deman Wildlife Area. Go to the ODFW website for [more information](#).

**Diamond Lake:** Diamond Lake is now open year-round. Angers need to use care in deciding whether or not the ice is safe. The snowpack was relatively low this winter, and March had a lot of warm days, so the lake may have ice off by mid-April. For additional water or fishing conditions call the resort at 1-800-733-7593 and for road and campground information call the Forest Service at 541-498-2531.

The lake will start the fishing season this spring with an increased number of trout. Most of these will be 10 to 12-inches long and many will be over 16-inches. There may be a few sub-legal sized fish from the 20,000 that were placed in the lake during November 2013. The bag limit on Diamond Lake is 8 trout per day. Remember that only one trout over 20 inches can be harvested per day. Last year angling success dropped to 1.1 fish per angler when people were fishing on the 166,000 fingerlings that were stocked in 2012. ODFW stocked additional legal-sized trout in August, then sublegal trout late in November 2013 to improve the fishing success for 2014. ODFW will also increase its stocking from less than 200,000 fingerlings to 275,000. This should increase angler success. These fish will be stocked about six weeks after ice off. Many of these will be legal-sized by late-August.

Bank anglers at Diamond Lake are successful with PowerBait, worms and a variety of lures. Boat anglers tend to troll Ford Fenders, spinners, or anchor and plunk. Fly fishing is also growing in popularity at Diamond Lake. Many of the flyfishing anglers are using small, inflatable pontoon boats to access the water.

**No live fish** can be used as bait at Diamond Lake or any fresh water lake or stream. Penalties for the use of/or release of invasive species has increased dramatically and more invasive species checks will be conducted statewide.

There will be a Free Fishing Weekend event on Diamond Lake on June 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kids can look forward to some great prizes to go along with some great fishing. Call Greg Huchko at (541) 440-3353 for more information.

**Elk River:** The Elk has excellent wild winter steelhead and fall Chinook runs that are best fished from a boat. The river does not have a steelhead hatchery program, but anglers can expect to catch some stray adipose fin-clipped steelhead. ODFW does maintain a fall Chinook program with an annual release of 325,000 smolts. Chinook start entering the river in early November and peak mid-December. Elk River fishes best at 5.0 feet and dropping. Anglers can call (541)332-0405 for daily gauge heights and water clarity. Limited bank fishing is available because the majority of land along the river is private property. Most drift boaters put in at Elk River Hatchery and float approximately nine miles to Ironhead boat ramp; both are ODFW properties. Boat anglers side drift eggs, fly fish or run plugs.

Elk River is slow to muddy during rain events, and clears quickly.

**Emigrant Lake:** Emigrant Lake, located southeast of Ashland, has already been stocked this spring with good numbers of legal-sized rainbow trout. The reservoir is 85% full as of late April. One challenge for anglers this spring will be high turbidity levels that persist in the water, left over from some of the larger storms of this past winter. Bait fishing will likely produce the best results while the water is muddy, or the use of lures that rattle/vibrate. Flasher and bait combinations may produce as well.

Fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, black crappie and brown bullheads will improve with warmer weather. Anglers should target these fish around the flooded willows, along the face of the dam and dike structures, and along the rocky points and ledges. For panfish, use a size 10, 12 or 14 hook baited with worms below a bobber. Casting small lures and jigs is also effective. Bass will strike a variety of lures and soft plastic baits fished around the cover.

Emigrant is within biking distance from Ashland, and is a short drive for most Rogue Valley residents. The combination of good numbers of panfish, full facilities at the county park, and a water slide makes Emigrant a great site for a family outing. Anglers should be aware that a health advisory has been issued recommending limits on consumption of all fish from Emigrant except rainbow trout. Information on the Emigrant Reservoir advisory, along with general information on mercury and fish can be found on the DHS website at [www.healthoregon.org/fishadv](http://www.healthoregon.org/fishadv).

**Euchre Creek:** Like all south coast streams, this small creek about 20 miles south of Port Orford has a good wild steelhead run. Bank access to Euchre Creek is all through private property, but bank anglers who ask are generally allowed access to fish. This creek is too small and brushy for boats. Most anglers use roe, cast spinners or fly fish. The creek has a large cutthroat population, but is challenging to fish with all the over-hanging vegetation.

**Expo Pond and Reinhart Park Pond:** These urban ponds offer an excellent family fishing opportunity in the communities of Central Point and Grants Pass. Both ponds are stocked with rainbow trout throughout the spring, and provide good fishing for bass and panfish in the spring, summer, and fall. Expo Pond is located immediately adjacent to the access road at Gate 5 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. Reinhart

Park Pond is located at Reinhart Park in Grants Pass. Fishing bait, either from a bobber or on the bottom with weight, can be very effective.

A fishing derby to benefit the Disabilities Recreation Project is planned for Expo Pond on Saturday, May 16. The \$15 entry fee helps fund work to create accessible fishing areas around the Rogue Valley. For information on the tournament and to sign up check <http://www.drpic.org/>. Some large trout from Cole Rivers Hatchery will be stocked for this event.

**Fish Lake:** Located near the summit of Hwy 140 between Medford and Klamath Falls, Fish Lake has an improved boat ramp, two Forest Service campgrounds, and a resort with cabins, boat rentals and a restaurant. The Forest Service campground should be open by May 1; all other facilities are open. Trout fishing should be good for both bank and boat anglers using bait, lures or flies. Fish Lake is heavily stocked each year with legal-sized rainbow trout. Brook trout are also available.

Illegally introduced tui chub and fathead minnows compete with the rainbow and brook trout in Fish Lake reducing their growth rate. In an attempt to improve the quality of the fishing, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been stocking predatory fish that hopefully will grow large feeding on the chubs and minnows. Chinook salmon have been released annually since 2009 and are now contributing to the trout fishery.

Tiger trout, a hybrid between a brook and a brown trout, were released into the lake in recent years. These fish have created very popular trophy trout fisheries in other states. Fish Lake and Philips Reservoir (near Baker City) are the only lakes in Oregon to be stocked with tiger trout, and at Fish Lake fish to 18 inches have been caught. All tiger trout caught must be released immediately back into the lake unharmed.

Bait fishing with worms and floating bait is effective at Fish Lake, and is probably the best bet during the summer. The bank between the two campgrounds is a good place for youngsters to fish. Trollers can do very well at Fish Lake in the spring, fishing flies, lures and small spoons or spinners. Fish Lake will not fill this year, but the boat ramp should be usable through mid-summer. Inflatables and small craft can be launched summer and fall.

The Fish Lake Resort can be reached at 541-949-8500.

**Floras Lake:** Floras Lake is located near Langlois and is stocked in late April with some trophy trout and 5,000 catchable trout. Trout fishing can be good through the spring before weed growth and water temperatures get too high. The lake does have a small number of bass. The best way to fish the lake is in a boat as there is very little shore access. The boat ramp is located at Boice Cope County Park. Anglers should keep an eye on the weather as it can be very windy.

**Floras Creek:** The creek has an excellent winter steelhead run as well as good returns of fall Chinook. Trout fishing can be very good in the creek, with the New River section one of the best. However, both bank and boat access are very limited due to private land. Floras Creek muddies quickly, clears slowly.

**Galesville Reservoir:** This 600-acre reservoir is stocked annually with 8,000 legal-sized trout. The lake also has warmwater fishing for bass, crappie and bluegill. Bass between 12 and 15-inches must be released, and only one bass over 15-inches can

be kept. The reservoir is also periodically stocked with coho smolts. These coho have typically grown to 11 to 14-inches and tend to bite even when warm weather slows down other fishing opportunities. Although the coho are adipose fin-clipped, many people mistakenly think these fish are kokanee. The reservoir now has a campground below the boat ramp which is operated by Douglas County.

**Garrison Lake:** Garrison Lake is located in Port Orford and is stocked several times in the spring with trophy and catchable trout. The lake also has cutthroat and holdover trout. Fishing can be really good through May for trout, but warmer water and aquatic weeds make for tough fishing through the summer months. There is a small number of bass in the lake. The best way to fish the lake is by boat, but bank fishing can be good off the fishing pier on 12<sup>th</sup> street, Arizona Road, or from the foredune. Boat ramps are located on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Pinehurst Roads. Anglers should keep an eye on the weather and target the lake when winds are light.

**Howard Prairie Reservoir:** Howard Prairie, located in the mountains east of Ashland, opens for fishing on April 25. It provides good fishing opportunities for stocked rainbow trout and bass. Brown bullheads and pumpkinseed sunfish are also available.

ODFW stocked good numbers of trout in Howard Prairie last fall and even more fish were stocked in spring 2015. Over 20,000 legal-sized rainbow trout and 600 two pound fish have been stocked by ODFW for opening weekend anglers. Fishing is expected to be good in the spring and early summer despite lower than normal water levels.

ODFW has been releasing larger-size rainbow trout fingerlings in the fall to maintain the trout fishery. These larger-size fingerlings take advantage of the natural food production in the reservoir to become quality trout in good condition. The fall fingerling are reared to 6-7 inches in length, compared to the 2 to 3-inch long spring fingerling that supported the fishery at Howard Prairie for years. Both the size and timing of the release should reduce the risk of predation. Fishing for rainbow trout has improved with the new stocking practices and large trout have often been caught over the last few seasons.

Both boat and bank anglers do well at Howard Prairie. Floating baits are popular, while boat anglers trolling flasher and worm, or lure combinations usually do well for trout. But anglers will want to fish early in the year for the best access to fish and the best fishing conditions.

Howard Prairie is lower than it was at this time last year. The only improved boat ramp available to anglers is the ramp at the resort. It is expected to have about 3 feet of water on the ramp for the opener, so launching larger boats may not be possible. As the water level drops for irrigation a rocked road near the resort will continue to offer some launching ability for small boats.

The marina is dry and boat rentals will not be available.

Contact Jackson County Parks at 541-774-8183 for additional information on facilities and campgrounds.

**Hyatt Lake:** Hyatt Lake, located east of Ashland near Howard Prairie Reservoir, also opens for fishing on April 25.

The story line for Hyatt in 2015 is low water. Hyatt is a lower than it was at this time last year, and it will again reach very low water levels this year.

Low water levels mean poor access for boat anglers. The Main ramp at Hyatt Campground is dry and will not be usable this year. The Mountain View ramp has only 8 inches of water depth to start the fishing season. So large boats will not be able to launch at Hyatt this year. The unimproved ramp at Wildcat Campground should provide access for a time this spring for small boats. BLM campgrounds will not open until May 16, so Wildcat will not be available to boats until that date.

Even as the reservoir drops this summer, there is plenty of bank access and inflatable boats, kayaks and canoes can be launched from shore. Bank anglers did very well on bass near the in last summer and fall, and trout were caught as well.

Anglers are encouraged to catch and release largemouth over 12-15 inches in length to ensure that these large fish survive the low water. Smaller bass are available for harvest.

No rainbow trout were stocked at Hyatt last fall due to low water, and fish released in the spring did not survive. Approximately 5,000 legal-sized trout have been stocked for opening weekend 2015, and some larger holdover trout should still be available.

**Illinois River:** The Illinois is closed to all fishing April 1 – May 23 to protect out-migrating salmon and steelhead smolts. The Illinois River below Pomeroy Dam opens to steelhead and adipose fin-clipped trout on May 23. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures, and no bait is allowed. The fishery at this time of year is primarily a catch-and-release fishery. Adipose fin-clipped steelhead and rainbow trout, which are actually half-pounder steelhead, can at times be caught in the lower Illinois during the summer and fall.

The Illinois River provides an excellent opportunity to fish for wild winter steelhead from December through March, with the fishery peaking in January and February.

With its clear water, outstanding scenery, and big fish, the Illinois River is a good destination for anglers seeking a quality fishing experience.

The Illinois River flows out of California into the Illinois Valley, before entering a long canyon leading to the Rogue River at Agness. In the Illinois Valley, private land limits access to the river. In the canyon, most of the land is publicly-owned. Except for the lower three miles, between Oak Flat and the mouth, a lack of developed access points and technical whitewater limit fishing opportunities from a boat. In addition, topography in the canyon makes access to the river difficult in most places, but this also keeps the fishing pressure down.

Anglers willing to make the effort can usually have a beautiful section of river to themselves. The river is full of boulders and ledges that make drift fishing difficult in many places, so casting flies and lures are popular fishing methods. Due to the local geology, the flow in the Illinois can increase rapidly during a storm; however, the river drops and clears quickly afterward.

Fishing in the Illinois River is restricted to artificial flies and lures. Above Klondike Creek anglers may harvest non-adipose fin-clipped (wild) steelhead at least 24 inches in length, one per day and five per year, as part of the steelhead/salmon catch limit. Below Klondike Creek anglers may only keep adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) steelhead, which occasionally stray into the Illinois River from the Rogue. The river above Pomeroy Dam (near Cave Junction) and all tributaries are closed to fishing to protect spawning salmon and steelhead.

**Laird Lake:** This lake is located north of Port Orford, approximately 30 miles up Elk River Road. The lake is stocked with several hundred legal-sized trout and some trophy trout in late spring. The lake is full of downed wood and bank access is somewhat limited. A small pram or float tube can be a very effective way to fish the lake. Elk River Hatchery is located on the road to Laird Lake and makes a good place to stop and take a tour.

**Lake Selmac:** The largest standing water body in Josephine County, Lake Selmac is heavily stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout from February through June. The lake is also a renowned producer of largemouth bass, and is managed for trophy bass through a one bass per day limit. Bluegill, black crappie and brown bullhead are also available. Fish for trout near the dam as the water warms. Look for largemouth bass around the stumps and overhanging brush, and for black crappie and bluegill fish from piers and dikes. Fish close to shore at Lake Selmac; it is easy to cast too far and miss the bulk of the fish.

All lake-fishing techniques can be effective. Trout anglers use floating bait or worms with a weight about 2 feet above the hook, cast and retrieve lures or flies, or troll with lures and flies from a boat. A simple technique for panfish, is to use a size 10, 12 or 14 hook baited with worms below a bobber. Casting small lures and jigs is also effective. Largemouth bass will strike surface or shallow running lures fished around cover as the water warms in the spring. During hot weather largemouth bass seek deeper, cooler water, so use leadhead jigs, plastic worms and deep running plugs.

Bank access, boat ramps and camping facilities are available through Josephine County Parks at 541-474-5285. Beginning around mid-April each year, boat rentals are available at the Lake Selmac Resort at 541-597-2277.

**Lemolo Reservoir:** Lemolo has a naturally reproducing brown trout population that offers some excellent brown trout fishing in the spring and fall. Ten pound brown trout have been caught at Lemolo. Anglers are reminded that Lemolo is a reservoir that is drawn down during the winter time. This can cause precarious ice conditions. The best spring fishing will be along the shoreline where there is open water. The lake will also be stocked with over 5,000 trout this spring and is scheduled to receive additional trout this fall.

Lemolo has a new regulation that will allow it to open April 1 for catch-and-release for brown trout and a 5 per day harvest for other trout species. Starting April 27 through Oct. 31 will be the normal 5 per day limit for all trout species. Lemolo will then go back to catch-and-release for brown trout Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 and 5 per day harvest for other trout.

Lemolo has several Forest Service campgrounds along its shores plus Lemolo Lake Resort which offers lodging, camping and food. The area is accessible to both boat and bank anglers. For information about roads and campgrounds, call the Forest

Service at 541-498-2531. Call Lemolo Lake Resort at 541-957-8354 for information on conditions, fishing and their facilities.

**Libby Pond:** Libby Pond is located approximately 8 miles up the North Bank Rogue River Road and will be stocked prior to Free Fishing Weekend June 7-8 with 5,000 legal-sized trout and some trophy trout. Anglers are reminded that Libby Pond is private and no boats are allowed.

**Lost Creek Reservoir:** Lost Creek Reservoir, a large impoundment on the Rogue River above Shady Cove, is heavily stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout and offers very good trout fishing only a 45 minute drive from the Medford area. Throughout the summer months, smallmouth and largemouth bass provide an important fishery at the reservoir. Casting jigs along the northern shoreline can be very effective for good-sized smallmouth bass.

Lost Creek has basically been full since about mid-April, and will offer some of the best conditions for fishing in the Rogue watershed.
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Trout anglers fishing from the bank primarily use floating bait or worms. Boat anglers use a wide variety of techniques. Trollers often fish wedding ring and night crawler combinations behind a weight, while fly anglers can have success both trolling and casting. Juvenile spring Chinook are also stocked at Lost Creek for the fishery.

Fishing for bass and panfish will improve with warmer weather. Largemouth bass are contributing more to the fishery at Lost Creek due to ongoing transfers from other lakes. With the help of volunteers from local bass clubs, ODFW has released close to 10,000 largemouth bass into Lost Creek Reservoir over the past several years.

**Medco Pond:** An old log pond situated along the Butte Falls—Prospect Hwy, Medco Pond is stocked with rainbow trout in April and May. Some trout are now stocked each fall to provide an early season fishery for anglers. The pond has good bank access and small watercraft can be launched from the shore. Still-fishing with bait is the most popular technique here, but anglers can cast and troll lures as well.

The pond also contains good populations of largemouth bass and bluegill. The bluegill respond well to bait suspended below a bobble, while the bass can be tempted with lures and soft plastic baits.

**Pistol River:** The river has very good runs of winter steelhead and fall Chinook. Steelhead enter from late December thru March and fall Chinook run starts in early November. The river muddies quickly during rain events and is slow to clear. Most anglers use roe, cast spinners or fly fish. Bank and boat access is limited.

Cutthroat trout fishing can be excellent from mid to late summer.

Access is limited by private property and anglers are reminded to ask first before entering private property. Only the lower 4-5 miles is floatable. The best access for bank anglers is around the mouth of Deep Creek and the South Fork.

## **Rogue River Basin**

Anglers will find some of the best fishing spots in *50 Places to go fishing within 60 minutes of Medford* publication. The publication is available on-line and at ODFW offices. An associated Google map with locations and directions also is available on-line.

The Rogue River offers fishing opportunities nearly every month of the year.

Winter steelhead migrate up the Rogue from December through May, followed by summer steelhead from June through November. A strong run of wild winter steelhead is supplemented by releases of hatchery fish in the Rogue and Applegate rivers. Winter steelhead provide a popular fishery on the Rogue River, but do not draw the huge crowds like spring Chinook; therefore, anglers can enjoy a little more elbow room. Given the diversity of the rivers within the Rogue Basin, anglers can find water suitable for whatever fishing technique they enjoy.

Returns of winter steelhead to the Rogue River and its tributaries are expected to be good this winter. Hatchery returns are up through early April at Cole Rivers Hatchery, adding to the fishery opportunity.

Several dams have been removed within the Rogue Basin over the last several years. Savage Rapids, Gold Hill and Gold Ray dams were taken out of the main stem Rogue River. This has greatly improved conditions for all of the Rogue's native species. For anglers, this means more fishable water. In the areas once impounded by the dams there are now new riffles and runs – prime fishing water for winter steelhead. The dam removals also have reduced migratory delay and stress on fish, and improved chances for successful spawning and the likelihood of solid runs in years to come.

Even when winter freshets create high flows and turbid water, anglers can typically still find fishable water on the Rogue between Cole Rivers Hatchery and Big Butte Creek, where the clear outflow from Lost Creek Reservoir makes up most of the river's flow. Following a freshet, the Illinois River clears more quickly than the Rogue or Applegate Rivers.

### **Rogue River, lower**

**CHINOOK:** Anglers are focused primarily on spring Chinook in April, May and June from the mouth upstream to Foster Bar, approximately 40 miles. Fall Chinook fishing starts in late July and can be good well into October. The Chinook bag limits change back to zone regulations June 1 from the mouth upstream to Hog Creek. Flows and water temperatures affect spring Chinook fishing success the most. Anglers will want to keep an eye on current river conditions before deciding when and where to fish.

Anglers fishing either off the bank or from a jet boat can do equally as well, depending on the flow. Bank anglers will do the best when flows are around 10,000 cfs and dropping, while boat anglers do best when flows get down around 7000-8000 cfs and dropping at Agness. (Rogue River flows)

**SUMMER STEELHEAD:** An early run of summer steelhead usually enters the river the latter part of May and early June.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** Winter steelhead fishing kicks off around Thanksgiving, but really picks up in mid-December. The steelhead run will usually peak sometime in late January, but steelhead will enter thru March or early April. Regulations for the

lower Rogue River change on Jan. 1 each year and anglers should review the regulations before heading out.

Plunking a Spin-N-Glo is the technique of choice for bank anglers. Steelhead in the lower river all migrate on the inside bends of the river in about two to four feet of water. Anglers new to the fishery can easily get all the information they need to be successful from watching and talking to other anglers on the gravel bar.

The tough part for boat anglers new to the fishery is appreciating how close to the bank steelhead migrate. Usually, you want to anchor the boat about one or two boat widths from the shore, unless the water is really clear.

Public access is very good from the top of tide all the way to Quosatana Campground, approximately 15 miles.

Running plugs is the number one technique among boat anglers. Boat anglers can launch at any of the gravel bars in the lower river, or boat ramps at the Port of Gold Beach, Lobster Creek Campground or Quosatana Campground.

### **Rogue River, middle and upper**

**TROUT:** The Rogue is closed to trout fishing in the spring to protect smolts migrating to the ocean. Trout fishing reopens May 23, when anglers may keep five adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout per day, 8-inch minimum length. All non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow and cutthroat trout must be released unharmed. Cutthroat trout fishing has been very good in the upper river the last few years complementing a solid rainbow trout fishery.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** Spring Chinook salmon fishing peaks in the lower river in April and May, while anglers in the upper river above Gold Hill enjoy peak fishing between late May and early July. The Rogue has been flowing much lower and warmer than normal this spring. Over 170 spring chinook have returned to Cole Rivers Hatchery by April 22 and anglers are reporting catches in the upper river. The spring Chinook run this year is expected to be similar in size last year's run. For much of the run, non-adipose fin-clipped (wild) spring Chinook must be released unharmed, while adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) spring Chinook may be harvested (over 8,600 hatchery Chinook returned to Cole Rivers Hatchery last year). Anglers are encouraged to consult the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for details.

**SUMMER STEELHEAD:** The first summer steelhead begin to arrive around May but fishing usually remains slow until the numbers begin to build in July providing a great opportunity to catch a steelhead during the hot summer months. The best summer steelhead fishing occurs in September and October.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** Winter steelhead normally start to arrive in the area around Grants Pass in late December, with peak fishing in February and March. There is plenty of good bank access along the middle Rogue. Between the city, county and state parks and the federal recreational areas, there are over 20 developed access sites. In addition, much of the land along the river below Hellgate Canyon is owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Some of the most productive sites include Valley of the Rogue State Park, Matson Park, Griffin Park and Robertson Bridge. Bank anglers can enjoy success by drifting bait, casting lures, plunking, and fly fishing.

This section of the river also offers good opportunities for fishing from both drift and motorized boats. With boats ramps distributed every three to five miles along the river, there are a lot of options. Techniques favored by boat anglers include drifting bait, casting lures and flies, back bouncing bait and lures, and back-trolling plugs. Side-drifting bait is becoming increasingly popular in the long, slow runs below Grants Pass.

The removal of Savage Rapids and Gold Ray Dams has opened up new floats for boat anglers; however, boaters should be aware that there are several difficult rapids between the Fishers Ferry and Gold Hill boat ramps. The [Rogue River Water Trail brochure](#) provides an excellent description of this reach as part of its map of the middle and upper Rogue between Grave Creek and William Jess Dam.

Winter steelhead are normally caught in the upper river above the former Gold Ray Dam (near Gold Hill) from February through mid-May, with peak fishing activity in March and early April. Because hatchery steelhead returning to Cole River Hatchery supplement a healthy population of wild steelhead, there are a lot of winter steelhead in this section of the river.

Access for bank fishing is plentiful in this stretch. Bank anglers can enjoy good success between the hatchery and the Hwy 62 Bridge, and at public access points such as Casey State Park, Rogue Elk Park, Takelma Park, Denman Wildlife Management Area and Tou Velle State Park.

Numerous boat ramps allow boat anglers to choose from a variety of popular drifts. The river gets smaller in this upper section, with more defined holes. The area from Cole Rivers Hatchery downstream to Big Butte Creek usually remains fishable when the rest of the river is out of shape due to storm events.

Drifting bait, casting lures, and back-trolling plugs are all popular techniques. Later in the season, fly fishing can be very productive. Fly anglers can find good water for swinging flies with two-handed rods, as well as places to dead-drift nymph patterns.

Anglers may keep non-adipose fin-clipped (wild) steelhead at least 24 inches in length, one per day and five per year, from Feb. 1- April 30. Adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) steelhead may be kept the entire year.

Good boat ramps are well distributed along the Rogue River from the upper boundary of the Wild Section at Grave Creek clear up to Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery, just below Lost Creek Reservoir. A map of boat ramps can be found at the Visit Grants Pass website at <http://www.visitgrantspass.org/Index.aspx?page=12>.

Bank access is readily available on the BLM land below Merlin and at numerous parks managed by Josephine County and the City of Grants Pass. In Jackson County, good bank access can be found at Valley of the Rogue State Park, the Jackson County Parks along the river, and from Casey State Park to Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery. The river gets smaller in this section, with more defined holes. Drifting bait, casting lures, and back-trolling plugs are all popular techniques. Later in the season, fly fishing can be very productive.

#### **Rogue River above Lost Creek Reservoir:**

This is the premier summer trout fishery in the Rogue watershed.

Most campgrounds and public access sites on the Rogue River above Lost Creek Reservoir are stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout on nearly a weekly basis between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The program offers an additional excuse to escape the summer heat for the scenic upper Rogue. Brook trout are also available in the headwater streams. Contact the Rogue Watershed District ODFW office at 541-826-8774 for a map of stocking sites.

**Siskiyou Mountain Lakes:** Several of the small, high-elevation lakes in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon are stocked with rainbow or brook trout, and offer excellent fishing opportunities in an intimate setting. Bolan, Tannen, and East Tannen Lakes are located off of the Takelma—Happy Camp Road south of Cave Junction. Bolan is accessible by a Forest Service Road, while Tannen and East Tannen Lakes are within the Red Buttes Wilderness and require a short hike. Miller Lake is located in the upper Applegate drainage west of Applegate Reservoir. It can be reached by either the Carberry Creek Road or Thompson Creek Road; however, anglers must now hike the last two miles to the lake due to a closed bridge. Most of these lakes become accessible by mid-May, and usually remain so until early November. Information and maps for the Siskiyou National Forest and Red Buttes Wilderness Area can be obtained from the Grants Pass Interagency (Forest Service and BLM) Office (541-471-6500).

**Sixes River:** Sixes River muddies quickly, clears slowly, and boasts excellent winter steelhead and fall Chinook runs. Bank fishing and boat access are at Cape Blanco State Park, Hwy 101 bridge, and at ODFW and BLM properties. Boat anglers can find easy floats that range from two to 12 miles. Most anglers fish roe, spinners, run plugs or fly fish.

Cutthroat trout fishing can be excellent in the lower river and estuary from mid to late summer. This area can be very windy and angler will want to look at the weather before heading out.

**Sky Lakes Wilderness Area:** Many of the lakes and streams within this wilderness area, which straddles the crest of the Cascades between Crater Lake National Park and Hwy 140, offer good trout fishing. Most of the larger lakes are stocked with brook trout, which can grow up to 20-inches long. The streams and a few lakes have naturally-reproducing populations of rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout. The higher-elevation lakes are typically blocked by snow or ice until late June, but then usually remain accessible through October. Some of the lakes are relatively close to trailheads and can be reached by an easy hike. Others require more effort to access. For anglers that want to get away from the crowds and enjoy fishing in beautiful setting, the lakes and streams in the Sky Lakes Wilderness Area can be a great destination.

**Smith River (Umpqua Basin):**

**TROUT:** The river has a fair population of resident cutthroat trout and the mainstem sections are open to catch-and-release fishing for trout from May 23 to Sept. 15. The tributaries allow harvest during the trout season, but gear is restricted to artificial flies and lures except in tidewater areas.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** Smith River provides anglers an opportunity to catch and release wild winter steelhead. The regulations do allow harvest of adipose-clipped steelhead, but there is no hatchery program in the Smith River basin and stray

hatchery fish are rare. Bank access below Smith River Falls is limited due to private landownership. Boat access is available at Smith River Marina, Noel Ranch, Riverside Park, near Taylor Creek, upstream to a wayside just above Doe Creek. Bank fishing access improves above Smith River Falls, as landownership becomes BLM and private industrial. Several unimproved boat slides exist above the falls, with good boat access at Vincent Creek. Several good drifts are available in the Smith River basin.

**FALL CHINOOK:** Good numbers of fall Chinook move into the Smith River. Most anglers fish from the various segments from Bolan Island to approximately Spencer Creek. The Chinook tend to start entering the Smith from late August through October. Although an adipose fin-clipped coho can be retained, the Smith is not open for a wild coho harvest.

**Southard Lake:** Southard is a very small hike-in lake. Southard is located at the headwaters of Foster Creek, approximately 40 miles NE of Gold Beach. Anglers wishing to fish the lake should contact the Gold Beach Ranger Station for maps and current road conditions. The lake is annually stocked with a couple hundred fish in the spring depending on weather. The lake gets very little pressure and usually fishes well all summer long.

**Spaulding Pond:** Located in the Siskiyou National Forest north of Selma, this small pond is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout throughout the spring. Hatchery releases begin in late April pending snow conditions. Some trout are now stocked each fall to provide an early season fishery for anglers able to access the pond early. Fishing should be good, with the best early spring action happening in the afternoons when the water is the warmest.

**Toketee Reservoir:** Toketee Reservoir, which is up the North Umpqua, is open year-round and provides excellent brown trout fishing in late spring and fall. The trout generally range from 11 to 14-inches. The reservoir is readily accessible to both bank and boat anglers.

**Umpqua Basin High Cascade Lakes:** The Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) and volunteers work together to annually stock 11 high mountain lakes in the Umpqua watershed with brook trout. These lakes provide an opportunity for families to enjoy hiking into a lake for some quality fishing. These lakes are within the Umpqua National Forest and several have primitive camp sites near their shore. Lakes presently being stocked include: Maidu, Linda, Calamut, Connie, Skookum, Bullpup, Fuller and Big Twin on the the North Umpqua side, plus Wolf at French Junction and Cliff and Buckeye on the South Umpqua side of the drainage. Fish Lake, in the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness area is not stocked, but has naturally reproducing trout.

**Umpqua Basin Rivers and Streams:** Trout fishing will open this year May 23. Anglers should check regulations carefully for stream closures, gear restrictions, catch-and-release areas, and season dates prior to fishing. Rainbow trout are not stocked in Umpqua basin streams and rivers. Anglers fishing in the Umpqua watershed should check out the new *"50 places to fish within 90 minutes of Roseburg,"* brochure available [online](#) or at the ODFW office.

### **Umpqua River**

**SPRING CHINOOK:** Spring Chinook start arriving in the lower river in late February. Most of the early angling occurs in the Scottsburg to Scotts Creek area. As the

season goes on and the water warms up, the lower Umpqua will become mossy and difficult to fish. Then anglers move to Elkton and above. With this year's low snowpack, warmer water and lower than normal flows, the Chinook will be moving to the North Umpqua more rapidly than years with higher flows. As the fishing effort generally moves upstream to the North Umpqua, floats between Amacher Park and River Forks can be very productive. Later in the spring, the Swiftwater area becomes increasingly popular with bank anglers.

There is a two salmon per day limit and both hatchery and native Chinook are available for harvest. Rock Creek annually releases about 340,000 fin-clipped Chinook smolts each year. Spring Chinook fishing is open on the North Umpqua up to the markers at Rock Creek. The season runs through July 31.

A new anti-snag regulation is in effect March 1 – July 31 from Lone Rock boat launch up to the fly area above Rock Creek. It basically restricts the use of treble hooks. This regulation was successful in reducing the illegal snagging done with treble hooks. See page 11 of the regulation booklet for additional details.

**STEELHEAD:** The Umpqua is famous for its steelhead fishing. There is year-round harvest of adipose fin-clipped steelhead in the Mainstem and North Umpqua, while the South Umpqua and Smith River are open for adipose clipped winter steelhead from Dec. 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014. The wild run has been strong the last several years, so there are good catch-and-release opportunities throughout the basin. Anglers should remember that no wild steelhead can be harvested in the Umpqua Basin.

Whereas the South Umpqua has a winter steelhead hatchery program, the North Umpqua has a summer steelhead hatchery program.

The Umpqua River Basin has an estimated population of 30,000 to 40,000 winter steelhead. An estimated 7 to 11 percent of the winter steelhead that swim through the Mainstem are fin-clipped. Thus anglers should anticipate hooking more wild fish than hatchery fish, particularly in the Mainstem, Smith and North Umpqua.

From December through mid-February all of the winter steelhead bound for the North and South Umpqua are still making their way through the Main Umpqua. This makes for an incredible catch-and-release fishery as up to 90 percent of the steelhead hooked will be wild fish and must be released unharmed.

The best fishing opportunities in the Mainstem begin after Thanksgiving and continue through early March. Winter steelhead fishing begins just above tidal influence at Scottsburg. Bank fishing begins at Family Camp and continues upstream on the south side of the Umpqua River to Lutsinger Creek. Sawyer's Rapids and Scotts Creek are just upstream and are popular bank and drift boat spots. There also is good bank access at Bunch Bar wayside, which is owned by Douglas County and at Yellow Creek, Cleveland Rapids and River Forks Park.

Drift boaters can access the river at the Scotts Creek boat ramp and the Sawyer's Rapids RV Park. Boat fishing is also available at Elkton, Yellow Creek, Osprey, James Woods and Umpqua boat ramps. Boat fishing on the Mainstem tends to be best when water levels are between 8 and 10 feet. Low and cold water conditions can keep steelhead up. Anglers fishing under these conditions should be particularly mindful of

practicing good ethical catch-and-release techniques and handle the wild fish as little as possible.

**STRIPED BASS AND STURGEON:** Striped bass and sturgeon are available in the lower Umpqua and tidewater portion of Smith River. Sturgeon fishing is catch-and-release in the Umpqua. Shad are also in the mainstem Umpqua as the water warms. Various points from the Umpqua boat ramp to Yellow Creek are popular shad fishing spots. The shad run normally occurs from late April through mid-June. Seeing a large number of vehicles parked near Yellow Creek below Tyee is a pretty good indication that there's a good run and the bite is on. Angling opportunities for shad tend to be best when the Mainstem has average spring flows. Unlike 2011 and 2012 which had high water conditions throughout most of June, 2014 is looking much drier. This may create conditions for a favorable shad season.

**BASS:** Smallmouth bass are also available on the Mainstem Umpqua and will become progressively more active through the spring and summer. Good bass fishing can be found throughout the Mainstem from Roseburg to the estuary in pools or slack water areas. Areas under bedrock ledges can also be productive. The Umpqua River Basin has a 15 smallmouth bass per day of any size daily limit.

The South closes to all fishing May 1 to 24 and re-opens the same day that trout season opens (May 23).

On the South Umpqua from Winston to Roseburg there are several floats that can be done with an inflatable raft to access the bass, including the new Nichols Park boat ramp off Hwy 42 near Winston. There is also good bass fishing from the bank or boat near Templin (Dog Park) boat ramp in downtown Roseburg.

Winchester Bay offers dock and boat crabbing opportunity throughout the year. The jetties offer rockfish angling and surfperch fishing is also available throughout the spring and early summer. Winchester Bay has also been a successful port for sport fishing for ocean salmon. Come August, both coho and fall Chinook are entering the bay. Bank fishing opportunities extend from Half Moon Bay all the way to Salmon Harbor.

### **North Umpqua River**

**SPRING CHINOOK:** As the spring Chinook enter the North Umpqua, anglers will have good success fishing for them from Amacher Park below Winchester Dam down to the Forks. Bank angling is limited to the shorelines of the boat ramps such as Amacher, Hestness and River Forks. Later in the spring on through the end of the season on July 31, much of the fishing takes place along the banks of the Narrows up to Swiftwater Park. There is no Chinook fishing above Rock Creek. Little River off of the North, plus the South Umpqua, and Cow Creek are also closed year-round to angling for Chinook.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** Winter steelhead fishing in the North Umpqua starts in late December, with peak catch rates in late February through March.

Anglers should remember that the Umpqua no longer has a wild fish harvest. Only adipose fin-clipped steelhead may be kept in the entire basin. Only about 5 percent of the winter steelhead in the North Umpqua are hatchery fish. However, with the strong wild population there is still a lot of catch-and-release opportunity in the North Umpqua.

Boat access is readily available on the lower 30 river miles of the North Umpqua River. Hestness Landing provides access for anglers to the lower North Umpqua River, and Amacher Park boat ramp is located just below Winchester Dam. A drift from Amacher Park to Hestness Landing is often productive for winter steelhead anglers. Above Winchester Dam, boat access is available at Whistlers Bend Park, Gravel Pit boat ramp, Colliding Rivers boat ramp, and a drift boat slide on Lone Rock Road. A boat take-out-only is located on the south side of the river off Page Road. The best boat fishing occurs when the North is between 4 to 7 feet or 1,688 to 6,400 cfs. The North Umpqua can be difficult to float for inexperienced boaters and caution should be used when floating this river.

Bank fishing can be found at River Forks Park, Amacher Park, Whistlers Bend Park, near Colliding Rivers, the Narrows and just below Rock Creek at Swiftwater. Winter steelhead fishing above Rock Creek to Soda Springs Dam is part of the fly water area and is limited to wading and bank fishing. Fishing in the fly water can be productive throughout the season depending on river conditions -- optimal flows are from 1,500 cfs to about 5,500 cfs. Successful fly anglers use 10 to 14-foot spey rods and sink tips to "swing" large weighted or unweighted flies in the winter.

Winchester Dam counts are also posted on the [ODFW website](#). The counts are not meant to be "real time" but can provide a look back at what the run timing has been in recent years.

**South Umpqua River:**

WINTER STEELHEAD: Fishing in the South Umpqua starts in late December, with peak catch rates in late February through early April.

The South Umpqua is the center of the Umpqua's winter steelhead hatchery program. The goal of the hatchery program is to acclimate and release 120,000 winter steelhead smolts per year.

The South Umpqua River provides the best opportunity to catch and keep adipose fin-clipped steelhead.

Boat ramps in the lower South include the new Harold and Sid Nichols boat ramp in Winston off Hwy 42 near Douglas High School, Happy Valley, the Douglas County Fairgrounds, Templin Beach in Rosebur, and River Forks Park.

Several unimproved boat ramps are located at Boomer Hill, Lawson's Bar, Stanton Park and Canyonville County Park. These boat ramps tend to be in the portion of the South with the highest concentration of hatchery fish. Above Canyonville there are unimproved ramps at Days Creek, Lavadoure Creek, Milo and Tiller. Catch-and-release fishing for wild steelhead is popular in this upper section of the South. The best boat angling is when the water levels are between 7 to 9 feet or about 3,000 to 6,500 cfs.

Bank fishing can be good at Templin Beach, Happy Valley Boat Ramp, the Myrtle Creek Bridge and Stanton County Park. There is also bank fishing available behind Seven Feathers Casino. Cow Creek is open to Middle Creek for steelhead fishing. Both Cow Creek and the South Umpqua River also provide above-average opportunities to catch and release large wild winter steelhead.

#### Winter Steelhead Fishing Techniques

Bank anglers on the Mainstem are successful plunking with a Spin-N-Glo, with or without prawns or roe, on a 20-24-inch leader rigged with appropriate weight from a three-way swivel. Bank anglers on the North and South Umpqua Rivers prefer drift fishing with a corky, yarn or egg rig. Most will use pencil lead or a slinky about 24 inches above the bait, with just enough weight to keep the bait near the bottom. Anglers in the North Umpqua fly waters should double check the angling regulations since gear use varies by time. Most boaters throughout the Umpqua basin prefer side drifting with eggs or pulling plugs.

**Willow Lake:** Willow Lake, located in Jackson County southeast of Butte Falls, offers fishing for stocked rainbow trout, as well as largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, brown bullheads and yellow perch. Trout anglers should note a special release of 1,500 rainbow trout averaging one pound each in late May. The lake is full and ready for anglers.

This scenic lake has an improved boat ramp and a county-owned campground. During winter the gate to the ramp is open daily until 5:00pm. The campground opens for the season in April.

Trout anglers do well still fishing with bait or trolling lures or attractor/bait combinations. Bass anglers have success casting lures and soft plastic baits to the structure along the shore. Panfish can be caught by suspending bait from a bobber.

Information about the cabins and the group campground can be obtained by calling Jackson County Parks at 541-774-8183.

**Winchuck River:** The Winchuck has an excellent run of winter steelhead and a small run of fall Chinook. It's also slow to muddy and clears quickly after rains. The upper river flows primarily through Forest Service land with good access for bank anglers. Anglers can float the river, but only experienced oarsman should attempt to. Fishing from a boat is prohibited. Anglers will want to check for any temporary regulation changes that may be in effect for the river prior to heading out.

Cutthroat fishing can be good in mid to late summer in the estuary and lower river.

For more information about fishing opportunities in the Southwest Zone, contact the nearest ODFW office:

#### **Umpqua Watershed District Office**

Roseburg, OR 97470  
541-440-3353

#### **Charleston Field Office**

Charleston, OR 97420  
541-888-5515

#### **Rogue Watershed District Office**

Central Point, OR 97502  
541-826-8774

**Gold Beach Field Office**  
Gold Beach, OR 97444  
541-247-7605

## WILLAMETTE ZONE

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Check this out:

- \* 2015 [Family Fishing](#) and [Free Fishing Weekend](#) events.
- \* Find trout stocking schedules and Google maps with driving directions to all stocking sites on the ODFW [Trout Stocking page](#).
- \* Take a friend fishing, clamming or crabbing during Free Fishing Weekend June 6-7 – no license required!
- \* The [Oregon Angler with Disabilities Site Map](#) highlights 133 sites across Oregon that may be suitable for anglers with physical disabilities.
- \* [50 places to fish within 60 miles of Portland](#) describes a variety of nearby fishing opportunities.
- \* [65 places to go Fishing in Lane County](#) will keep anglers busy with a wide variety of angling prospects from sea to sky.
- \* Anglers are advised to check water levels before visiting Army Corps reservoirs to be sure [boat ramps are accessible](#).

### TROUT

*Trout anglers are reminded that most streams draining the Cascades on the east side of the north Willamette Valley are closed to trout fishing until May 23.* Many of these streams support winter steelhead, including the Clackamas, Sandy, Molalla, Tualatin, Yamhill, and North and South Santiam rivers, and the late opener is designed to protect the out-migrating juveniles, *or smolts*. On May 23, many of these waters will open to catch-and-release fishing for trout with fishing restricted to artificial flies and lures. The season remains open through Oct. 31. Check the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for more information.

### SALMON AND STEELHEAD

A moderate run of about 55,440 Willamette spring salmon are forecast to be heading for the Willamette River during 2015. Biologists estimate about 33,000 spring Chinook will ascend Willamette Falls into the upper Willamette River this year. On average, the majority of the spring Chinook come over the falls from late April through mid-June. Spring has sprung early this year and fish appear to be migrating to upstream areas earlier than in the past few years but more typical of run-timing 15-20 years ago.

It generally takes about 10-14 days for these fish to make it to the upper Willamette basin in the Eugene-Springfield area. The daily bag limit for spring Chinook is two adipose fin-clipped fish per day.

A total of 8,700 spring Chinook are forecast to enter the Clackamas River this year. Catch of Clackamas River stock spring Chinook usually peaks in May and June, with the run ranging from late March through June. Spring Chinook in the lower Willamette are also readily available from late-March through June, or when the water temperature rises to the mid-fifties.

Chinook usually show up in catchable numbers around the middle of April but this is very dependent on water conditions, as evidenced this year when abnormally low and warm flows are encouraging fish to move quickly upstream. A combination of three adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead may be retained.

The 2015 fishing season will be another good year to try spring Chinook on the Clackamas River and Eagle Creek. Adult Chinook returning from releases along the

lower Clackamas River between Carver and Barton can be identified by a combination of adipose fin/left maxillary fin clip. This year is also the third year for returns of adult spring Chinook released at the Eagle Creek acclimation site and these fish can be identified by an adipose fin/right maxillary fin clip. All age classes of Chinook (3, 4, 5, and 6 year old) will be returning to this medium sized tributary fishery, many of which will hold at or near the mouth of Eagle Creek waiting for rains to facilitate upstream migration. Concentrate on the reach between the mouth of Eagle Creek and Barton Park. We also expect to see good returns from spring Chinook released into Clear Creek near Carver. All age classes will be returning from an annual target release of 165,000 spring Chinook and they should provide excellent opportunity for anglers from Carver to Riverside or Meldrum Bar.

NOTE: The Clackamette Park boat ramp is closed for the season so you will need to float into the Willamette and take out at Meldrum Bar.
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The summer steelhead run for 2015 has started a bit slow with less than 600 fish passing Willamette Falls in April. Those fish that do pass the falls are available to anglers throughout the summer and fall months. Healthy runs are expected on the North and South Santiam. Adults returning this year to the North Santiam were scatter-planted as juveniles at several locations. Anglers should find them spread throughout the basin and not just in the "usual" places. Be aware that the current regulation allows the harvest of mismarked and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches in some water bodies, such as the North and South Santiam. Check the Special Regulations for details. Summer steelhead are not native to the basin and harvesting these fish before they spawn will be a benefit to wild rainbow trout. New regulations for the Santiam allow for retention of one extra fin-clipped summer steelhead for a total of four fish per day. Although native rainbow trout over 24 inches are extremely rare, anglers who happen to catch one are encouraged to release it unharmed.

Summer steelhead in the Clackamas River return from March through October, with two peaks usually seen during late spring and early fall. Early season fishing has been slow but things should pick up quickly with rapidly warming water temperatures. Watch Willamette Falls counts for an indication of increased movement and corresponding presence of summer steelhead in the Clackamas.

Coho salmon fishing should be on the radar screen of any angler interested in catching salmon this coming fall. ODFW staff expect an above average coho salmon return to tributaries upstream of Willamette Falls in 2015. Record escapement in recent years combined with good ocean survival should combine to lead lure-shy coho into the Upper Willamette where anglers can try their luck at catching coho that are still in very good shape through October. These fish can be challenging to catch but for anglers patient enough to figure, the fishing can be very good. Check the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for more information.

**Please note:** All bull trout caught in the Willamette Zone must be released unharmed. Anglers should familiarize themselves with bull trout identification, especially when fishing the McKenzie River, Cougar Reservoir, Trail Bridge Reservoir, Hills Creek Reservoir and the Middle Fork Willamette above Hills Creek Reservoir. Anglers also have a chance of encountering bull trout in the Middle Fork Willamette below Hills Creek Reservoir. Pictures of bull trout are in the 2015 fishing regulations on pages 14 and 69. For those with internet access, a search for bull trout images

will provide a large number of great pictures. Anglers are asked to call ODFW in Springfield at 541-726-3515 ext. 26 to report any bull trout you catch.

#### BASS AND WARMWATER

Most of the warmwater fish found in Oregon are present in the Willamette Zone. Largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegill, redear and green sunfish, warmouth, yellow perch, and bullhead and channel catfish are found in the reservoirs in the lower Cascades and Coast Range, the many ponds scattered throughout the rural and urban areas, and in the Willamette River.

Most warmwater fish are available year-round, but fishing is best in the spring, summer, and fall when the water is warmer and the fish more active. Bass fishing begins to pick up when water temperatures warm to the upper 50s and bass start to think about spawning. Some of the best bass fisheries continue to be in Dorena, Cottage Grove, Green Peter, and Henry Hagg reservoirs, but don't overlook Fern Ridge and the Willamette itself. All but Cottage Grove and Fern Ridge also offer good fishing for smallmouth bass. Some of the bigger smallmouth reported last year were caught in and near Portland.

Largemouth bass can also be found in many of the smaller lakes and ponds that dot the valley floor and foothills. Some good locations managed by ODFW for public access include Wilsonville, Woodburn, and Bond Butte ponds, and the St. Louis Ponds fishing area. Several lunker-size catfish have come out of St Louis Ponds in the past year.

Most all of these same waters - large or small - also offer crappie, an abundance of bluegill and other sunfish, and bullhead catfish. Crappie will start biting earliest in the season but fishing for most others will improve as the water warms into the mid-60s. Good angling should continue throughout the summer and early fall.

For more information about these and other waters in the Willamette Zone and how to fish them, check out the Warmwater Fishing in Oregon brochures for the [North Willamette](#) and [South Willamette](#) Areas.

To learn what's biting and where, check out the [ODFW Weekly Recreation Report](#). Each week our biologists update fishing conditions on rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and ponds throughout the state.

#### **Alphabetical listing:**

**Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal:** Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal is open all year for trout, adipose fin-clipped steelhead and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead over 24 inches long. Hatchery trout releases began in February and will continue through the summer and into November, providing an in-town and family-friendly fishery for several months. Both legal and larger (11 to 14-inches) hatchery rainbow trout are released into several locations along the length of the Alton Baker Canoe Canal.

ODFW will host a Free Fishing Day event Saturday, June 6 at the Alton Baker Canoe Canal from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for youths and their families. Contact the Springfield field office at 541-726-3515 for additional information.

**Benson Lake:** This 40-acre lake is located in Benson Lake State Park near the Columbia River. It will be stocked with rainbow trout in April, May and June. It also contains white crappie, largemouth bass and brown bullhead. Take the Benson State Park exit just before Multnomah Falls off of I-84 going east.

**Bethany Pond:** This is a 10-acre pond located at Bethany west of Portland. It is generally stocked with rainbow trout a couple of times in early spring. Take 185<sup>th</sup> St. Exit from Hwy 26 north to Bethany.

**Blue Lake:** This 64-acre lake east of Portland in Blue Lake Park, 3 miles west of Troutdale, is located north of Hwy 30 and ½ mile south of the Columbia River. This is a popular park with lots of amenities. It is stocked with rainbow trout in April and May and also contains several species of warmwater fish, including largemouth bass, brown bullhead, black crappie and bluegill.

**Blue River Reservoir:** This reservoir is located east of Eugene near the town of Blue River, north of Hwy 126 and is open to year-round fishing. Stocked trout and warmwater fish are available for anglers.

**Canby Pond:** Canby Pond has been re-opened as a youth and disabled anglers only fishing pond. It is open to youngsters ages 17 and under as well as persons who possess an Oregon Disabled Angler's fishing license.

Under Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, anglers ages 13 and under can fish for free while those 14-17 will need to have a juvenile fishing license. Canby Pond will be stocked with rainbow trout in April and May.

The pond is generally not stocked in the summer months because warmer temperatures promote the growth of aquatic vegetation, which makes it difficult to fish. The pond also holds a variety of warmwater species.

**Cascade Lakes (Lane, Linn, and Marion Counties):** Numerous High Cascade Lakes are stocked annually or biannually with rainbow, cutthroat and/or brook trout fingerlings. Released fish grow to catchable size within one or two years, depending on environmental conditions. This unique fishing opportunity provides an excellent way for anglers to enjoy less heavily-fished areas, especially for those anglers willing to hike further distances. Lake access varies, with some lakes easily reached from main roads. A majority of the lakes are open to fishing all year, weather permitting. Fishing can be good most of the summer and early fall, depending on winter fish survival and fishing pressure. Check the weather forecast and with the local Forest Service office for access conditions, especially earlier and later in the year. Conditions can change rapidly and anglers should be prepared for extreme weather at any time.

<p>This year's low snow pack means that a few of the shallower lakes may not get stocked. Check with the local ODFW office to find out if your destination lake is being stocked this year.</p>
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### **Clackamas River**

**TROUT:** The upper Clackamas River above North Fork Reservoir and its tributaries, the Oak Grove Fork and the Collawash River, offer good opportunities to fish for wild trout. The upper Clackamas and Collawash river are catch-and-release only for wild fish, while the Oak Grove Fork upstream of Harriet Lake has a daily bag limit of two

trout (except there are no limits on brown or brook trout). Fish Creek, a tributary of the upper Clackamas River, is now open to catch and release trout fishing after being closed for over 20 years after roads were decommissioned in the area. Gove Fish Creek a try if you want a unique experience fishing in an area that has not received fishing pressure in years.

Bull trout are being reintroduced to the Clackamas. All bull trout must be released. Know how to correctly identify a bull, brown, and brook trout before fishing.

The Clackamas River is one of those rivers where it is possible to catch hatchery salmon and steelhead almost every month of the year.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** Reports of spring Chinook in the Clackamas are beginning to come in and creel surveys indicate bank anglers are having some success in the lower river downstream of Carver and anglers shouldn't expect to see these fish in greater numbers until mid to late May depending on water conditions. Chinook passage over Willamette Falls rose sharply over the past two weeks indicating movement of fish into tributary rivers/streams

Anglers should anticipate a change in how spring Chinook move through the lower Clackamas now that the acclimation ponds have been operating for over four years. The Clackamas has two acclimation ponds in the lower river designed to increase sport fishing harvest, and these management tools are working. These sites are located along the Clackamas River and on Eagle Creek with the intention of slowing fish migration and holding the Chinook in the lower river longer. The returning Clackamas River fish can be identified by an adipose fin/left maxillary fin clip while the Eagle Creek returns can be identified by an adipose fin/right maxillary fin clip. ODFW biologists welcome any reports of anglers catching these Chinook as they continue to evaluate the success of this program.

**SUMMER STEELHEAD:** Summer run steelhead will begin to increase in numbers through spring. Willamette Falls counts are tracking behind the recent 10-year average at this time of year but it is difficult to tell if the run is just late or lower in numbers than anticipated. Anglers should prepare for a decent return of summer steelhead to the Clackamas as anglers are already picking them up throughout the river from McIver Park to the mouth.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** The hatchery winter steelhead program on the Clackamas recently consisted of two stocks of fish -- Eagle Creek stock and local Clackamas stock that incorporates wild returning fish. We are currently transitioning the program to all Clackamas stock and removing the Eagle Creek stock due to low performance (survival and contribution to angler creel) of the Eagle Creek stock which is an out-of-basin, non-native stock of steelhead.

Winter steelhead fishing usually begins slowly in December, but noticeable numbers of fish do not enter the system until high water events in later December and January. Eagle Creek stock usually returns from late December through early March, with a peak from mid-January to mid-February. The first Clackamas River stock show up as early as Christmas if we have flooding flows and relatively warm water in December and continue through May. This run usually peaks in March and April. Counts of fish passing North Fork Dam on the Clackamas River can be found [here](#). The Clackamas River is a very cold river in winter and anglers need to adjust

technique and timing of your fishing effort accordingly. Water temperature and flow data are available at the link above...use it to your advantage and fish when the water is warm or warming from a cold snap.

The Clackamas River provides a highly-prized fishery near the Portland metropolitan area and produces the largest recreational catch of winter steelhead of all the Columbia River tributaries.

Hatchery fish are acclimated and released from the Clackamas Fish Hatchery at McIver State Park, the mouth of Foster Creek, and the Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery on Eagle Creek. When these fish return as adults many of them will hold at or below these release points.

The Clackamas River typically fishes best at flows with a gage reading of 11-13 feet, although anglers have been known to catch fish at levels up to 14.5 feet (measured at [Rivermill Dam in Estacada](#)). When the river is high and off color, anglers should concentrate their efforts at the mouths of tributary streams such as Clear Creek, Eagle Creek or Dog Creek (at the hatchery outlet).

The best fishing is two to three days after a high water event, when the river has dropped and fish start to hold in pools or pool tail-outs.

Bank anglers can find access to the Clackamas River in the High Rocks/Cross Park area in Gladstone, Riverside Park in Clackamas, along Clackamas River Drive (there are several pull-off areas), in Carver near the mouth of Clear Creek, Barton Park, McIver Park near Dog Creek, and near River Mill Dam. Easy access to Eagle Creek can be found at Bonnie Lure State Park and Eagle Fern Park. Anglers can also walk down Eagle Creek to its confluence with the main stem Clackamas to find good bank fishing on the Clackamas River.

Boat anglers can find ramps at McIver Park (note: upper ramp should only be used by experienced boaters due to hazardous whitewater), Feldheimer's Road, Barton Park, Carver Park, Riverside Park or Clackamette Park (closed for 2015).

The Clackamas River above North Fork Reservoir is managed as a wild fish sanctuary and is closed to fishing for steelhead and salmon.

**Clear Lake:** Open to year-around fishing and will be stocked with hatchery rainbow trout three times with nearly 11,000 fish going in the month before Memorial Day. No limit on size or number of brook trout taken. Catch limits on other trout species do not apply to brook trout. Boats are available for rent at the lake. See <http://www.linnparks.com/pages/parks/clearlake.html> for information on cabin and boat rentals.

**Commonwealth Lake:** This 3-acre lake in Cedar Hills near Beaverton. It is stocked with rainbow trout in the early spring. From the Sunset Hwy take Cedar Hills Blvd. south ½ mile. Turn right on Foothills Drive and follow to lake.

**Cottage Grove Pond:** This set of ponds is wheelchair accessible along the asphalt pathway from behind the weigh station on Row River Road about 1.5 miles east of I-5 at Cottage Grove. Warmwater fish are available. Hatchery trout are released into the pond with the dock several times during early spring.

**Cottage Grove Reservoir:** This popular largemouth bass fishing reservoir also has trout available from spring stockings. Travel south of Cottage Grove on London Road to the reservoir.

**Detroit, Foster and Green Peter Reservoirs:** The lack of snow this winter will have an impact on the water levels this summer at these large storage reservoirs. Green Peter and Foster will be lower than normal this year, although most boat ramps should be available. Detroit Reservoir will be below normal as well. Many boat ramps, including Kane's Marina will not be available because the water level will not reach the toe-slope of the ramp. Check with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for availability of boat ramps. Mongold State Park is your safest bet to launch a boat, but be prepared for long lines. All of these reservoirs have been stocked with catchable-sized rainbow trout this season. Cool early spring water temperatures will allow anglers to fish quite close to the surface and be successful, so bank fishing can be most productive in the spring. In addition to trout, Detroit and Green Peter support kokanee and Chinook populations that give anglers a chance to catch a larger fish. Both kokanee and Chinook are more sensitive to warmer water temperatures than rainbow, and will move deeper into the lake as summer comes on. Foster and Green Peter also support good numbers of bass that will start to bite as the water becomes warmer. Most boat ramps should be usable by late April.

There will be a Free Fishing Weekend event at Detroit Reservoir's Hoover Campground on June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Isaac Morris at (503) 854-3522 for more information.
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**Dexter Reservoir:** This reservoir receives stocked trout regularly throughout late winter and early spring, and again in early fall. Bank anglers can do well fishing for trout from the picnic area along the causeway near the covered bridge.

Travel east on Hwy 58 from I-5. Dexter Reservoir is on the north side of the highway near Lowell.

**Dorena Reservoir:** A popular largemouth bass reservoir east of Cottage Grove. Holdover trout from spring and fall releases are also available.

**Dorman Pond:** This 8-acre pond near Balm Grove (at the junction of Hwy 8 and Hwy 6) was stocked with trout in March and is scheduled to be stocked again in April. Access and parking are excellent.

**Eagle Creek** (tributary of lower Clackamas)

**SPRING CHINOOK:** Anglers on the creek should begin preparing for the second year of returns of spring Chinook from acclimation releases done in 2011. A total of 240,000 Chinook smolts were released three years ago from the Eagle Fern Park facility and a nice return of adult fish to the creek is expected as long as flows remain good. Expect these fish to move into the creek by late May and they should be found in the lower Clackamas and then Eagle Creek if the water conditions hold up. These springers can be identified by an adipose fin/right maxillary fin clip.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** Eagle Creek offers a popular winter steelhead fishery with easy access for the bank angler. The first steelhead of the season will typically start showing up in the creek right after Thanksgiving, but it is usually late December

before anglers will find numbers of fish in the creek. Quality winter steelhead fishing can be expected in Eagle Creek from January on into March. Many of the steelhead caught at Meldrum Bar and in the lower Clackamas are destined for Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery. The fishery in Eagle Creek will be changing in two to three years as returns from Clackamas stock fish released into Eagle Creek find their way home. The change to Clackamas stock will shift the fishery to a later time period than anglers are typically used to (December to March). The fishery will now begin in January and last through April, two months longer than the Eagle Creek stock.

Fishing conditions on Eagle Creek are dependent on precipitation and its flows can change dramatically after a good rainfall. Often it will blow out quickly and be unfishable in a matter of hours. On the flip side, it also clears very quickly. It doesn't take long for the water color to improve, even though the flows may be somewhat high. If there is a long period of cold, dry weather it can get very low and clear, making steelhead fishing a bit more of a challenge. In the past few years, the number of smolts released in Eagle Creek has been reduced from 150,000 to 90,000; anglers have started seeing this reflected in the number of returning adults.

Many different types of lures can be successful on the creek, with color often dictated by water clarity. Try brighter colors during the murky water conditions and darker, and less flamboyant colors during times when the creek is crystal clear.

Types of gear that have consistently proven successful include bobber and jig, sand shrimp, corkies and yarn, and small egg clusters with yarn. The skilled fly angler can do very well using steelhead flies.

There are several public access points along Eagle Creek:

- Starting from the mouth of the creek, the first place to try would be Bonnie Lure Park, which is off of Dowty Road. Take a right from Hwy 224 in the community of Eagle Creek to find the park area. From Bonnie Lure Park you can also access nearly a half-mile of the Clackamas River for bank fishing.
- Eagle Creek passes under Hwy 224 about a mile past Eagle Creek Store and there is also some bank access there.
- Very close to the Hwy 224 crossing is Wildcat Mountain Road. Go left towards the hatchery and follow the hatchery signs on Eagle Fern Road. You will soon see several pull-offs on the right that provide great access to the creek.
- Eagle Fern Park that has many good holes. This access area runs for about a half mile on up to Snuffin Road Bridge.
- From Snuffin Road you can continue up Eagle Fern Road (also called George Road), and after about three miles, turn right down Rainbow Road to Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery. Fishing can be very good below the hatchery if you are willing to make the hike.

Much of Eagle Creek flows through private property. Longview Fiber and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are the largest landowners along the creek and they are not usually concerned about anglers for most of the year. However, it is advisable to get permission before accessing Eagle Creek on individual private landowner's property.

**Estacada Lake:** Estacada Lake up to the Hwy 211 Bridge is open year-round for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. The trout season is open May 23-Oct. 31. Anglers are reminded that the bag limit is five adipose fin-clipped trout. The boat ramp at Estacada Lake has been relocated to the

Mclver Park side of the lake (enter through the park) and can be accessed at the campground.

The lake will be routinely stocked with trout throughout the spring and summer seasons. There is limited access for bank fishing, but you can reach the lake through the Timber Park on the Estacada side and Mclver Park on the south side of the lake.

Summer steelhead and spring Chinook often migrate past Clackamas Hatchery and into Estacada Lake where they can be very susceptible to anglers who know how to fish flatwater for salmon and steelhead. There are a number of different techniques used but many use standard salmon trolling gear with herring or spinners as their terminal tackle. Bobber and egg/jigs also work well when fished 10-20 feet below your bobber. Fish move around the lake in schools so just wait for your rod to jiggle and hold on!

**Fall Creek above Fall Creek Reservoir:** Fall Creek above the reservoir is stocked with trout at campgrounds and other access points up to Gold Creek through mid-to-late June. Fall Creek is northeast of Lowell.

**Fall Creek Reservoir:** Fall Creek Reservoir is stocked with hatchery trout in early spring. This year with low water levels, fish will be concentrated in the pool area and boaters are limited to using the North Shore boat ramp.

**Faraday Lake:** Faraday Lake will be open this year for trout fishing but anglers should be aware that recent modification to the lake reduced the available fishing area. We continue to stock the lake with trout and occasionally release hatchery summer steelhead for a trophy fish opportunity. The lake is located just east of Estacada on the right of Hwy 224 near the PGE offices and offers bank fishing only.

**Gales Creek:** Gales Creek opens May 23 to the catch-and-release of trout with artificial flies and lures only. This stream now has a late trout opener to reduce the catch of steelhead smolts, which are abundant in the creek during April and May.

**Haldeman Pond:** This pond on Oak Island at Sauvie Island is open from April 16 through Sept. 30. It will be stocked with rainbow trout several times this spring. Anglers are reminded the daily bag limit is five trout, and that a permit is necessary to park on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.

**Harriet Lake:** This lake on the Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas River was stocked in mid-April and will be throughout the spring and summer. There are good opportunities for anglers to catch hatchery rainbow, cutthroat, brook and brown trout. A detour road off Hwy 224 near Ripplebrook takes you directly past this popular lake. Snowpack is much lower than normal this year; call with the U.S. Forest Service at (503) 630-6861 to check on road conditions.

**Henry Hagg Lake:** Henry Hagg Lake is a large, 1,100 acre lake, located 30 miles west of Portland near Forest Grove, and offers some of the best standing water fishing opportunities in the Willamette Valley. Hagg Lake is open from March 2 through Nov. 24. The lake is heavily stocked throughout the spring and again in the fall with rainbow trout to support a very popular and successful fishery. In recent years, large brood trout have been released on occasion to enhance the fishing experience. Excellent fishing also exists for largemouth and smallmouth bass,

crappie, bluegill, yellow perch and catfish. The state records for smallmouth bass (over 8 pounds) and brown bullhead catfish were caught here.

Trout fishing is best from March to mid-June, and again in the fall when the water is cooler. Fishing for bass and crappie is best in the spring when the fish move into shallow shoreline areas to spawn. Summer is a good time to fish for panfish and catfish. Two boat ramps are maintained to provide boating access, and bank anglers can reach most of the lake shore via trails or family picnic areas.

Light or medium weight spinning tackle provides a good all-around set-up. Trout can be caught on a variety of lures or baits. Spinners work well while worms, salmon eggs or artificial trout baits can be fished using a bobber or with a weight on the bottom. Bass anglers can also use spinners, but jigs and plastic baits or lures that imitate prey such as small fish and crayfish are also effective. For crappie, try fishing a small white or red-and-white jig at different depths by suspending it below a bobber that can be adjusted up or down the line. For other panfish, use a small hook baited with worm or other panfish bait suspended 12-18 inches below the bobber to keep the bait off the bottom. Catfish anglers will want to fish on the bottom using bait. Refer to the Sport Fishing Regulations for bag limits on specified species.

Hagg Lake will be part of the tag/reward pilot program starting this fall. Anglers should contact Ben Walczak 971-673-6013 if they catch a trout with a tag in it. The tags may be worth \$50.

**Hills Creek above Hills Creek Reservoir:** Hills Creek above Hills Creek Reservoir is no longer stocked with hatchery trout. Wild (mainly cutthroat) trout are available for harvest and bait may be used through Oct. 31.

**Hills Creek Reservoir:** Variety abounds at Hills Creek Reservoir where anglers can catch and keep crappie, largemouth bass, adipose fin-clipped trout and salmon, as well as catch-and-release wild trout – all on the same fishing trip! Anglers are reminded to release all bull trout and all other non-adipose fin-clipped trout unharmed, preferably without removing them from the water. Catch rates for warmwater fish will increase as surface water temperatures climb above 60° F, usually around mid-May. By early May this year, water in the reservoir had risen only to the level of Packard Creek and CT Beach boat landings.

**Huddleston Pond:** This pond, off of NE Yamhill Street in Willamina, has changed names and was formerly known as Hampton Pond. Trout stocking begins in December and typically continues into early June, or until water conditions are no longer suitable for trout.

**Leaburg Lake:** Leaburg Lake is stocked weekly through late July with rainbow trout, and then every other week through August. Two-rod angling is allowed with a Two-Rod Validation. All non-adipose fin-clipped trout must be released unharmed. The lake is open to fishing through Oct. 31.

**Luckiamute and Little Luckiamute River:** The mainstem Luckiamute and Little Luckiamute up to the falls at Falls City open May 23 with a limit of two trout per day, 8-inch minimum length. The Little Luckiamute above the falls at Falls City opens for trout April 25 with a limit of two fish per day, 8-inch minimum length. Fishing in both streams is restricted to artificial flies and lures. Both streams support healthy

populations of native cutthroat trout, particularly in their upper reaches where excellent bank fishing opportunities abound.

**Marys and Long Tom Rivers:** Opened April 25 to the harvest of trout with a limit of five fish per day, 8-inch minimum length; bait allowed. Both streams support healthy populations of native cutthroat trout, particularly in their upper reaches. The Long Tom below Fern Ridge Dam is well-populated with an assortment of warmwater gamefish (e.g. bass, crappie, bullhead catfish), though bank fishing access is limited.

**McKenzie River:** To protect wild trout above Leaburg Dam, trout season opened April 25 for Leaburg Lake and the McKenzie above Leaburg Lake. Upper McKenzie River trout releases begin in early May when slightly warmer water temperatures will potentially provide higher early season catch rates. The upper river trout releases will extend through mid-September.

The lower river (Leaburg Dam downstream to Hendricks Bridge) will be stocked regularly from opening day (April 25) through early September. Highlights of the 2015 McKenzie River hatchery trout releases follow:

**Upper McKenzie River:** The first hatchery trout boat release took place in early May and releases will continue through mid-September. Truck releases at the upper river boat ramps will start in mid-May and continue through mid-late August. Releases of hatchery trout from Forest Glen Boat Ramp downstream to Finn Rock will be delayed until late June to reduce impacts to wild trout in this section of river. Boat releases will occur on an approximately three-week rotation, and truck releases will occur 2 weeks after boat releases to maintain catch rates.

**Lower McKenzie River:** Large numbers of hatchery trout will be released into the lower river (generally from Leaburg Landing to Hendricks Bridge Wayside) to benefit anglers this year. Hatchery trout releases will occur every three weeks, beginning on opening day until early-to-mid September. Hatchery rainbow trout are not released below Hendricks Bridge Wayside.

**Additional Information:** All hatchery rainbow trout released into the McKenzie River are marked with an adipose fin clip. Anglers must release all non-adipose fin-clipped trout caught in the mainstem McKenzie. The lower 20 miles of the McKenzie River below Hendricks, Bridge and the McKenzie River from Forest Glen Boat Ramp at Blue River upstream to Trail Bridge Dam are restricted to fishing with flies and lures only, and all trout must be released unharmed, with the exception of the area between Hendricks Bridge and Hayden Bridge where 5 adipose fin-marked trout may be harvested.

The McKenzie River is open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches in length the entire year. Anglers may retain 3 adult steelhead per day, 2 of which may be non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches in length. There is an annual limit of 20 non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead per year, although additional hatchery harvest tags may be purchased to record harvested adult hatchery salmon and steelhead. Summer steelhead are not native to the basin and harvesting these fish before they spawn will benefit wild rainbow trout. Although native rainbow trout over 24 inches are extremely rare, anglers who happen to catch one are encouraged to release it unharmed.

The McKenzie River is open to salmon fishing from the mouth to 200 feet below Leaburg Dam all year. Only adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon may be harvested. The daily bag limit on spring Chinook salmon is two per day. Every effort should be made to release wild (non-adipose fin-clipped) Chinook without taking them out of the water. Bait is not allowed downstream from Hayden Bridge. Between Hayden Bridge and Hendricks Bridge bait use is restricted to the period May 1- June 15 when angling for salmon and steelhead with hooks 5/8-inch gap or larger. Bait may be used for salmon beginning April 25 from Hendricks Bridge to 200 feet below Leaburg Dam, although from Leaburg Dam downstream to Trout Creek, any attached weight must be less than six feet above the lowermost hook (in addition to existing hook and weight regulations on page 9 of the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations).

**Molalla/Pudding River:** The river opens May 23 to catch-and-release fishing for trout. All unmarked trout in the Molalla basin must be released unharmed. The exceptions to this rule are Silver Creek above Silverton Reservoir, Abiqua Creek above Abiqua Falls, Butte Creek above Butte Creek Falls, and Drift Creek upstream of Victor Point Road which open April 25 and where the retention of two trout per day, 8-inch minimum length is allowed (consult 2015 fishing regulations for more information on the use of artificial flies and lures per Zone Regulations).

Anglers may find that a few summer steelhead will nose into the lower Molalla after they have passed Willamette Falls. Give it a try from the Turner Creek Bridge down to Canby in April and May for winter and summer steelhead, as well as fresh spring Chinook.

Spring Chinook are already known to be entering the Molalla early this year and we should be seeing the first returns of 3 year old "jacks" from the first release of smolts from the Trout Creek acclimation pond. Spring Chinook typically do not tend to show up in the Molalla until late May/early June with the majority entering in June/early July.

The Molalla River in the upper Willamette is no longer stocked with hatchery winter steelhead but is a popular destination for catch-and-release fishing for wild winter steelhead. The Molalla has good numbers of wild winter steelhead and offers the adventurous angler an opportunity to catch this majestic fish in relative solitude. Limited numbers of naturally produced and stray summer steelhead may be present in the system in many of the same areas where winter steelhead are typically found.

Keep an eye on Willamette Falls fish counts as approximately 20 percent of the total number of steelhead passing the Falls are destined for the Molalla River. Head for the Mo' when daily counts pick up to over 50 fish per day or total count exceeds 1,000 fish.

The Molalla up to Turner Creek Bridge is open year-round for the retention of adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and coho. It is open to the harvest of non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead July 1 – August 31. The use of bait is allowed May 15 – July 15. The use of single barbless hooks is encouraged.

The Molalla/Pudding River also offers some warmwater fishing opportunities. There is no limit on size or number of bass taken.

**Mt Hood Pond:** The pond has been designated a youth only fishing venue from April 1 – August 31. It is open to youngsters ages 17 and under as well as holders of

a Disabled Anglers permit. The new rules make it illegal for adults to fish in Mt Hood Pond between April 1 and August 31.

Under Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, anglers ages 13 and under can fish for free while those 14-17 will need to have a juvenile fishing license. All fishing regulations continue to apply. It should be noted that Mt Hood Community College now requires parking permits to park a vehicle anywhere on campus property. Contact the college for further information on parking permit options or visit their website.

ODFW will host Youth Fishing Events at the Mt. Hood Pond on Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 971-673-6034 for more information. College parking fees will be waived on days of these events.

**North Fork Reservoir:** The reservoir (up to milepost 32 on Hwy 224) is open May 23 through October 31 for the retention of adipose fin-clipped trout, five per day. The reservoir is stocked frequently throughout spring, summer and fall. There are a number of good access points along Hwy 224 where anglers can fish from the bank.

The boat ramp and marina at Promontory Park will be closed to all public access until the summer of 2016 while PGE constructs a floating surface collector to improve the downstream passage of native salmon and steelhead juveniles at North Fork Dam. The reservoir will be open to fishing from May 25 through Oct. 31. All other access points to North Fork Reservoir will remain open, and ODFW will stock the lake with hatchery trout as in the past.

For more information about the closure, visit [PGE's website](#) (pdf).

**Rickreall Creek:** The mainstem of Rickreall Creek opens May 23 with a limit of two trout per day, 8-inch minimum length. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures. The stream supports a healthy population of native cutthroat trout though bank fishing access is somewhat limited.

**Salish Ponds:** The City of Fairview is working on an extensive restoration project at Salish Ponds Wetlands Park that was expected to be completed in 2013. ODFW will not be stocking here until further notice and anglers are asked to avoid the area until newly planted vegetation has a chance to grow and mature.

**Salmonberry Lake:** This small reservoir in the Milton Creek drainage, west of St. Helens, will be stocked with rainbow trout in late April and likely again in May. The road in is gated and anglers must walk in about 1/3 mile to access this secluded pond.

**Salmon Creek:** This stream just east of Oakridge is stocked every 2-3 weeks through late August at campgrounds and access points up to the Black Creek Road Bridge. Salmon Creek has great public access throughout the stocked area from about ½ mile above Willamette Hatchery to Black Creek.

ODFW will host a Free Fishing Weekend event for kids 10 and younger on June 6 at the Willamette Fish Hatchery from 9 a.m. to noon. Call Tami Edmunds at (541) 782-2933 for more information.

## Sandy River

**TROUT:** The river and its tributaries open May 23 for catch-and-release fishing for trout. The use of bait is allowed up to the ODFW markers at the mouth of the Salmon River.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** Anglers began catching the first spring Chinook on the Sandy in early May. Anglers fishing for spring Chinook this year may find that the best areas for success will be in the middle Sandy, mainly from Oxbow Park up to Dodge Park near the mouth of the Bull Run River.

Acclimation facilities located on the Bull Run River will change where spring Chinook will hold in the river. Anglers should now focus their efforts from Dodge Park downstream as a result of this management change. Spring Chinook are in the Sandy River from early April through July.

**STEELHEAD:** There are winter or summer steelhead in the Sandy River every month of the year.

Among Columbia River tributaries, the Sandy River is second only to the Clackamas River in producing winter steelhead. This makes it a very popular destination for Portland area anglers. The hatchery program has been comprised of a native broodstock, meaning that the hatchery fish are derived from a portion of wild fish returning to the river. Winter steelhead begin returning to the river in December, but larger numbers do not start showing up in the catch until early February. The fishery usually runs from January through April.

All Sandy River winter steelhead are released from the Sandy Fish Hatchery on Cedar Creek, so anglers should focus their efforts from Cedar Creek downstream. There also are good opportunities for catch-and-release fishing for wild steelhead above Cedar Creek in the gorge above and below the former Marmot Dam site.

Summer steelhead are also released into the Sandy River, and return from May through August. The season usually peaks in May.

The Sandy River is a glacier-fed system that typically runs very muddy when warm winter rains melt the glaciers on Mt. Hood. The river will clear up within 3-4 days after high water if the snow level drops below 4,000 feet and the rain stops or slows to showers. The Sandy fishes best at gage readings of 8-11 feet (measured [below the Bull Run](#)).

The River up to the ODFW markers at the mouth of the Salmon River is open year-round for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and from Feb. 1 through Oct. 31 for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures (see the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for restrictions pertaining to flies and lures).

Anglers can access the Sandy River from many parks including Lewis and Clark, Dabney, Oxbow and Dodge. Access is also available at the mouth of Cedar Creek near the Sandy Fish Hatchery. However, the area near Oxbow Park is closed during the fall to protect spawning Chinook salmon (see the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for these special regulations).

Boat anglers access the river at Dodge Park (recommended only for expert boat operators due to hazardous rapids), Oxbow Park, Dabney Park and Lewis and Clark

Park near Troutdale. Jet boats are allowed downstream from Dabney Park. Also, fishing from a floating device is only allowed starting from a point that is 200 feet downstream of the Oxbow Park boat ramp.

**North Santiam** (above Big Cliff Dam), **Breitenbush Rivers, and streams above Detroit**, as well as **Quartzville Creek** on the **South Santiam** and streams above **Green Peter Reservoir**: Will open for trout fishing on April 25 and several, including Breitenbush River, upper North Santiam River and Quartzville Creek, will be stocked with rainbow trout for Memorial Day weekend. These streams will provide anglers an opportunity to retain a standard bag limit of five trout per day and the use of bait is allowed.

**North Santiam** (below Big Cliff Dam), **South Santiam** (below Foster Dam), **and mainstem Santiam River**: Will open for trout fishing on May 23 with a limit of five adipose fin-clipped trout per day, no minimum length.

**North Santiam** (below Big Cliff Dam), **Little North Fork Santiam, South Santiam** (below Foster Dam), **and mainstem Santiam River**:

Both the North and South Santiam are well-known for their summer steelhead fisheries. The peak in summer steelhead fishing usually occurs in June on both rivers, though steelhead begin entering the system as early as March. Fish that have their adipose fin clipped are considered summer steelhead and may be kept. During July and August, non adipose fin-clipped adult steelhead may also be retained. New regulations provide anglers the opportunity to catch one additional fin-clipped summer steelhead (daily bag limit of 4). Fishing for spring Chinook is also popular on these rivers. Look at ODFW's website under Fishing Resources to see how many steelhead and Chinook are passing Willamette Falls and headed into the upper basin.

Bank anglers need to pay attention to the fishing deadlines at two locations on the North Santiam: at Packsaddle Park and Mill City. The deadline boundaries are clearly marked and described in the fishing regulations booklet. Anglers must adhere to these deadlines, making sure to fish and cast downstream of them.

Although known primarily for their summer steelhead fishing, these rivers also offer a fair catch-and-release fishery for winter steelhead.

Approximately one-quarter to one-third of all winter steelhead that pass over Willamette Falls enter the Santiam system.
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The best time for catching winter steelhead is from early March through mid-May, and almost all fishing methods work well including bobber and jig, spinners, bait, swinging wet flies and drifting egg patterns.

Anglers should look for dropping water levels with good visibility and water temperatures above 45 degrees. Water conditions in the North and South Santiam Rivers vary. Typically, flows are relatively high in November and early December as the Corps of Engineers draws the reservoirs down to accommodate flood waters. After that, flows are driven by precipitation until reservoir refilling begins in February. A good site for up-to-date flow information is the [USGS website](#).

Summer steelhead may be present in the river beginning in April. Salmon and steelhead fishing is closed above Foster Reservoir on the South Santiam and above

Detroit on the North Santiam, as well as most tributaries with the exception of the Little North Fork Santiam.

**Little North Fork Santiam:** Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures only.

### **Sauvie Island**

There are several miles of open beach suitable for salmon and steelhead fishing on the Columbia River at the Sauvie Island Wildlife Refuge just north of Portland. The best public access to the Columbia River from Sauvie Island is on NW Reeder Road, which runs from south to north along the western side of the Island. Getting to Sauvie Island is easy. Just take Hwy 30 out of Portland and head north toward Scappoose. Look for the bridge crossing onto the island about two miles north of Linnton. After crossing the bridge, drive north on Sauvie Island Road to Reeder Road. Take Reeder Road west across the island about 6 miles to NW Reeder Road where it runs north along the Columbia for several miles. There are several points to find parking in easy walking distance of the river.

NOTE: Once on the island, you will need a parking permit. Daily permits are \$7 and can be purchased at Sam's Cracker Barrel, Reeder Beach RV Park, Island Cove Café and the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area headquarters (during regular business hours). Permits also can be purchased in advance of your visit on the [ODFW website](#).

Spring Chinook are available from March to the season closure sometime in April. Check the ODFW website for the exact season dates, which can vary from year to year.

The best time of the year to fish for winter steelhead at Sauvie Island is from December to March as steelhead bound for tributaries upstream move past the Island. Many of the fish hug the shoreline in six to 15 feet of water.

The most popular method is to plunk using a weight or sinker heavy enough so it doesn't move with the current. The technique is similar for both salmon and steelhead, but use heavier line and larger terminal tackle for spring Chinook. The preferred lure is a Spin-N-Glo. Some anglers also attach salmon eggs or sand shrimp to the back of the lure for added attraction. Use 15 pound test line or heavier to adequately hold your gear in place and to fight fish in the strong current. Watch other experienced anglers and ask questions about best rigging methods. Be courteous to other anglers and give lots of space so you don't crowd in on other's space. This area is also intertidal, and depth will change 3-5 feet with the tide.

**Scout Lake:** This small scenic lake is a fairly new trout stocking site and will likely be stocked in early May. Take Hwy 30 toward Clatskanie; take the Swedetown Rd. exit; follow Swedetown Rd. about a quarter of a mile to Olson Rd. Turn right onto Olson Rd. Follow Scout Lake signs posted along Olson Road about three miles to locked gate. From there hike in about a mile to the lake or sign out a key to the gate from the City of Clatskanie at 95 S. Nehalem and drive in. For more information, contact the City of Clatskanie at 503-728-2622.

**Sheridan Pond:** The pond is stocked year-round with catchable trout along with larger (12 to 14-inches) and trophy (14 to 18-inches) trout to enhance the fishing experience. Keep a look out for periodic stocking of brood trout that can exceed 4 pounds. The local community hosts a kids fishing day in June.

**Shorty's Pond:** This is 4-acre pond is located within Ivor Davies Nature Park in the city of Molalla. Shorty's is scheduled for stocking in April and May as long as water conditions hold up. Shorty's Pond can be accessed by the Fifth St. Trailhead across from Heckard Football Stadium.

**Silverton Reservoir:** The gate at Silverton Reservoir will be opened for the April 25 weekend and the lake stocked with rainbow trout. It will be re-stocked in May and June.

There will be Free Fishing Weekend events on Silverton Reservoir on Saturday, June 6. One from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; call Dawn Olson at (503) 873-2681 for more information. The second from 1-4 p.m.; call Skip Bouskill at (503) 873-7269 for information.

**Small Fry Lake:** Closed for the season due to ongoing construction activities at Promontory Park. This lake is located on the Clackamas River 7 miles south of Estacada off of Hwy. 224.

**Smith Reservoir:** This reservoir is directly north of Trail Bridge Reservoir and will be stocked through late June. Unlike Trail Bridge Reservoir, Smith Reservoir is not visible from the highway and although there is a good amount of bank angling opportunity near the dam, a boat can increase your angling success. There is a 10 mph speed limit for motorboats on Smith Reservoir. Bait use is allowed.

**St. Louis Ponds:** This is a 240-acre public fishing complex owned by ODFW. It contains 54 developed acres of water in seven ponds, which provide habitat for trout and warmwater species, including catfish, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, green sunfish, white crappie and black crappie.

An ADA-approved paved pathway and several fishing platforms and floating docks that make it possible for people in wheelchairs to reach many of the ponds in the complex.

St. Louis Ponds is located west of I-5 about 15 miles north of Salem and 2 miles west of Gervais. From Gervais, take St Louis Rd west to Tesch Lane, turn left onto Tesch Lane and follow road into the St. Louis Ponds public fishing area.

Fishing from a floating device is prohibited on all ponds. Pond #6 has provided some excellent trout opportunities this spring though weed growth may limit stocking later in the spring as the water warms.

The North Willamette Watershed District will host a Family Fishing event at St Louis Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be a Free Fishing Weekend Event at St Louis Ponds on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Timothy and Trillium lakes:** Timothy Lake is home to rainbow, brook and native cutthroat trout as well as kokanee salmon. Both lakes will receive rainbow trout in late April or early May, depending on accessibility due to snow. Snowpack is lighter than normal this year and ODFW will stock the lake as soon as the trucks can get it. Call the U.S. Forest Service at (503) 630-6861 to check on road conditions.

Timothy Lake has a catch limit of 25 kokanee per day and five adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout. However, there is no limit on size or number of brook trout taken.

**Trail Bridge Reservoir:** This reservoir, visible from Hwy 126, is stocked with adipose fin-clipped trout from mid-May through late July. Only artificial flies and lures are legal to use and only adipose fin-clipped trout may be harvested.

**Trojan Pond:** This is a 15-acre lake located just east of Rainier on the north side of Hwy 30 at the Trojan nuclear facility. The pond is stocked several times in the spring and the park-like setting at Trojan Pond can make for a great day of family fishing and picnicking.

**Tualatin River:** Lower elevation streams in the drainage are expected to be good for native cutthroat trout as well as warmwater fish, including smallmouth and largemouth bass, and bluegill. The trout season is open from May 23 through Oct. 31 for catch-and-release only. The use of bait is allowed in the Tualatin River up to the Hwy 210 Bridge at Scholls. Artificial flies and lures must be used in the area above Scholls up to the Hwy 47 bridge in Gaston. A small boat or canoe will provide the best access to more water in this slow moving meandering river. Access points exist at major bridge crossings and some riverside parks.

**Willamette River, Lower:**

The Willamette River below Willamette Falls in Oregon City is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead year-round.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** The 2015 spring Chinook season has been good with anglers reporting some decent catch rates throughout the river. Expect good fishing on the Willamette to last at least through May. Then look for good spring Chinook fishing on the upper Willamette and tributaries in June and July.

**SUMMER STEELHEAD:** All steelhead passing the falls after May 31 are considered summer steelhead. These fish originate from releases of hatchery smolts in the Middle Fork Willamette, Mainstem Willamette near Eugene, McKenzie and the North and South Santiam rivers.

**WINTER STEELHEAD:** The fishery for winter steelhead in the lower Willamette River (below Willamette Falls in Oregon City) usually begins in early December, although passage counts at Willamette Falls commence Nov. 1. A dry spell followed by a high flow event in late November/early December typically brings the first flush of winter steelhead into the Willamette. With the change to a native broodstock in the Clackamas River, winter steelhead should be available in the lower Willamette from November through the early part of the spring Chinook season. Steelhead caught in the lower Willamette River are headed for the Clackamas River and tributaries above the falls including the Molalla, Tualatin, Santiam and Calapooia rivers.

The most popular and accessible bank-angling site in the lower Willamette is located at Meldrum Bar in Gladstone. Many long-time Meldrum Bar anglers are successful in high, muddy water when fishing close to the bank (within 15 feet) using brightly colored gear such as Spin-N-Glos or spinners.

The Meldrum Bar fishery can be a little different than most bank fishing so a good tip is to spend some time on the bank watching other anglers to see how it's done.

Winter steelhead are known to hold in shallow margins of the Willamette below the mouth of the Clackamas River, waiting for higher flows and warmer water temperature. Steelhead in the Willamette can be very lethargic and less prone to taking the bait during low, cold winter flows.

Look for river flows ranging from 12,500 – 20,000 cfs and water temperatures from 45-55 degrees for the best opportunities. Willamette River flows, temperatures, and Willamette Falls fish counts can be found [online](#).

#### SALMON and STEELHEAD

- This area is open to retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon the entire year under permanent rules.
- Daily bag limit is 2 adult salmon or steelhead in combination per day, and 5 jack salmon per day.
- See 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for more information.

**STURGEON:** The lower Willamette is also a very good catch-and-release sturgeon fishery. Although retention is now prohibited out of concern for juvenile recruitment, it is still a wonderful fishing opportunity in the heart of a major metropolitan area. Bank anglers can take advantage of the fishing dock on the west side of the river below Willamette Falls. This is a very nice structure constructed specifically for anglers with some of the fees they have paid through purchasing fishing licenses. The new dock is 350 feet long and has dozens of rod holders. It is a good place to fish for sturgeon, salmon and steelhead, especially for anglers who do not have access to a boat.

**WARMWATER SPECIES:** The lower river and sloughs are also a great place to find warmwater fish, including bass, crappie, bluegill and walleye. Special Regulations for walleye specify a 10 walleye per-day limit, and no more than five walleye per-day can be over 18 inches and only one may be over 24 inches. Trout are not stocked into this portion of the river. Use of bait is allowed in the lower river. Also keep in mind that the Willamette River regulations have recently changed under a temporary rule.

**Willamette River above Willamette Falls:** Upstream to Hwy 20 Bridge at Albany is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, coho salmon and the retention of white sturgeon (1 per day, 2 per year) for the entire year. The use of bait is allowed. Bass fishing can be excellent in late spring and summer from the Falls up to Albany.

**Willamette River, Mainstem:** Prospects should be excellent for native cutthroat and rainbow trout upstream of Corvallis. The stretch of river above the highway bridge at Albany to the Hwy 99 bridge at Harrisburg opens April 25 to the harvest of trout with limit of 5 fish per day, 8-inch minimum length; bait allowed. Trout fishing is restricted to catch-and-release/artificial flies and lures between the Hwy99 Bridge at Harrisburg and the mouth of the McKenzie River. There are also excellent opportunities throughout summer for smallmouth bass, crappie, and bluegill in the Willamette River from Salem to Willamette Falls. Retention of white sturgeon is allowed all year.

**Middle Fork Willamette River (below Dexter Dam):** ODFW anticipates spring Chinook and summer steelhead will arrive in peak numbers during May and early June. Some early catches may be possible depending on fish numbers, flow and weather conditions. Anglers should follow [fish passage over Willamette Falls](#) on ODFW's website and allow 10-14 days for these fish to hit the upper basin. Most anglers target the area from Dexter Dam downstream to Pengra Boat Landing; however, during May boat anglers catch spring Chinook from Pengra Boat Landing downstream to the confluence with the Coast Fork Willamette. Summer steelhead will remain available through the fall.

**Middle Fork Willamette River (Lookout Point Reservoir to Hills Creek Reservoir):** Open to fishing all year to artificial flies and lures only. This is a wild trout area and all non-adipose fin-clipped trout must be released unharmed. Up to five adipose fin-clipped trout may be retained per day. These hatchery fish originate from upstream stocking locations.

**Middle Fork Willamette River (Upstream of Hills Creek Reservoir):** This section of river is managed for wild trout and is no longer stocked with hatchery rainbow trout. All wild trout must be released unharmed. Hatchery trout previously scheduled for this area will be released into Hills Creek Reservoir where we expect a much higher harvest rate. Anglers must use artificial flies and lures only.

**Willamette River (confluence of Middle and Coast forks to Beltline Bridge):** There are summer steelhead throughout this section ("the town run"), which offers some great fishing close to town. Steelhead smolts released at various boat ramps in this section of river return to the same area as adults, providing a popular fishery. This section is open the entire year for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches in length.

**Willamette Valley Lakes (Freeway Lakes, Wilsonville Pond, and Woodburn Pond):** Warmwater fishing will start to improve as water temperatures become warmer. Bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish are available in many of the valley ponds. Sloughs and backwaters of the Willamette River also offer good opportunities for warmwater fishing.

**Junction City Pond, EE Wilson Pond, Freeway lakes, Timber Linn Lake, Roaring River Pond, Waverly Lake, Walter Wirth Lake, Walling Pond, and St. Louis Ponds #1, #3, #6:** Trout stocking will continue through mid-May or early June, depending on the water body and water conditions. The locations of and directions to many of these lakes are listed on the [trout stocking schedule](#) on the ODFW website.

**Yamhill River:** Fishing for warmwater fish with bait is allowed from March 1 – Oct. 31 up to the confluence of the North and South Forks. Fishing in the South Yamhill River from the confluence with the North Yamhill upstream to the mouth of Rock Creek is restricted to artificial flies and lures. This section of river is open May 23 – Oct. 31, five adipose fin-clipped trout per day, and no minimum length. The South Yamhill River will be stocked with trout in late May.

The rest of the Yamhill river system, and its tributaries, are open from May 23 through Oct. 31 for artificial flies and lures only. An excellent catch-and-release opportunity for native cutthroat trout that may exceed 14 inches exists in the main stem reaches and larger tributaries. Access in the Yamhill may be difficult due to

large tracts of private ownership, so please ask property owners for permission before accessing the river. Fishing from a small boat would provide the best opportunity to access more water. Access points may exist at bridge crossings and small parks along the river.

For more information about fishing opportunities in the Southwest Zone, contact the nearest ODFW office:

**North Willamette Watershed District Office**

Clackamas, OR 97015

971-673-6000

**South Willamette Watershed District Office**

Corvallis, OR 97330

541-757-4186

**Springfield Field Office**

Springfield, OR 97478

541-726-3515

## CENTRAL ZONE

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Check this out:

- \* 2015 [Family Fishing](#) and [Free Fishing Weekend](#) events.
- \* Find trout stocking schedules and Google maps with driving directions to all stocking sites on the ODFW [Trout Stocking page](#).
- \* Take a friend fishing, clamming or crabbing during Free Fishing Weekend June 6-7 – no license required!
- \* The [Oregon Angler with Disabilities Site Map](#) highlights 133 sites across Oregon that may be suitable for anglers with physical disabilities.
- \* [Easy Angling Central Oregon](#) lists 11 family-friendly places to go fishing in the Bend/Remond/Prineville area.
- \* [50 places to fish within 90 minutes of Bend](#) describes a variety of nearby fishing opportunities.

### TROUT

Most rivers and streams open for trout fishing on May 23, though several notable rivers are open to trout fishing year-round including the lower Deschutes, Crooked, Upper Fall and Metolius. The section of the Deschutes River from the northern boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation to the Pelton Regulating Dam opens for trout on April 25. Rivers and streams are no longer stocked and most trout fishing will be for native rainbow trout commonly called redbands.

The Central Zone Stream Regulations allow the harvest of two trout per day, flies and lures only. Streams where bait is allowed are noted specifically in the Special Regulations for that water body. Anglers should consult the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for any special regulations, and ODFW's web site for any [changes or updates on regulations](#) as the season progresses.

Trout stocking in lakes and reservoirs usually begins shortly after snowmelt. Consult the [trout stocking schedule](#) to see when specific waterbodies are being stocked. The Upper Deschutes River and Crooked River sub-basin received 20-30 percent of their average annual snowpack and are below normal for overall precipitation, while streams draining Mt. Hood have received average, or slightly less than average, snowpack.

Reservoirs near the Cascades are at full pool, but are expected to drop rapidly through the spring and summer months. Reservoirs in the Crooked River watershed are approximately 75 percent full.

The warmer than usual winter and spring should result in excellent early season trout fishing opportunities.
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Throughout the season, you can call the Deschutes, Ochoco or Mt. Hood National Forests or local lake resorts for current updates on road and lake conditions.

### SALMON AND STEELHEAD

Summer steelhead usually begin to enter the Hood and Deschutes rivers in July with the run usually peaking in September. There is excellent bank access on both rivers, and the Deschutes offers a variety of floats from one to several days long. The Hood River primarily gets a run of winter steelhead, usually peaking in early April.

A spring Chinook season has been authorized for the Hood River. The season on the Hood opens on April 15 and runs through June 30. Spring Chinook are typically late running in the Hood River, with the peak of run occurring late in May. Due to projected low returns of spring Chinook in the Deschutes, there will be no spring Chinook season in 2015. The Hood River offers the bank-bound angler one of their best chances for catching and landing a famed Columbia River spring Chinook. Check the ODFW site for [season details](#).

#### WARMWATER

The Central Zone offers a variety of warmwater angling opportunities in a variety of settings: trophy bass in high Cascade lakes (Davis Lake and Crane Prairie Reservoir) to crappie and catfish in juniper-sagebrush surrounded reservoirs (Prineville and Haystack Reservoirs). Fishing for bass, panfish and crappie is best during the spring when they are moving into shallow water to spawn, the timing of which is largely determined by water temperatures reaching 50°F.

The Columbia River above Bonneville Dam is famed for its world-class smallmouth bass fishing. There is plentiful access for both boat and bank anglers.

Bass and crappie fishing generally slows down following spawning as the fish disperse to deeper water, although the schooling nature of crappie makes them easier to find and fish for during the summer (usually jigging for them in water up to 30-35 feet deep). Fishing for catfish during evenings and at night starts picking up about the time when bass and crappie have finished spawning, continues to improve as water temperatures warm and remains fairly consistent until the water begins to cool in the fall.

To learn what's biting and where, check out the [ODFW Weekly Recreation Report](#). Each week our biologists update fishing conditions on rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and ponds throughout the state.

#### **Alphabetical listing:**

**Antelope Flat Reservoir:** Open to year-round fishing, but access may be limited by snow or mud in winter and early spring. The reservoir did not completely fill this year and will reach the minimum pool level earlier than normal. When the water is low, it is regularly turbid due to the wind-created wave action constantly stirring up the mud flat, which will negatively impact catch rates. There are good numbers of 12 to 16 inch trout with a few over 20 inches. Word spread quickly about the excellent fishing after the successful treatment in 2009 to remove brown bullhead so these larger fish are harder to come by due to the increase in pressure. The reservoir is stocked annually with 2,500 catchable trout and 6,000 fingerlings in the spring. The trout demonstrate excellent growth and body condition.

There is an unimproved boat ramp for small to medium-sized boats; however, this is often not operational by late summer. Camping opportunities are available at a managed Ochoco National Forest campground.

Contact the USFS Prineville Ranger District for more information regarding road conditions and access. The reservoir is located in the Maury Mountains approximately 30 miles east of Prineville, but is also accessible off of Hwy 20 E from Bend.

**Bend Pine Nursery Pond:** The pond is located in the old Bend Pine Nursery off of Purcell Blvd. The pond is stocked with rainbow trout in the spring; bass and bluegill are present throughout the year. The pond is open to all licensed anglers and there is a two fish daily limit.

**Big Lava Lake:** Big Lava Lake is always a good choice for catching nice rainbow trout. Most fish will run 10 to 13-inches long, with some fish in the 14 to 16-inch range, and an occasional fish up to 20-inches and larger. Big Lava is a great lake for boat anglers and anglers using smaller pontoon craft or other floatation devices. There is also some great shoreline fishing opportunity. Big Lava is stocked annually in early spring with over 100,000 fingerling trout and 5,000 catchable rainbow. These fish grow quickly throughout the summer and a number of them will be legal-sized by the end of summer.

**Bikini Pond:** Open all year, this pond located in the Mayer State Park, just west of The Dalles. The pond is stocked with rainbow trout in the fall and the spring and is a great place to take kids. High summer water temperatures will limit success during the summer months.

**Cascade Mountain Lakes:** These small, high lakes offer excellent fishing opportunities for brook trout, rainbow trout and cutthroat trout. Many of these lakes see very few visitors during the summer months. These lakes are open to fishing all year, but check on access into higher elevation areas before venturing into these isolated areas. The lakes with fish include Rainey, Black, Bear, Warren, Whatum, Scout, Jean, Little Boulder, Big Boulder, Lower Twin, and Catalpa. Anglers looking for access information on lakes within the Mt. Hood National Forest should contact either the Hood River Hood River Ranger District at 541-352-6002 or the Dufur Ranger District at 541-467-2291. For lakes within the Deschutes National Forest call 541-383-4000.

**Clear Lake and Frog Lake:** These lakes are open to fishing all year. They are located east of Government Camp, and are easily accessed from Hwy 26. The lakes will be stocked with both legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout as soon as access allows. Contact the Mt. Hood National Forest Hood River Ranger District at 541-352-6002 for access and camping information.

Frog Lake provides good fishing throughout the summer, while Clear Lake (actually an irrigation storage reservoir) usually provides the best fishing opportunity early in the season before low water conditions prevail during the summer.

**Crane Prairie Reservoir:** Crane Prairie is located off of the Cascade Lakes Highway (Forest Service Road 46) and is easily accessible from Bend and Sunriver. Contact the Deschutes National Forest or Crane Prairie Resort for up-to-date conditions. Crane Prairie Reservoir offers great fishing for rainbow trout, brook trout and warmwater fish. All hatchery fish are marked with an adipose fin clip so please voluntarily limit your harvest of wild trout to protect this fishery.

Please note the five fish daily trout bag may include only one non-fin-clipped (wild) rainbow trout.
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Current regulations limit the harvest of rainbow trout to one fish over 16 inches. This will help to increase the number of quality trout available to anglers.

Anglers should expect fish to be scattered early in the season and should target shallow water areas for best early season success. Large numbers of brook trout are available, and the best brook trout fishing is early and late in the season. Fish for brook trout at dawn and dusk with flies, lures and bait. Anglers after bigger brook trout should cast their fly, lure or bait close to cover such as submerged logs or undercut banks. Once you hook your brook trout head for open water as they are notorious for tangling the angler's line around logs and rocks.

Crane Prairie offers good largemouth bass fishing opportunities. Opportunities for largemouth should improve as water temperatures increase; target willow areas early in the season. Crane has been producing large kokanee in the 14 to 18-inch range the last few years as well.

Crane Prairie Reservoir will be full early in the season, but anglers can expect the reservoir to drop several feet as the summer progresses.

**Crescent Lake:** Crescent Lake is located off of Hwy 58, east of Willamette Pass and is open year-round for fishing. Kokanee fishing is predicted to be good this year, though it may be slow early in the season with improved catches expected in May and June. Limited numbers of large lake trout and brown trout are also available. Trolling is generally most effective for these species. Several National Forest campgrounds provide camping opportunities.

**Crooked River, Chimney Rock Segment of Wild and Scenic, below Bowman Dam:** This remains one of Oregon's premier fishing destinations. Fishing should be good for native redband trout through 2015. Snowpack in the Ochoco Mountains is well below average this year. River levels should be around 220 to 250 CFS throughout the spring and summer months.

Daily bag limit is two trout per day with an 8 inch minimum length. There is no limit to the number of whitefish that may be kept. Anglers should also take advantage of the abundant whitefish population that produces some very large individuals. Whitefish are very good eating, especially when smoked. Use of bait is permitted May 23 through Oct. 31. The balance of the year is restricted to flies and lures only.

Reintroduced steelhead and Chinook salmon are present in low numbers. Both of these species must be released.

Numerous overnight and day use areas are available on BLM lands. The Chimney Rock Segment of the Crooked River Wild and Scenic is located approximately 15 minutes south of Prineville on Hwy 27, but is also accessible from Bend on the Alfalfa Highway.

ODFW will be performing annual fish monitoring surveys utilizing electrofishing equipment during the week of June 15-19. This will temporarily affect angling opportunity from below Bowman Dam to the Cobble Rock campground. For safety reasons, we ask anglers to avoid this section during the survey.

**Cultus Lake:** Cultus Lake is located off of the Cascade Lakes Highway near Crane Prairie Reservoir and is easily accessible from Bend and Sunriver. Cultus Lake is open year-round, providing a good early season lake trout fishery. There is also fair opportunity for anglers targeting rainbow trout.

**Davis Lake:** Davis Lake is restricted to fly fishing only with barbless hooks. Davis Lake is located off the Cascade Lakes Highway near Crane Prairie Reservoir and is easily accessible from Bend and Sunriver. Trout fishing is expected to be fair through the early part of the season and again late in the season. Numbers of rainbow trout are still reduced as a result of competition and predation from illegally introduced largemouth bass. Davis Lake is fly fishing only with a bag limit of two trout per day between 10 and 13 inches.

Davis Lake also provides good opportunity for largemouth bass. There is no limit on the size or number of largemouth bass harvested. Bass fishing usually starts to get good when water temperatures reach 50 degrees and tapers as the lake level decreases and the water warms up later in the summer.

Closed from 1 hour after sunset until 1 hour before sunrise.

Please note that Odell Creek and the Odell Creek channel are closed upstream of West Davis Campground boat ramp until May 23, when they open for catch-and-release trout fishing using artificial flies and lures only.

Davis Lake is expected to get quite low by mid-summer. This will limit opportunity for both trout and bass. Anglers wanting to fish this unique natural lake in 2015 should focus their efforts early in the season. ODFW will be conducting annual bass removal and transfer efforts utilizing electrofishing equipment during the week of May 19-22.

**Deschutes River, Lower:**

**TROUT:** Trout anglers should find good success throughout the early spring, as many insect hatches begin occurring on the Deschutes in the spring. The Deschutes famous salmonflies reach maturity in May and June and creates a frenzy among both trout and anglers. Anglers are reminded to avoid wading or fishing on, or near, gravel bars during the early spring to avoid disturbing spawning steelhead and trout. The daily bag limit is two trout 10 to 13-inches in length, and all rainbow trout 20 inches or more are considered steelhead.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** There will not be a season for spring Chinook on the lower Deschutes in 2015.

**STEELHEAD:** Steelhead will be arriving in the lower river in early July, with their abundance peaking by the middle of September. In general, fish can be found from the mouth to Macks Canyon in July and early August. Fish continue to move upstream towards Sherars in August and are well distributed from Sherars downstream to the mouth by September. Peak counts at Sherars Falls occur in Mid-September and by November fish are distributed throughout the lower 100 miles. Anglers can watch fish counts at Columbia River dams [www.fpc.org](http://www.fpc.org) to help gauge run timing into the Deschutes. They also can go the [ODFW Web site](#) to check out the number of steelhead passing Sherars Falls. Counts for Sherars Falls are posted from July until the end of October.

Good numbers of summer steelhead can be found throughout the river during the fall and winter, but areas from Sherars Falls upstream to Warm Springs generally offer some of the best late-season fishing.

Successful anglers typically cast spinners or plugs, or fish sinking flies for late season action.

Anglers will find fish in different locations in the Deschutes in winter than they do in the summer, due to cooler temperatures. Anglers should focus their efforts on softer water areas where fish will be holding, such as behind boulders or other obstructions, as fish will be less likely to move great distances to strike.

**FALL CHINOOK:** Fall Chinook salmon will begin arriving in August, and the run to the Deschutes is expected to be large again this season. The ODFW will authorize a season downstream from Sherars Falls to the mouth of the Deschutes beginning Aug. 1, see page 59 of the 2015 Sport Fishing Regulations for season details. In 2013 and 2014, sport anglers had one of the highest fall Chinook harvests on record. A similar run is expected in 2015. The best area to catch fall Chinook is in the bait section below Sherars Falls.

Only artificial flies and lures are permitted except from Sherars Falls downstream to the upstream-most railroad trestle where bait is permitted beginning Aug. 1 through May 31. Trout, whitefish and hatchery origin steelhead fishing is open all year from the mouth upstream to markers at the northern boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation, which is 17 miles upstream from Maupin. The Deschutes from that point upstream to 600 feet below the Pelton re-regulation dam is open to trout fishing from April 25 through Oct. 31, and April 25 through Dec. 31 for adipose fin-clipped steelhead, whitefish, and coho salmon. Anglers may harvest three adipose fin-clipped steelhead per day in the Deschutes.

Large tracts of public land provide bank access, along with boat access throughout much of the river. Popular bank fishing areas on the Deschutes include the multiple sites along the east bank access road upstream from Maupin, Trout Creek campground area, and the Mecca Flat campground area.

ODFW conducts yearly summer steelhead population estimates for the Deschutes from the Sherars Falls Fish Trap. All fish captured at the Sherars Falls Trap are tagged to help estimate the run size. Anglers are encouraged to contact the local ODFW district by phone at 541-296-4628, or through the ODFW web page if they catch any tagged steelhead in the Deschutes. Tag recoveries from anglers are used in developing the yearly population estimates. Current catch data from the Sherars Falls Trap is available on [ODFW's web site](#).

Information on boating and camping on the Lower Deschutes can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management at [www.boaterpass.com](http://www.boaterpass.com) or by phone at 541-416-6700.

**Deschutes River, Billy Chinook Lake upstream to Benham Falls:** Open year-round and restricted to artificial flies and lures. Fishing should be fair for brown trout and redband trout.

**Deschutes River, Benham Falls upstream to Wickiup Reservoir:** Opens May 23. Fishing should be fair for brown trout. Hatchery rainbow trout are stocked at 5 locations in this section May – July

**East Lake:** East Lake is located in the Newberry Crater off of Hwy 97 near LaPine and opens to fishing April 25. Kokanee, rainbow trout, brown trout and Atlantic

salmon are present in the lake. The Department has implemented chub trapping and removal operations to improve sport fishing. Expect fair to good catches of rainbow and brown trout early in the season. Brown trout numbers are good with fair numbers of large fish. Catchable rainbow trout are stocked in the spring. Expect fair to good numbers of carryover rainbow early in the season.

Non-finclipped Blackwater strain rainbow trout are stocked annually. To provide a quality trophy type fishery, it is catch-and-release only on these fish. Additional rainbow trout with adipose fin clips are available for harvest. Brown trout over 16-inches must be released due to limits on mercury consumption. Contact the East Lake Resort or Deschutes National Forest for up to date reports.

**Haystack Reservoir:** Open to year-round fishing. Legal-sized rainbows are stocked in mid-April. Moderate numbers of large brown trout also are present. Kokanee fishing should be fair in the spring, while fishing for bass, bluegill and crappie should improve as the water warms. The daily bag limit is five trout including kokanee. The bag limit for bass is 5 per day with no more than 3 over 15 inches in length. There is no limit to the number of bluegill and crappie that may be kept. Fishing for brown bullhead should be good.

Boat launches on the east and west shores are in good condition. This is an irrigation re-regulating reservoir, thus water levels fluctuate daily. However, there will be adequate boating water throughout the season. Haystack Reservoir is located east of Hwy 97 between Redmond and Madras.

**Hood River System (excluding West Fork):** Hood River drains the North slope of Mt. Hood and enters the Columbia river at the town of Hood River. It is open for catch-and-release trout fishing May 23 through Oct. 31. Only artificial flies and lures may be used when trout fishing upstream from the area open to salmon and steelhead fishing.

Flow conditions will be below average in the Hood River throughout the spring. Anglers should think about and use low water tactics for late winter steelhead, summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon.

**SPRING CHINOOK:** Fishery managers are predicting a strong return of hatchery-origin spring Chinook to the Hood River this spring, and have set a season to open April 15 – June 30. The bag limit for spring Chinook is 2 adipose fin-marked adult spring Chinook, and 5 adipose fin-marked spring Chinook jacks. The Hood River offers an excellent opportunity for anglers to land a spring Chinook without the use of a boat. Successful anglers usually use a combination of bait and hardware for both steelhead and spring Chinook.

**STEELHEAD:** Unlike most winter steelhead streams, the Hood River provides steelhead fishing opportunities for summer and winter run steelhead during the winter months. Angler opportunity peaks, however, when the winter run steelhead begin returning in late winter (February to April).

As one of the easternmost populations of winter steelhead in the Columbia Basin, the Hood River run is later than most winter run populations.

Winter run steelhead typically start returning to the Hood River in late December and continue through May, with the peak of the run not occurring until April. The hatchery population is partially comprised from wild broodstock, so hatchery and wild fish return at nearly the same time. Fishing should be good in the Hood River, as approximately 50,000 winter steelhead smolts are released annually.

Anglers on the Hood River have a unique opportunity to catch both winter and summer run steelhead on the same trip. Summer run steelhead have a very protracted run in the Hood River, and are present in the river throughout the year. While the winter run may be late in the Hood, anglers should not discount the opportunity to fish early in the season for early returning winter run fish, while also fishing for holdover summer run fish, or to fish late into the winter run season for the early returning summer run fish.

Unlike more traditional winter steelhead streams, the Hood is typically higher gradient, which tends to reduce the number of pools. Anglers should not overlook riffles with boulders, or pocket type water, where steelhead may be holding.

Anglers will find good public access on the lower 4.5 miles of the river in the PacifiCorps property that was formerly associated with the now removed Powerdale Dam. Angling deadlines have changed following the removal of Powerdale Dam. The upstream deadline is located at the confluence of the West Fork with the mainstem Hood River, and in the West Fork upstream to 200 feet below Punchbowl Falls. Anglers should check ODFW's web site for more information [changes or updates on regulations](#) for the Hood River.

Anglers also are reminded that the Hood River system is closed to the harvest of bull trout. All bull trout must be released unharmed.

The US Forest Service is sponsoring a Family Fishing event on May 17 at Middle Fork irrigation pond from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call the The Dalles District Office at (541) 296-4628 for more information.

**West Fork Hood River upstream of Punchbowl Falls, and tributaries:** Closed to all fishing for maximum protection of federally-protected steelhead and salmon stocks.

**Hosmer Lake:** Hosmer Lake is a fly fishing only lake located off of the Cascade Lakes Highway. Naturally reproducing brook trout are also available. The clear water makes fish skittish, so this is a great lake to target during periods of low use. Hosmer Lake is very popular with canoeists and paddleboarders, thus anglers should target their efforts early and late in the day. Cloudy, cool days are perfect for fishing Hosmer.

Recently introduced rainbow (Cranebow) and cutthroat trout are flourishing in Hosmer Lake and provide an excellent new opportunity for the fly angler.

**Kingsley Reservoir:** Kingsley reservoir is located west of Hood River, off of Kingsley Road. Anglers should focus efforts early in the year, as the reservoir level will drop rapidly as the season progresses. Kingsley will be stocked as soon as access allows with legal-sized and trophy rainbow. It also will receive excess adult hatchery steelhead from the Hood River when available. Kingsley Reservoir is open all year.

**Lake Billy Chinook:** Early reports indicate the kokanee fishing should be good this year with peak fishing pressure expected in July and August. Kokanee are included as part of the trout bag limit.

Fishing for trout should be fair in the uppermost reaches of all three arms. The trout daily limit is five trout per day. Rainbow trout over 20-inches are considered steelhead and kokanee over 16-inches are considered sockeye salmon. Both species must be released. Chinook salmon are also present from reintroduction efforts and must be released.

Opportunities for bull trout are good; however, most fish are smaller than the 24-inch minimum length. Most anglers concentrate their efforts in the Metolius Arm. Regulations allow one bull trout per day and one bull trout in possession with a 24-inch minimum length. Bull trout must be immediately released unharmed unless kept in the daily catch limit. A tribal fishing permit in addition to an Oregon State fishing license is required to fish in the Metolius Arm. There is a closed-to-fishing sanctuary from the cable downstream 350 yards at the head of the Metolius Arm.

Smallmouth bass fishing should be good in all three arms as the water warms. Bass average 6 to 10-inches in Lake Billy Chinook.

Anglers are encouraged to consult the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations before fishing. Lake Billy Chinook is located approximately 15 minutes west of Madras.

**Laurence Lake:** Laurence Lake is located west of Parkdale, off of Clear Creek Road. The Lake is open April 25-Oct. 31 and will likely be full at the start of fishing season. However, water levels will drop rapidly as the season progresses. Anglers should contact the Mt. Hood National Forest Hood River Ranger District at 541-352-6002 for access and camping information at the lake.

Holdover and legal-sized trout will be available for the opener. All non fin-clipped trout and bull trout must be released unharmed, and only artificial flies and lures can be used. Tributary streams are closed to all fishing.

Anglers are encouraged to keep any smallmouth bass caught, as bass have been illegally introduced and will negatively impact trout fisheries.
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**Lost Lake:** Lost Lake is located west of Dee, and can be reached from Lost Lake Road (Forest Rd. 13). Lost Lake is open year-round, and provides excellent fishing opportunity throughout the summer. The picturesque lake also offers excellent boating opportunity, though the use of motors is prohibited. The lake will be stocked with legal- and trophy-sized trout as soon as access allows. In addition to legal and trophy rainbow trout, natural brown trout, and holdover fish will be available. Lost Lake should remain at normal surface levels throughout the summer

Anglers should contact the Mt. Hood National Forest Hood River Ranger District at 541-352-6002 for early season access and camping information as lingering snow may hinder access.

**Ochoco Reservoir:** Fishing is expected to be good this year but the reservoir is not expected to fill completely, which could negatively impact boating in the late summer or early fall. It may only reach about 75 percent full before the beginning of the

irrigation season, which means the boat ramp will be unusable earlier than normal. Boat anglers should also be aware of hazards that appear as the water levels recede.

Angler reports suggest that fishing has improved with increased stocking efforts. The reservoir is stocked with 35,000 fingerling trout in the fall but also supports a healthy native trout population.

Growth rates are good with trout up to 18-inches commonly caught and trout over 20-inches occasionally caught. A wide range of bait and tackle can be effective. Boat anglers should concentrate in the upper end of the reservoir near the mouths of Ochoco and Mill Creeks during the months of April and May. The daily bag limit is five trout with only 1 over 20-inches.

Black crappie fishing should improve as temperatures rise and brown bullhead fishing in the upper part of the reservoir is excellent beginning in April and continuing throughout the summer. There is an abundant smallmouth bass population in the reservoir but the fish are generally small. A large individual would average 12 to 14 inches long. Black crappie and brown bullhead were illegally introduced to the reservoir and ODFW does not limit their harvest. Smallmouth bass were also illegally introduced but their harvest is limited by the zone regulations of 5 bass per day with no more than 3 over 15 inches in length. Bank anglers are asked to respect private property on the shoreline.

The reservoir is open to year-round fishing. A boat ramp and camping facilities are available.

**Odell Lake:** Odell Lake is about 70 miles southeast of Eugene and just off Hwy 58. Kokanee fishing at Odell Lake has been good in recent years. Those anglers targeting kokanee will be most successful at dawn and dusk. Kokanee should be running in the 11 to 13-inch size range and in good condition. Early season lake trout fishing also should be good. Only one lake trout per day is allowed as part of the daily trout limit and it must be at least 30-inches long.

Odell also provides opportunity for nice rainbow trout. Please note that bull trout are federally listed as threatened and their numbers are extremely low in Odell Lake. Targeted fishing for bull trout is not allowed and any incidentally caught bull trout must be released unharmed. Fishing is closed within 200 feet of the mouth of Trapper and Odell Creeks to protect bull trout. Do not remove bull trout from water when releasing them.

ODFW is conducting a multi-year research project in Odell Lake to evaluate the interaction between lake trout and bull trout. Anglers are encouraged to assist ODFW in recovering this imperiled species through proper fishing and fish handling practices.

**Olallie Lake:** Olallie Lake is located on the crest of the central Cascades, in the shadow of Olallie Butte. The lake will be stocked with legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout as access allows. Anglers may also catch many holdover fish from previous stockings.

Anglers can call the Mt. Hood National Forest Clackamas Ranger District at (503)-630-6861 for access and camping information. The resort and store has reopened and will be available for business.

In addition to fishing on Olallie, energetic anglers can hike to nearby mountain lakes to fish for brook trout.

**Paulina Lake:** Paulina Lake is located in the Newberry Crater off of Hwy 97 near La Pine and opens to fishing April 25; however, snow conditions may limit access until late spring or early summer. Paulina provides great opportunity for brown trout of all size classes. Expect best catches of large brown trout early in the season and early and late in the day. Non-finclipped Blackwater strain rainbow trout are stocked annually. To provide a quality trophy type fishery, it is catch-and-release only on these fish. Additional rainbow trout with adipose fin clips are available for harvest.

Kokanee fishing is expected to be fair with most fish ranging from 9 to 12-inches. Kokanee catches will improve as lake productivity increases in May and June. As with the brown trout, early morning anglers have better success catching kokanee. There is a five trout daily bag limit (includes kokanee) which may include one trout greater than 20 inches.

Contact the Paulina Lake Resort or Deschutes National Forest for up-to-date reports.

**Prineville Reservoir:** Fishing for rainbow trout will be fair with fish averaging 13 to 16-inches long. Opportunities also will be good for black crappie, brown bullhead and bass. Crappie numbers are similar to recent years, and they are still readily available and support a popular fishery. Reports from bass tournaments showed that catches are increasing in response to translocation efforts from Davis Lake. Most largemouth bass anglers concentrate on the upper end of the reservoir, while smallmouth bass are available in rocky shoreline areas throughout the reservoir. The reservoir is about 12 miles southeast of Prineville.

**Prineville Youth Pond:** The Prineville Youth Pond is stocked every spring and fall with rainbow trout. Fishing is open to youth 17-years-old and younger, and there is a two fish limit with an 8 inch minimum length on trout. Bass are catchable year-round and their population is replenished in June.

To get to the pond from Third Street in Prineville, turn south onto Main Street. Parking is available on the west side of Main St. just past Lynn Blvd., or directly next to the Crook County Christian School and across from the Crook County Fairgrounds. Cross the Crooked River on the iron bridge in Rimrock Park to get to the pond.

**Rock Creek and Pine Hollow Reservoirs:** These reservoirs located near the town of Wamic can be easily accessed from both sides of the Cascades. Both are open all year and have been stocked with legal-sized and trophy sized rainbow trout. Early season reports from both reservoirs have indicated good catches. The reservoirs are currently full, but will drop rapidly as the season progresses. Pine Hollow should be good all spring since good numbers of fish over-winter in the reservoir. Good numbers of largemouth bass are also available in Pine Hollow reservoir. Both reservoirs will likely be full during the spring, and boat ramps should be useable.

**Shevlin Pond:** Shevlin Pond is located in the north end of Shevlin Park, which is west of Bend on Newport Avenue. Shevlin Pond is stocked with rainbow trout

throughout the spring and summer months. Fishing is open to all youth 17-years-old and younger, and there is a two fish limit.

**Simtustus Lake:** Open to fishing year-round. Fishing should be good for rainbow trout (12 to 16-inches). Ten to 12-inch rainbow trout will be stocked beginning in April and continuing through the summer. Some bull trout also are available. There are also good numbers of smallmouth bass found throughout the reservoir.

A tribal fishing permit in addition to a state fishing license is required to fish in the lake. The bag limit is five trout per day which includes kokanee and bull trout. Bull trout limit is one fish with a 24-inch minimum, as in Lake Billy Chinook.

The store and campground at Pelton Park will be open, and a boat ramp is available. Pelton Park is located between Madras and Warm Springs, in the Deschutes River Canyon.

**Suttle Lake:** Suttle Lake is located on Hwy 20, east of Hoodoo Ski Area and is open to fishing year-round. Expect fair to good catches of brown trout and kokanee. Target brown trout early and late in the day along the shoreline. Kokanee numbers should be good; however, size is generally less than 8-inches. Fishing for kokanee should improve as water warms into June and then taper off into late summer. Suttle Lake has a kokanee bag limit of 25 fish per day in addition to the trout species catch limit. Contact the Deschutes National Forest or Suttle Lake Lodge for up-to-date conditions.

**Taylor Lake:** Open the entire year. This lake is close to The Dalles and will be stocked with legal-sized and trophy trout several times throughout the early season. The lake will also receive excess adult hatchery steelhead early in the spring, when available. Trout fishing is best in the early season before the water warms. Taylor provides good warmwater fishing opportunity as temperatures increase during the summer.

**Twin Lake, North:** North Twin Lake can be accessed off of Forest Service Road 42 between Wickiup and Crane Prairie. Open year-round and provides a fishery for rainbow trout. North Twin is a great family setting and it provides good shelter from the wind and a nice shoreline for kids to fish. The lake offers good boat fishing, though use of motors is prohibited. It will be stocked with legal and trophy trout in spring and early summer.

<p>The Department anticipates chemically treating North Twin Lake in late October to remove the illegally introduced brown bullhead population. Prior to treatment anglers should look for an announcement from the Department increasing bag limits.</p>
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**Twin Lake, South:** South Twin Lake can be accessed off of Forest Service Road 42 between Wickiup and Crane Prairie. South Twin Lake is a popular and reliable lake for rainbow trout fishing and provides a sheltered fishing opportunity from early season cold temperatures and wind. South Twin provides nice shorelines for both kids and adults. Boat fishing is also very popular; however, motors are prohibited. The rainbow trout in South Twin has greatly improved following the chemical treatment in 2011. Trout typically run 11 to 13-inches long with a fewer carryover fish in the 14 to 16-inch range.

**Walton Lake:** Open to fishing the entire year but access may be limited in the winter due to snow. The lake is stocked prior to Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer.

Following the removal of bullhead catfish in 2009 fishing has been excellent! Removing the bullhead has improved the water clarity and this has allowed the aquatic vegetation to flourish which in turn provides an abundance of aquatic insects.

The trout grow very well by feeding on the insects but the vegetation can impede the effectiveness of some fishing techniques. When fishing in the shallow areas of the lake, anglers will have the most success and least amount of frustration by keeping their offering just above the vegetation. There is a small paved ramp that accommodates small watercraft but only electric motors are allowed. Camping opportunities are available at a managed Ochoco National Forest campground surrounding the lake.

Contact the USFS Prineville Ranger District for more information regarding camping opportunities, road conditions and access. Walton Lake is approximately 45 minutes east of Prineville on Forest Road 42.

**Wickiup Reservoir:** Wickiup Reservoir is located off of the Cascade Lakes Highway (Forest Service Road 46) and is easily accessible from Bend and Sunriver. It opens to fishing April 25. Large browns are caught early in the season, both early and late in the day. Some large rainbow trout also are available. Target shallow water flats early in the season and river channel areas as the water warms. Kokanee numbers are expected to be fair to good again this year. Kokanee will be scattered early in the season and begin schooling in channels sometime in June. There is a bonus bag limit on kokanee of 25 fish in addition to the trout bag limit.

Note: There is an error in the 2015 Sportfishing Regulations for Wickiup Reservoir. The regulation identifying 2 trout per day from Aug. 1- Aug 31, kokanee included in trout limit **only applies to the Deschutes River Arm upstream of the ODFW marker.**

Largemouth bass anglers should seek out the willow flats though brown bullhead have, to some degree, taken over the southeastern area of the reservoir. The largemouth bass fishing will improve as water temperatures get warmer. Largemouth bass harvest limit is five fish per day with no more than three over 15 inches. Closed to angling 1 hour after sunset until 1 hour before sunrise.

For more information about fishing opportunities in the Central Zone, contact the nearest ODFW office:

**Deschutes Watershed District Office**

Bend, OR 97702  
541-388-6363

**Prineville Field Office**

Prineville, OR 97754  
541-447-5111

**The Dalles Field Office**  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
541-296-4628

## NORTHEAST ZONE

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Check this out:

- \* 2015 [Family Fishing](#) and [Free Fishing Weekend](#) events.
- \* Find trout stocking schedules and Google maps with driving directions to all stocking sites on the ODFW [Trout Stocking page](#).
- \* Take a friend fishing, clamming or crabbing during Free Fishing Weekend June 6-7 – no license required!
- \* The [Oregon Angler with Disabilities Site Map](#) highlights 133 sites across Oregon that may be suitable for anglers with physical disabilities.

### TROUT

Most rivers and streams open May 23. Most are not stocked so anglers will be fishing primarily for native rainbow trout, with opportunities to harvest adipose fin-clipped residual steelhead smolts. Fishing for bull trout is prohibited except for the Wenaha and Imnaha rivers where it is catch-and-release only. Check the 2015 Sport Fishing Regulations for bag limits and gear restrictions.

Trout stocking of lakes, ponds and reservoirs begins in April and May and usually continues through June (see the full stocking schedule [here](#)). Warm water temperatures and weed growth often slows trout fishing by late July, especially in the smaller ponds. Trout fishing in these waters usually picks up again with the onset of cooler fall weather. The exceptions will be large lakes such as Wallowa Lake and higher elevation lakes in the Wallowa and Strawberry mountains, which can fish well throughout the hot summer months.

High elevation lakes usually are not accessible until early to mid-July but should be accessible earlier in 2015 due to low snow pack.
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### SALMON AND STEELHEAD

Pre-season forecasts suggest a moderate return of spring Chinook to northeast Oregon streams this year. If the runs materialize, there will likely be opportunities to harvest adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook in the Imnaha, Wallowa, and Grande Ronde rivers in Wallowa County and Lookingglass Creek in Union County. Seasons, bag limits, and open areas will be announced in May or June and will be posted on the [ODFW website](#). Chinook begin showing up in northeast Oregon rivers in late May but fishing success is usually best in June and early July, as river flows recede from snow melt runoff. Low snowpack will lead to a minimal spring runoff this year. The Umatilla River spring Chinook pre-season forecast is for a strong return this spring, the season opens to spring Chinook fishing April 16, with peak returns occurring in mid-May. Season length will be dependent upon run size and harvest rates.

The summer steelhead season opens Sept. 1 and peaks in October or November, depending on the river. Many of the best steelhead rivers in Northeast Oregon offer adequate access for both bank and boat anglers. Summer steelhead remain in the rivers until March or April and there's often quality steelhead fishing through the winter and early spring with some high catch rates. However, winter and spring fishing opportunities and success are dependent on weather conditions and water levels – so consult the weekly Recreation Report and river flow web sites ([USGS](#) or [OWRD](#)) -- for the latest conditions before making a trip.

### WARMWATER

The Northeast Zone offers excellent warmwater fishing for bass, channel catfish and crappie. The Columbia and John Day rivers have world-class smallmouth bass fisheries and fishing usually “heats up” in May when water temperatures reach 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fishing for bass, panfish, and crappie is best during the spring when they are moving into shallow water to spawn, the timing of which is largely determined by water temperatures reaching 50°F.

Bass and crappie fishing generally slows down following spawning as the fish disperse to deeper water, although the schooling nature of crappie makes them easier to find and fish for during the summer (usually jigging for them in water up to 30-35 feet deep). Fishing for catfish during evenings and at night starts picking up about the time when bass and crappie have finished spawning, continues to improve as water temperatures warm and remains fairly consistent until the water begins to cool in the fall.

To learn what’s biting and where, check out the [ODFW Weekly Recreation Report](#). Each week our biologists update fishing conditions on rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and ponds throughout the state.

#### **Alphabetical listing:**

**Aldrich Ponds:** Located 5 miles east of Dayville on the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area, these ponds are open for trout fishing April 15 to Nov. 30 with a two fish bag limit. Access is difficult, requiring a 4WD for 6 miles to the parking area and then a 2 mile hike. The upper pond was drained and deepened in 2011, funded by the ODFW Restoration and Enhancement Program. Fish up to 18-inches will be available this summer. The lower pond was not rehabilitated but can still produce rainbow trout up to 18-inches long.

**Anson Wright Pond:** This pond is located 45 miles south of Heppner on Hwy 207 and is operated by Morrow County Parks. In 2015 the pond will be drained for maintenance and will not be stocked with fish.

**Bull Prairie Reservoir:** This reservoir is located 21 miles north of Spray on Hwy 207 and Forest Road 2039. It is open year-round and is stocked with fingerling and trophy rainbow each spring. There is a boat launch, fishing docks, a hiking trail and a Forest Service campground at the reservoir.

**Cold Springs Reservoir:** The reservoir is open to fishing from March 1 to Sept. 30. The reservoir contains white crappie and largemouth bass and brown bullhead. White crappie grow quite large with many fish in the 12 to 14-inch range. The best fishing is in spring and early summer, prior to irrigation drawdown of the reservoir. The reservoir is approximately 4 mile east of Hermiston,

#### **Grande Ronde, Wallowa, and Imnaha basin streams:**

**TROUT:** Open for trout May 23. Spring runoff results in high flows which generally make trout fishing a challenge early in the season. However, with low snow pack early fishing may be good with access to ample holding water. The Wallowa also has a fantastic golden stone hatch that often comes off during late June and early July. Best success occurs after early June in the lower reaches of the Grande Ronde, Wallowa and Imnaha rivers.

The canyon section of the Wallowa River offers great access from Minam State Park to Rock Cr. where there's good fishing for rainbow trout and whitefish throughout the summer. This section is popular with local fly anglers and can produce some quality hatches throughout the season. Often times the Wallowa can yield 15+ fish days and some fish will stretch the 20 inch mark. Adipose fin-clipped trout are available to anglers who wish to harvest a meal.

Fishing for trout in the lower Grande Ronde can produce quality fish during early summer and in the fall when water temperatures are low. During mid to late summer, a healthy population of smallmouth bass provides some fast and furious fishing in the lower river. Public access is abundant below Wildcat Bridge.

The lower Wallowa and Grande Ronde rivers from Minam downstream to Wildcat Bridge offer opportunities in the late spring and early summer for floating and fishing trips on wild and scenic water. Information on floating the rivers can be obtained from U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Baker Field Office (541) 523-1295 or [on line](#). River flow information can be found [here](#).

The lower Imnaha River has good public access along the road within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. A trail follows the river through a stunning canyon from the Doug Bar road downstream to the confluence with the Snake River. Trout fishing can be good the entire season throughout the lower river. Access to the upper Imnaha is equally as good and provides catch-and-release opportunities for large bull trout during the summer months; it's also a whitefish factory.

**SPRING CHNOOK:** Pre-season forecasts of spring Chinook run strength suggest the likelihood of opening sections of the Lookingglass Creek and the Wallowa, Imnaha and Grande Ronde rivers for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook fishing in 2015. A pilot fishery was open for the first time on the Grande Ronde in 2014 and this opportunity will likely be extended to 2015. If the run materializes as projected, a news release announcing the fisheries, open areas, and regulations will be released in late spring.

**STEELHEAD:** Wild and hatchery summer steelhead enter these eastern Oregon streams in late summer through spring and fishing for them can continue into the winter months whenever the weather and water conditions permit. Harvest is limited to three adipose fin-clipped hatchery steelhead per day.

The best fall and early winter fishing opportunities are in the lower reaches of the Grande Ronde and Imnaha rivers. Public bank fishing access to both streams is generally good. The Troy area, on the lower Grande Ronde, contains substantial Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife lands. The Imnaha River below Fence Creek boasts several points in US Forest Service ownership.

Mid to late-winter offers steelheading opportunities in the Wallowa River and middle reaches of the Imnaha River as fish push upstream. Public access is plentiful along the lower 20 miles of the Wallowa River. The reaches of the Imnaha River between the town of Imnaha and Fence Cr. are mostly private; however, Big Sheep Creek from the town of Imnaha to the confluence of Little Sheep Creek has fair access through U.S. Forest Service lands and can provide some great late season action.

Anglers may also access the lower Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers by boat. Boat launch sites on the lower Grande Ronde River include Wildcat Creek Bridge (8 miles upstream of Troy), Mud Creek (6 miles upstream of Troy), Troy Bridge, and Redmond Bridge (2 miles downstream of Troy). A site on BLM property 1 mile upstream of the Oregon/Washington state line is often used as a launch by anglers licensed to fish in both states or as a take-out for those launching upstream. The lower Grande Ronde is passable for rafts and drift boats at all but the lowest winter flows.

Water conditions often limit angler success during the winter months. Icing and high, turbid flows can affect fishing for much of the winter some years. Generally, flows below 2000 cfs on the Grande Ronde River and 500 cfs on the Imnaha River provide the best fishing.

Anglers generally have their best success while flows are declining following a high flow event. During fall, look for rain in the forecast to bring flows up which prompts fish to move up the system. Warm periods during winter and early spring will also increase flows and improve fishing.

Expect catch rates near or below 10 hours per steelhead caught and can even drop below 5 hours when the fishing is hot. These catch rates are often top notch when compared to the rest of the state.

Catch rates generally drop-off with colder water conditions in late fall and early winter, then pick-up again in February and March, depending on weather conditions.

Successful anglers use a variety of techniques for fall and winter steelhead. Casting flies, spinners and spoons, and drift fishing with bait are all effective during moderate temperature conditions. Many anglers use bobbers and bait or jigs as well. These techniques can be especially effective during cold weather to target fish holding in deeper, slower water. Popular baits include eggs, shrimp, and worms (night crawlers or scented rubber imitations). Darker colors such as black, purple and green are popular for flies, lures and jigs. The Grande Ronde is also popular in October for fly anglers looking to hook a steelhead on a skated dry fly! Remember to change up your tactics when fishing is slow.

For further information contact the ODFW Enterprise District Office at (541) 426-3279.

**Hat Rock and Tatone Ponds:** Hatrock Pond is located in Hatrock State park East of Hermiston and Tatone Pond is 5 miles west of Boardman. These ponds are open year-round are stocked with catchable-sized trout during March, April, May and June, and provide easy access for young anglers and families.

**Holliday Park Pond:** This is a relatively new fishery created by ODFW in 2009 between the towns of Mt. Vernon and John Day. The pond is located within Holliday State Park and is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout each spring and fall. The pond is open year-round, though fishing can slow during the hot summer months. Features include a handicap accessible fishing dock and nearby camping sites, but there is no boat ramp.

**John Day Basin Streams:** Stream trout fishing opens May 23 and is best on the Middle and South Forks where public lands are abundant. Hooks larger than 1/4 inch gap and all lures are prohibited in the North and Middle Forks above Hwy 395 to protect holding spring Chinook salmon. All rainbow trout 20-inches and larger are classified as steelhead and must be released unharmed.

Steelhead fishing is open from Sept. 1 to April 15 in the upper John Day River and year round below Kimberly. Steelhead normally do not enter the river until fall when river flows rise above 300 cfs. This usually occurs toward the end of October. The fall steelhead fishery is best from Cottonwood Bridge to Tumwater falls.

By December and January the fish have migrated up to Service Creek (RM 155) but cold water slow their activity. Access is much more available along this stretch of river with numerous public land access points and boat launches from Bridge Creek at RM 135 to Service Creek at RM 185.

Once the ice breaks up in February, the fishery begins in earnest in the Middle and North Fork John Day Rivers. Steelhead have migrated as far as Kimberly (RM 184) where good access is available along Hwy 19. From here, the fish head up the three major forks of the river and assume a more normal migration pattern. Water temperatures are still cold and high, muddy water frequently disrupts the fishery but between water events the fishing can be very productive.

The best access for the February to April fishery is between Kimberly and Service Creek off of Hwy 19 onto scattered BLM and private lands. Always ask permission before fishing on private property. Primitive public boat ramps are found at Kimberly, Pine Tree, Shady Grove, Spray, Muleshoe Campground and Service Creek.

All along the river steelhead enter the tributaries in preparation to spawn. These tributaries are closed to protect spawners and fishing is limited to rivers.

The John Day steelhead are a native wild stock but there are with some hatchery strays from upper Columbia hatcheries mixed in the run. The majority of fish caught will be wild and must be released unharmed. Anglers are strongly encouraged to keep any adipose-clipped steelhead they catch to assure they don't spawn with native fish.

Smallmouth bass fishing is best below Kimberly with limited access below Service Creek. Below Service Creek is best accessed by boat. In 2011 restrictions were imposed requiring boaters to pre-register at the Bureau of Land Management [website](#) to float between May 20 and July 10 from Service Creek to Cottonwood Bridge. Bank fishing for bass is best between Service Creek and Kimberly where Hwy 19 follows the river.

Beginning in 2015, there is no longer a slot limit restriction for smallmouth bass in the John Day River. The general statewide bass bag limit applies.
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Channel catfish are also available from Spray downstream in the tail outs and deep holes.

**Jubilee Lake:** The lake is located 10 miles north of Tollgate near Hwy 204. It is open year-round, but access can be limited due to snow until late June or early July. Fishing is expected to be good for stocked and carry-over rainbow trout and stocking

rates have been increased to provide increased angler opportunity. The lake is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout as soon as access allows. A 2.8 mile National Recreation Trail (foot and wheelchair accessible) circles the lake, providing outstanding angler access. Boats are allowed but the use of gas motors is prohibited.

ODFW will host a youth Fishing event at Jubilee Lake on July 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Bill Duke at (541) 276-2344 for more information.

**Kinney Lake:** Will not open until May 23 at the landowner's request. It will be stocked with legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout before opening. We expect good fishing for stocked and hold-over rainbow trout. Some bullhead catfish are present in the lake and anglers are encouraged to harvest these fish for a tasty Cajun meal. Kinney Lake is located on private property, about seven miles east of Joseph, and the landowner allows public access for fishing. Please help maintain the privilege of fishing at Kinney Lake by respecting the property, cleaning up your trash and restricting vehicle travel to existing road.

Kinney Lake is scheduled to be treated with rotenone in early October to eradicate the brown bullheads present in the lake. Look for fishing restrictions to be lifted prior to this project to allow anglers to remove as many fish as possible. Access to the lake will likely be restricted during this treatment to the close of the season.

**Long Creek Pond:** This pond is located 5 miles west of the town of Long Creek on the Kimberly to Long Creek Highway. It is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout each spring and is open year-round. Several illegal introductions of bullhead, goldfish and bass over the years have compromised the trout fishery.

**Magone Lake:** Magone is located 20 miles northeast of Mt. Vernon on Hwy 395 and Forest Road 32. It is open year-round, and has a boat launch, picnic area and Forest Service campground. It will be stocked with fingerling, legal-size and trophy rainbow trout this year.

**Marr and Wallowa ponds:** Will be stocked with legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout in mid-April. Marr pond is on the edge of Enterprise and offers a good opportunity for after work or after school fishing ventures. Wallowa Pond is adjacent to the Wallowa River three miles northwest of Wallowa. During March and April these ponds often receive surplus steelhead that provide a great opportunity to get young children into large fish.

There will be Free Fishing Weekend event at Marr Pond on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Wallowa Hatchery at (541) 426-4467 for more information.

**McHaley Pond:** - This is a small 3 acre pond located on property owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Travel about a half mile east of Prairie City, OR on Hwy 26 then south on ranch access road past tree nursery. Rainbow trout stocked annually.

There will be an ODFW Free Fishing Weekend youth fishing derby at McHaley Pond on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. noon. Call Brent Smith at the John Day District Office (541) 575-1167 for more information.

**McKay Reservoir:** Located 4 miles south of Pendleton, the reservoir is open from March 1 to Sept. 30. There is good trout fishing in March and April and outstanding warmwater fishing for yellow perch and black crappie in spring and early summer. The lake also provides good fishing for large and smallmouth bass. Anglers are reminded of the special regulation: 3 bass per day, 15-inch minimum length. The reservoir is on track to fill early this year and a full reservoir provides good fishing throughout the summer months.

**McNary Channel Ponds:** These ponds area near Hermiston and are open year-round. They are stocked with catchable-sized trout from March through June and also support bluegill, crappie, bullhead and largemouth and smallmouth bass. Fishing for trout is good in the spring months and warmwater species provide fair fishing throughout the summer. There is a series of eight ponds connected by stream channels which are accessible by a series of hiking trails. There is good vehicle access to the ponds and hiking trails.

**Morgan Lake:** There should be good fishing for 8 to 12-inch rainbow trout when the lake opens on April 25. Crappie and catfish are also available. The lake should be ice-free in time for an April 25 opening day event sponsored by the local Optimist Club. This includes a fishing derby for kids and stocking of legal-sized and trophy trout. The lake is on a high plateau 5 miles southwest of LaGrande.

**Olive Lake:** A high mountain lake open year-round but not usually accessible until June. Olive is 22 miles east of Dale on Forest Service Road 10. Rainbow trout and kokanee are available. Triploid legal-sized trout are stocked each year. There is a boat ramp, dock and Forest Service campground at the lake.

**Peach Road Pond (Ladd Marsh):** Located on Peach road, approximately 7 miles southeast of La Grande. It will be stocked with legal and trophy-sized rainbow trout several times throughout the spring and once in late September.

As of January 1, 2012 a parking permit is required to be on the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area. Go to the ODFW website for [more information](#).

**Penland Lake:** Located 25 miles SE of Heppner off Forest Service Road 53. Open year-round and fishing is expected to be good for rainbow trout. The lake is stocked with fingerling and legal sized rainbow trout annually. The lake is very productive and trout grow quickly.

Fly fishing is particularly good in this shallow weedy lake. Late fall provides some of the very best fly fishing catches of the year.
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**Roulette Pond:** This pond three miles east of Elgin on Hwy 82 will be stocked with legal and trophy-sized trout several times throughout the spring and once in late September.

**Rowe Creek Reservoir:** Located 10 miles north of Twickenham this reservoir is stocked with trout yearly. Bullhead catfish were illegally introduced 10 years ago and have compromised the trout fishery. The pond and adjacent land are privately owned but fishing is allowed by cooperative agreement. Continued public access depends on considerate angler conduct.

**Strawberry Lake:** Located 10 miles south of Prairie City in the Strawberry Mountain wilderness, this lake can be reached only after a 1 1/2 mile hike. There is a Forest Service campground at the trailhead with water and toilets. Its high elevation allows fishing during the hot summer months.

Strawberry is not stocked but natural reproduction produces 10 to 13-inch rainbow and brook trout each year.

**Tepee, Honeymoon, Salt Creek Summit and McGraw ponds:** Will be stocked with legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout in late May or early June depending on access. These ponds are located on National Forest land and provide good opportunity for family day trips and camp outs. Tepee and Honeymoon ponds are adjacent to USFS Road 46 about 35 miles northeast of Enterprise. Salt Creek Summit and McGraw Ponds can be accessed by USFS Road 39 (Wallowa Mountain Loop Road) southeast of Joseph. Salt Creek Summit is about 18 miles from Joseph and McGraw is about 40 miles from Joseph.

**Umatilla and Walla Walla Forest Ponds:** The ponds are scattered in the Umatilla National Forest in the Ukiah, Meacham and Tolgate areas. They will be stocked with legal-sized trout in May and June and fishing should be good. The ponds provide anglers the opportunity to get out, explore and fish a number of different ponds in one day. Some carry over larger fish each year. Maps are available from the Umatilla National Forest Service offices or the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Pendleton. [Maps](#) are also available online.

**Umatilla River:**

TROUT: Open for trout May 23. The upper Umatilla River provides fair to good catch-and-release fishing for rainbow trout.

SPRING CHINOOK: More than 4,000 spring Chinook are expected to return to the Umatilla River this spring, and fishing should be good. The spring Chinook season is open April 16 to June 30 (depending on area). Consult the [2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations](#) as special regulations are in effect. Adult [spring Chinook return information](#) can be found on the ODFW website.

STEELHEAD: Wild and hatchery summer steelhead enter the Umatilla River from late August through April. The total adult return will be comprised of 70 percent wild fish and 30 percent adipose fin-clipped hatchery fish that are available for harvest. Current Threemile Dam fish return information can be found [here](#).

Water conditions generally determine angler success. Bank fishing is generally best when river flow ranges from 300-600 cfs. Drift boaters usually prefer about 800 cfs to traverse shallow areas. Fishing success declines rapidly at flows greater than 1,000 cfs. Visit [this website](#) for up-to-date flow information.

Access too much of the Umatilla River is via private land and anglers are reminded to always ask permission first. Several popular public access points are located in the Hermiston area. Riverfront Park provides a starting point to over two miles of Umatilla River frontage and anglers may access the entire three miles of river downstream from Three mile Dam. Fall returning fish tend to spend the fall and early winter months in the Hermiston area awaiting fall rain prior to migrating upstream to

the Pendleton area. A successful fall fishery has developed at the mouth of the Umatilla River in September and October, with anglers using bobbers, jigs or bait.

Upriver fishing is concentrated from Pendleton downstream to the Barnhart area. Publicly-owned access is limited, but the City of Pendleton Parkway provides access to some good fishing holes and several landowners downstream of Pendleton have allowed anglers bank access at several points in past years. Always ask landowner's for permission. The best fishing in this area typically occurs from January until the mid-April closure. Successful anglers cast flies, spinners and spoons, and drift fish with bait. During low flows many anglers utilize bobbers and bait or jigs.

**Victor Pond:** Will be stocked with legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout later in the season. Stocking time depends upon water conditions, but generally occurs in early May. Victor Pond is located at the intersection of Oregon Hwy 82 and Promise Road, two miles northwest of Wallowa.

**Walla Walla River and Tributaries:** Opens to trout fishing May 23. All streams within the Walla Walla basin are restricted to flies and lures only. A trail follows the river upstream of Harris Park providing anglers access to the upper Walla Walla River. Fishing for bull trout is prohibited.

The Walla Walla River supports a small but healthy run of summer steelhead. Fish begin entering the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla River beginning in February, with peak returns in March and April. While most of the steelhead returning to Oregon waters are wild, a small number (less than 10 percent) of hatchery strays also enter the river. Wild fish must be released but anglers can keep adipose fin-clipped hatchery fish. This year is expected to offer fair to good fishing. However, public access is very limited, with the best access within the City of Milton-Freewater. Successful fishing techniques include, fly fishing, casting spinners, bobber and jigs and drift fishing with bait.

**Wallowa Lake:** Recent surveys of kokanee funded by a Restoration and Enhancement grant, suggest that the huge population of small kokanee is beginning to decrease. If this trend continues, kokanee will begin to gain some size in the coming years. New permanent regulations for kokanee are in affect as of Jan. 1, 2014. Anglers can harvest 20 kokanee with no more than 5 being over 12 inches. Kokanee fishing is usually best from late April through late June.

Stocking of legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout will begin in mid-May and provide a fishery that yields very high catch rates. In 2014 ODFW released tagged trout in the lake in order to better understand the fishery. Some of these tags are still in the lake, some worth a \$50 reward, and anglers are encouraged to report these to the ODFW office in Enterprise. A number of anglers do find success targeting the small population of large lake trout found in the lake. While not abundant, ODFW net samples have yielded fish exceeding 25 pounds and local guides have had fish tip the scales at over 30 pounds.

**Wallowa Mountain High Lakes and Streams:** Snowpack and ice make high lakes inaccessible until mid-summer (early to mid-July). There are approximately 60 fish-bearing lakes in the Wallowa Mountains providing a variety of fishing opportunities for brook, rainbow and lake trout. Lakes are located in the Eagle Cap Wilderness area and are accessible only by foot or horseback. Many of the lakes contain brook trout and some are stocked by helicopter periodically with rainbow trout fingerlings.

Many of the high mountain streams emanating from lakes also contain brook trout that are vicious, easy to catch and can provide a great opportunity for young children and cook up into a great meal. There is no limit on size or number of brook trout in Wallowa Mountain lakes and streams. Maps and other information about the Eagle Cap Wilderness are available from Wallowa-Whitman National Forest offices in Baker City, La Grand, and Joseph.

At a number of trailheads, ODFW has placed survey boxes to gauge angler success. Please take this survey along and record your catch for each place you fish. Your input will help us monitor and evaluate these fisheries and possibly make management changes to improve your fishing experience.

**Willow Creek Reservoir:** This reservoir just outside the town of Heppner is open year-round and fishing is expected to be good for trout 10 to 14-inches in spring and early summer. The lake is stocked with legal-sized trout in April and fingerlings in May. Good fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed and brown bullhead will also be available.

To increase the reservoir's potential to produce large crappie, an 8-inch minimum length and a 25 fish bag limit was put in place beginning in 2011. Anglers are also reminded of the catch-and-release only regulation for largemouth bass.

**Willow, Rhea and Butter creeks:** Open April 25. Willow Creek will be stocked with legal-sized trout in April and May where it flows through the cities of Heppner, Lexington and Lone. These streams run through mostly private land so anglers should request permission before fishing.

**Weston Pond:** This pond is located just off Hwy 204, approximately 10 miles east of Weston. Weston Pond is stocked from April to June and provides easy access for young anglers and families.

For more information about fishing opportunities in the Northeast Zone, contact the nearest ODFW office:

**Grande Ronde Watershed District Office**

LaGrande, OR 97850  
541-963-2138

**John Day Field Office**

John Day, OR 97845  
541-575-1167

**John Day Watershed District Office**

Pendleton, OR 97801  
541-276-2344

**Enterprise Field Office**

Enterprise, OR 97828  
541-426-3279

## SOUTHEAST ZONE

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Check this out:

- \* 2015 [Family Fishing](#) and [Free Fishing Weekend](#) events.
- \* Find trout stocking schedules and Google maps with driving directions to all stocking sites on the ODFW [Trout Stocking page](#).
- \* Take a friend fishing, clamming or crabbing during Free Fishing Weekend June 6-7 – no license required!
- \* The [Oregon Angler with Disabilities Site Map](#) highlights 133 sites across Oregon that may be suitable for anglers with physical disabilities.

### TROUT

The Southeast Zone is the largest of our fishing zones and trout fishing opportunities will vary by basin. Most rivers and streams are open all year, except in the Klamath, Powder and Burnt basins where the season is April 25 to Oct. 31. To protect native populations of redband trout, most rivers and streams are not stocked but some exceptions include the Powder, Burnt, Lower Owyhee and Malheur (near Riverside) rivers. In most rivers fishing is also restricted to artificial flies and lures, but see the 2015 regulations for exceptions.

Trout stocking of lakes and reservoirs begins in March for lower elevation waters. Higher lakes are stocked shortly after snowmelt. Consult the [trout stocking schedule](#) to see what water body is being stocked and when. The high mountain lakes will be stocked this year by helicopter. Fish stocked in the high lakes by helicopter are 2-3 inches. Most lakes and reservoirs are open year-round and most permit the use of bait. Consult the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for any special regulations where you plan to fish.

### WARMWATER

The Southeast Zone offers a variety of warmwater fishing opportunities and some of the best potential for quality crappie outside the Snake River reservoirs. The current state record white crappie and black crappie were both caught in this zone. However, the desert nature of this zone can drastically affect water levels and consequently the fisheries.

In recent years, the best crappie fisheries in the Southeast Zone have been dramatically affected by water availability; the Warner Lakes, Gerber Reservoir, and, to some degree, Owyhee Reservoir are examples of this. Check with the local fish biologist on the status of these fisheries. It's worth the effort and the travel when crappie fishing is good!

Dog Lake and Lake of the Woods are good bets for families as they have a variety of warmwater species that are fairly easy to catch with worms and a bobber. Ana Reservoir, in contrast, is stocked with white bass-striped bass hybrids (called hybrid bass or wipers) that are difficult to catch but reach prodigious size – the 18 lb. 9.5 oz. state record hybrid bass was caught in Ana. While it may be a while before that record is broken, our sampling shows abundant fish in excess of 10 pounds.

Fishing for bass, panfish and crappie is best during the spring when they are moving into shallow water to spawn, the timing of which is largely determined by water temperatures reaching 50°F. Bass and crappie fishing generally slows down following spawning as the fish disperse to deeper water, although the schooling nature of

crappie makes them easier to find and fish for during the summer. Anglers usually jig for crappie in water up to 30-35 feet deep, except in the shallow Warner Lakes where location of schooling fish is at a premium. Fishing for panfish is also best during the spring spawning season, but because of their tendency to remain in shallow water year around, catch rates for shore anglers or kids fishing from docks remain fairly high throughout the summer.

To learn what's biting and where, check out the [ODFW Weekly Recreation Report](#). Each week our biologists update fishing conditions on rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and ponds throughout the state.

### **Alphabetical listing:**

**Agency Lake:** Agency Lake is in Klamath County approximately 20 road miles north of Klamath Falls. Agency Lake is connected to Upper Klamath Lake through the water body referred to as the straights. Agency Lake is 9298 surface acres and is shallow with an average depth of 7 feet at full pool. The average low water level is 3 feet at lake elevation of 4139 feet. In 2012 the lake was reduced to an elevation of 4137 ft.

Maximum depth is near 25 feet at the mouth of Sevenmile Creek and below the Bureau of Reclamation Water Pump. Since the removal of portions of the southern levee by the Nature Conservancy in 2008, Agency Lake has increased dramatically with over 3,000 acres between the levee and the Williamson River being inundated.

Agency Lake is open all year with a bag limit of one trout to manage for trophy trout in the lake. Once a trout is retained the angler must stop fishing. Creel surveys completed by ODFW in 2009 and 2010, and funded by the Restoration and Enhancement Board, showed the most successful boat fishing was during the months of June-August -- June had the highest catch of redband trout of any month. The most productive methods on Agency Lake are trolling lures or casting flies from a boat.

Spawning escapement of trophy-size redband trout into the Wood River valley was very good this year suggesting a good fishing season will follow. Fishing for trophy native redband trout will be good during the months of June-August.

Water clarity is good. The lake is fishable this year in April and is typically much clearer than Upper Klamath Lake. Agency Lake is 0.5 feet below full pool and is not expected to fill.

Boat access is available at Henzel Park boat ramp on the southeast portion of the lake. Boats can be launched from Petric Park which is an excavated channel to the Wood River. Launching boats at Petric Park to access Agency Lake is not recommended for large boats in the late summer and fall due to a shallow sand bar at the mouth of the Wood River. The Petric canal also fills with submergent vegetation which can clog water intakes. Boats can also be launched at the private ramp at Agency Lake Resort for five dollars. This boat ramp is much closer than Henzel to the productive fishing at the mouth of the Wood River. Small pontoon boats, canoes, float tubes or car toppers can be launched at the Wood River wetland either in Agency Lake directly or the Petric canal. Boaters new to Agency Lake should proceed with caution due to the shallow water especially when entering the area behind the former levees. Boat anglers should also be weary of the wind on Agency

Lake which can change conditions quickly. Small boats are not advised unless close to shore.

Some redband trout have been tagged with pit tags to determine spawning escapement into the Wood River watershed. USGS will continue to operate pit tag arrays on the Wood River into the future. If anglers find a pit tag in a redband trout they should contact fisheries biologist Bill Tinniswood at 541-891-4625. Further, brown trout were also captured in higher numbers than anticipated around the delta vegetation line. Anglers should concentrate their efforts around the delta vegetation during the late evenings.

ODFW monitoring by the Native Fish Investigations staff in Agency Lake in 2011 showed an abundant population of yellow perch spawning in the vegetation around the Wood River delta. Yellow perch can be targeted in late March and April when they are spawning. In addition, brown trout were also captured in higher numbers than anticipated around the delta vegetation line. Anglers should concentrate their efforts around the delta vegetation during the late evenings.

Bank fishermen are marginally successful using bait (dead minnows) at the Henzel Park boat ramp in the early spring and late fall. There is limited bank access due to mostly private property along the entire accessible shoreline of Agency Lake.

**Ana Reservoir:** Ana Reservoir is open to fishing all year. The reservoir is stocked annually with legal- and trophy-sized rainbow trout, and every other year with fingerling hybrid (white and striped) bass. The minimum size limit on hybrid bass is 16 inches with a bag limit of one hybrid bass per 24-hour period. Crank baits lures and 3 to 6-inch jigs are effective techniques for hybrid bass.

Bank anglers should focus their efforts in the morning or evening. Good bank fishing locations have been the cove on the west end of the lake and along the dam, but hybrid bass can be caught anywhere in the reservoir. Boat anglers should try trolling crank baits or lures at various depths. They can also locate a school of hybrid bass using depth finders and vertical jig for them. Anglers can fish for hybrid bass day and night at Ana Reservoir.

A new state record striped-white hybrid bass was caught on Dec. 10, 2014. The fish was caught using a Rapala crankbait on 10 lb. test line and measured 31½ inches with a girth of 24 inches. The fish weighed 19 lbs. 12 oz. The new state record is 1 ½ inches longer and 1 lb. heavier than the previous record of 18 lbs. 9 oz. caught in 2009.

Trout fishing was very good this winter, and is expected to continue to be good. The boat ramp is available April through November. The use of live fish as bait is prohibited. Ana Reservoir is located in close proximity to the Summer Lake Wildlife Area, where birding and hiking opportunities are available. Anglers can fish for rainbow trout at Ana Reservoir from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

**Ana River:** The Ana River is located near the town of Summer Lake and begins at the Ana Reservoir Dam. The river flows from Ana Reservoir through the Summer Lake Wildlife Area and eventually to Summer Lake. The river water temperature remains constant at approximately 60° F due to spring influences in Ana Reservoir making Ana River a year-round fishing option.

Ana River is stocked with fingerling rainbow trout. Legal-sized fish are abundant. There are no gear restrictions, the use of bait is allowed, and up to five trout may be harvested each day. For fly fishers, this is a great match-the-hatch river. Hatches of blue-winged olive mayflies come off the river almost all year. Tricos, caddis flies and terrestrials are also common here. Fishing is expected to be very good this spring; however, stealth is required to catch large rainbow visible in the clear, deep pools.

Experienced anglers use two strategies on the Ana River: 1) begin at the dam and proceed downstream until you have a limit of fish or your arm falls off; or 2) Begin about five miles downstream of the dam and work towards the dam with the same results.

**Anthony Lake:** Rainbow trout are stocked each year in mid-late June and July. As in 2013, trout stocked will be "trophy" sized, averaging 1 pound or larger. Brook trout are also present in the lake. This is a beautiful high altitude lake, west of Haines on the Anthony Lakes Highway.

ODFW is tentatively planning a Family Fishing event at Anthony Lake on Saturday, July 18. Call Tim Bailey at (541) 963-2138 or check the ODFW website for more information.

**Balm Creek Reservoir:** Balm Creek Reservoir was completely drained the fall of 2013 and all fish were lost. Legal-sized rainbow trout will be stocked mid-May 2015, providing there is sufficient water storage in the reservoir for the stocking truck to reach the water. Water storage in the reservoir is anticipated to be much below normal. Boat motors are restricted to electric motors only. Snow can be a problem until early- to mid-May. The reservoir is northeast of Baker City and can be accessed via Hwy 203 out of Medical Springs.

ODFW is planning to chemically treat the reservoir this fall to remove illegally introduced crappie and smallmouth bass so that the trout fishery can be restored. The treatment will likely occur late September or early October. All fish in the reservoir at the time of treatment will be killed. After treatment, the reservoir will be restocked with both legal-sized and fingerling rainbow trout in the spring of 2016. In anticipation of the fish in the reservoir being killed by the treatment, trout bag limits will be removed mid-summer.

**Beulah Reservoir:** Fishing is expected to be slow to fair for rainbow trout in 2015. Beulah Reservoir was reduced to less than 1,800 acre/feet by Aug. 25 2014. The reservoir peaked at 42599 acre/feet on April 17, 2015 and will continually drop as the summer progresses. Large rainbow trout are available but hard to catch. The reservoir will be stocked with fingerling sized rainbow trout in May to Supplement the fishery.

A few wild redband trout drift into the reservoir from the river. Bull trout can be found in the reservoir through late May. Fishing for bull trout is prohibited. Beulah Reservoir is located 19 miles north of Juntura off Beulah RD. Juntura is 73 miles west of Ontario and 58 miles east of Burns.

**Big Rock:** This reservoir is located in the Warner Lakes Basin about 15 miles northeast of Plush. The reservoir does not show up on the BLM maps, but is located in Mary Ann Draw on the Lakeview South-half map. The lake is dry this year and will

not be stocked with fingerling rainbow trout this spring.

**Blitzen River:** Fishing on the Blitzen River has been slow this spring but fisherman are reporting catches of large redband trout around the Page Springs area. There are special regulations for the entire drainage so be sure to consult the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations before heading out. The river and its tributaries have good numbers of wild redband trout; no hatchery fish are stocked. The highest average flows typically occur in late April, May and early June. Snowpack was below average again this winter, and low flows and warm water are expected by mid-July.

If fishing the Blitzen in the spring, please be on the lookout for redband trout spawning activity and avoid walking on redds or disturbing spawning fish. Pay close attention to tailouts and other areas where smaller gravel is present. When water temperatures warm in the summer, please refrain from over handling fish and attempt to minimize the length of time that you fight the fish. These fish are not very leader shy so heavier fishing lines can be used to reduce the amount of time a hooked fish spends on the line.

In an effort to get anglers to target carp, the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge will open the lower Blitzen River from the bridge on Boat Ramp Lane to Sod House Lane crossing. Fishing will be allowed Aug. 1 to Sept. 15, and is limited to artificial flies and lures only.

There are several public land access points within the drainage. Consult the Burns BLM District map for access. The easiest and closest location is at Page Springs Campground near Frenchglen, Oregon. The South Loop Road usually opens in late April and is the main access road for the upper drainages of the Blitzen. The Bridge on the South Loop Road that spans the Blitzen is known as Blitzen Crossing and is another easy access point. It is located just downstream of the confluence with Indian Creek. The Little Blitzen and Big Indian Creek Gorges are great places to fish and enjoy the beauty of the Steens Mountain. Fishing the upper reaches of the Blitzen generally requires hiking in rugged terrain but is a great way to escape the crowds and catch some native redband trout. The Blitzen River offers very little access from a road so expect to do some hiking to reach the best fishing spots.

**Blue Lake:** This lake is stocked with fingerling rainbow trout carried up the trail by horseback. The fingerlings reach a good size with fish up to 15-inches not uncommon. Hook-and-line sampling in 2013 resulted in trout from 9 to 16-inches. All methods of fishing work well at this lake, but fish seem to key in on the color orange. Fishing is excellent. A floating device can increase fishing success.

Access to the Blue Lake trailheads in the Gearhart Mt. Wilderness is dependent on the snow year. Access should be available in May. A three mile moderate hike is required from the closest road location.

**Bully Creek Reservoir:** The reservoir almost received enough water over the winter to reach full pool but irrigation needs are expected to quickly reduce the water level in 2015. The reservoir reached a low of 237 acre/feet on Aug. 27, 2014 and the same is expected for 2015. The reservoir reached a high of 16,784 acre/feet on April 19, 2015 and irrigation season has already commenced and the water levels are dropping.

Fishing is expected to be slow following the low water conditions experienced in 2014 but some small crappie, bass and trout may be caught in the spring/early summer. The reservoir will be stocked with fingerling sized rainbow trout in June to supplement the fishery. Bully Creek Reservoir is located about 13 miles north and west of Vale off of Bully Creek Rd.

**Bumpheads Reservoir:** Bumpheads Reservoirs is a turbid irrigation reservoir located on Bureau of Land Management property. The Reservoir is located just north of Willow Valley Reservoir. There are no signs to the reservoir. From Willow Valley Road, take Rd. 6148 east, and take the first left to Bumpheads.

In May of 2012, over 200 crappie from 6 to 12-inches were stocked into the reservoir. Crappie were captured in Prineville Reservoir by the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club. Fathead minnow also occur in the reservoir. Fishing is expected to be slow due to low water levels in 2015.

**Burnt River:** Most streams in Baker County open April 25. Burnt River should provide fair to good fishing for 8 to 14-inch rainbow. Fishing is best in spring and early summer due to rising temperatures later. Access above Unity Reservoir is plentiful from USFS land and the South Fork is stocked with legal-sized trout. Access below Unity is limited and there is no active stocking; however, there is some fishing opportunity below the dam on BLM property. Ask first before entering private lands.

**Calahan Creek:** Calahan Creek is a tributary to Long Creek, which is a tributary to Sycan River. Calahan Creek will open to fishing Saturday, April 25. The fishing regulation has changed from flies and lures only to bait allowed. Fishing should be good for small brook trout, most less than 10 inches. The best fishing will be near the lowermost 400-00 road crossing. Flows are low and fishable. Please respect private property as most of Calahan Creek occurs on property owned by the Green Diamond Lumber Company. Green Diamond currently allows public access to fishing and hunting.

**Campbell/Deadhorse Lakes:** There are multiple ways to access these lakes from Lakeview, Klamath Falls and Bend. These lakes are located in Lake County on the Paisley Ranger District in the Fremont-Winema National Forest just off of Forest Road 28. They are stocked annually with legal- and trophy-sized rainbow trout throughout the summer. Rainbow trout average 12 to 14-inches with some fish larger than 16-inches available. These lakes are usually not accessible until late June because of snow drifts, but access may be possible in May this year due to low snowpack. The campgrounds are popular and receive extensive use during summer and fall. Please contact the USFS at the Paisley Ranger Station (541) 943-3114 to check road access.

**Chewaucan River:** The town of Paisley in Lake County is the gateway to the Chewaucan (SHE-wah-can). The river provides a self-sustaining native wild trout fishery. The Chewaucan River above the town of Paisley is open to fishing all year, but is restricted to artificial flies and lures only. The bag limit for native redband trout above Paisley is two fish 8-inches or longer with only one fish over 20 inches. Fishing for native redband trout and introduced brook trout in this section will be good this spring and will slow down during summer when water temperatures increase and stream flow decreases.

Fishing in the river and adjoining tributaries below the town of Paisley is open from

May 23 through Oct. 31. The native redband trout bag limit is two fish per day, 8-inch minimum length with only one over 20-inches; the use of bait is allowed in this section. Success in the lower river declines as water temperatures increase from July to mid-September.

The lower river and reservoir provide summer fishing opportunities for largemouth bass and brown bullhead. Fishing catch rates for largemouth bass are expected to be very good this year.

**Chickahominy Reservoir:** Poor snowpack on the Potato Hills has reduced the annual water supply to the reservoir and 2015 is expected to be another poor water year, similar to 2014. Fishing for rainbow trout has been very poor this spring and there have been no reports of fisherman finding fish. In response to current and predicted poor water conditions in the reservoir this year, it will not be stocked with trout. Stocking will commence again if/when conditions in the reservoir improve. The reservoir is located off Hwy 20, several miles west of Riley, OR.

**Corral Creek:** Corral Creek is a tributary to upper South Fork Sprague River on Fremont National Forest. Corral Creek will open to fishing Saturday, April 25. The fishing regulation has changed from flies and lures only to bait allowed. Fishing should be good for small brook trout. Corral Creek campground and Gearhart Wilderness trails are nearby.

**Cottonwood Meadows:** Cottonwood Meadows is 23 miles west from Lakeview on Hwy 140. Look for signs along the highway directing you the remaining 6 miles up Forest Road 387. Cottonwood Meadows is annually stocked with fingerling and legal-sized trout and fishing for rainbow trout will be good in the lake. A few brook trout also are available. Anglers caught fish from 8 to 24.5-inches long during 2013. Fishing sometimes becomes difficult for bait fisherman in the summer and fall due to aquatic vegetation growth. Fat head minnows occur in the lake and lures that mimic them work well. There are two boat ramps for small boats, but no gas motors are allowed on the lake. Campground facilities are also available at this scenic lake.

**Cottonwood Reservoir:** This reservoir, located off of Hwy 140 west of Lakeview, is managed for native redband trout. The reservoir will not fill to capacity this year making fishing and access to the reservoir difficult. This reservoir supports native redband trout of harvestable size and spring is good time to target them. The reservoir is open year-round but the most productive fishing is usually in spring and fall. This reservoir also contains fathead minnow. Bait and lures are effective, especially near the face of the dam. A boat ramp is available, although there are no camp sites at the reservoir.

**Cow Lakes:** Both lakes are spring-only fisheries due extensive weed growth in the summer; however, only the upper lake has water this year. Low numbers of brown bullhead and white crappie are available. Cow Lakes are no longer stocked with rainbow trout due to the high water temperatures causing significant mortality to trout. Cow Lakes are located about 14 miles north and west of Jordan Valley. The road into the lakes can be very soft early in the spring.

**Dairy Creek:** Fishing for native redband trout and brook trout should be good throughout the summer. There is a mix of private and public land, and a Fremont-Winema Forest map would be helpful if you are unfamiliar with the area. Dairy Creek is open to fishing all year and has a bag limit of two redband trout, 8-inch minimum

length, one fish over 20-inches. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures only. There is no size or bag limit on brook trout. There are two campgrounds on Dairy Creek, and the area is very scenic.

**Deep Creek:** Access to Deep Creek is along Hwy 140 west of the town of Adel. Fishing for native Warner Basin redband trout should be good in the spring and slow as water temperatures increase in the summer. Deep Creek is open year-round for fishing and is restricted to artificial flies and lures only. The bag limit for native trout is two fish per day, 8-inch minimum length with no more than one fish over 20-inches. There are brook trout in the head waters of Deep Creek; there is no bag limit or size restriction for these non-native trout.

**Delintment Lake:** Fishing in Delintment Lake has been fair for holdover trout this spring. It will be stocked with fingerling and legal sized rainbow trout in May. The lake has a campground that makes it a great place to take the family. There is abundant bank access and a fishing dock. Legal sized trout make up the bulk of the catch at the lake and the fish are generally very healthy. The lake is situated in a fairly high elevation setting and is surrounded by pine forests. Directions from Hines, Oregon: Go northwest on County Road 127 (Hines Logging Road). Travel 12 miles to Forest Road #41. Left on Forest Road #41 for 26.5 miles to junction, turn left and follow signs for 5 miles to campground.

**Deming Creek:** Deming Creek is a tributary to South Fork Sprague. A major portion of water also is diverted into Campbell Reservoir. Deming Creek opened to fishing on April 25, 2015. Previously Deming Creek was open the fourth Saturday in May. Most redband trout are less than 8-inches. Fishing for bull trout is closed. Flies and lures only; no bait is allowed to protect unique redband trout and bull trout.

**Devils Lake:** Devils Lake is a turbid irrigation reservoir in the Fishhole Creek watershed near the city of Bly. The lake can be observed directly off Fishhole Creek Road.

Recent sampling by ODFW found good populations of crappie, largemouth bass, yellow perch and brown bullhead. Look for fish along emergent and floating vegetation. Fishing is good for brown bullhead from shore. The reservoir is turbid with little shade so plan accordingly. There is no boat ramp.

**Dog Lake:** A warmwater fish reservoir located 30 miles west-southwest of Lakeview. Yellow perch, brown bullhead and black crappie are available as well as a small population of largemouth bass. This is a good place near Lakeview to take children to fish during late-May and June. The bag limit on largemouth bass is one per day and restricted to a 15 inch minimum length. The lake is not stocked with hatchery trout, and is closed to all trout fishing and retention for conservation of native redband trout found in the lake and one tributary. Anglers reported slow fishing for perch and crappie during 2014; however, it was a banner year for largemouth bass.

The easiest access is from Andy Hill Road West of Lakeview off of Hwy 140. Follow Andy Hill Road for 5-7 miles and turn right (West) on Dog Lake Road. Follow Dog Lake Road for 10-15 miles to Dog Lake. The road is paved to the lake. Camping and primitive bathrooms are available on the west shore of the lake

**Drews Reservoir:** A large irrigation reservoir west of Lakeview that holds primarily

warmwater fish. There are channel catfish, black crappie, brown bullhead, largemouth bass and yellow perch in this water body. There are also native redband trout entering the reservoir from Dog Creek and Drew's Creek. Fishing is typically slow for all species. The reservoir is very turbid and very low due to drought conditions. An improved boat ramp and camping facility are located at the southwest end of the lake.

**Duncan Reservoir:** Located south of Hwy 31 about 5 miles east of the town of Silver Lake. Follow Duncan Road (County Road 4-14) to the reservoir. Fishing is expected to be fair this year for rainbow trout, which are stocked in the reservoir as fingerlings, as well as catchable (8 to 11-inches) and trophy-sized (12 or more inches) trout. An improved boat ramp and primitive camp area available.

**Eagle Creek:** Opens to fishing April 25. Should provide fair to good fishing for 8 to 14-inch rainbow trout when the runoff recedes in the lower reaches. This stream will be stocked once in July. Eagle Creek and Two Color Campgrounds are among several campgrounds near the USFS Road 77, off Hwy 203 (Medical Springs Highway). A Forest Service map is helpful.

**Elkhorn Mountain High Lakes:** There are approximately 20 fish bearing lakes in the Elkhorn Mountains providing a variety of angling opportunities for brook, rainbow and lake trout. Snowpack and ice make high lakes inaccessible until mid-summer (early to mid-July), although due to low snowpack in 2015, the lakes could become accessible by mid to late June. For specific information on these lakes, contact the Grande Ronde Watershed District Office in La Grande.

**Fish Lake (Steens):** There is a naturally reproducing population of brook trout in the lake, and fishing is good for 8 to 10-inch brook trout in the spring. However, access to the lake is typically delayed by snow, ice or muddy conditions until late May. The lake will be stocked with fingerling-sized rainbow trout in May and legal-sized rainbow trout in June. To get to Fish Lake take the north end of the Steens Mountain Loop Road (near Frenchglen, OR) for 18 miles.

**Fish Lake (Eagle Caps near Halfway):** The lake is annually stocked with 3,000 legal-sized rainbow trout, and fishing remains good throughout the summer and fall. Stocking will occur sometime in mid-to-late June when the road is clear of snow. Naturally reproducing brook trout are also numerous. Fish Lake is off the USFS Road 66, northeast of Halfway.

**Fourmile Lake:** Fourmile Lake is a natural oligotrophic (low nutrient) lake that has been dammed at the outlet to hold an additional 15,000 acre feet of water for irrigation. The lake is 763 acres with a maximum depth of 175 feet and average depth of 55 feet.

Fourmile Lake is a high elevation Cascade Mountain lake at 5,744 feet. The lake has excellent water clarity. The Lake is located approximately 40 miles west of Klamath Falls off Hwy 140. The lake access is north of Lake of the Woods and requires driving down a dirt road for six miles. The road into Fourmile Lake is open. The lake is open to fishing year-round.

Prospects for brook trout are good, while rainbow trout fishing will be excellent. Fourmile Lake will be stocked in late June thru August with catchable and trophy-sized rainbow trout up to 19-inches. Fishing is expected to be excellent for hatchery

rainbow trout. Lake trout fishing will be fair with some lake trout exceeding 10 pounds. Kokanee are available but rare in the catch. Kokanee, near maturity, will be averaging 14-inches.

Expect good traveling sedge (caddisflies) hatches in July in early morning and late evening. Look for winged adult carpenter ants and termites landing on the water in the fall. This appears to bring up every fish in the lake. The best time to fish the lake is mornings or evenings as the afternoon wind can make fishing quite challenging.

Fourmile Lake will likely not fill this year so launching small boats from the beach might be problematic. The boat launch is an unimproved boat ramp with no dock or concrete pad. The launch site can be blocked by trees early in the season. There is a six dollar fee to launch your boat. There is a 10 mph speed limit on the lake.

Bank access is excellent with all of Fourmile Lake occurring on U.S. Forest Service property. Fishing from the bank can be productive.

Fourmile Lake has nice USFS campground with water and pit toilet. Access to food, gas and other amenities are available at Lake of the Woods Lodge.

Fourmile Lake sits at the base of Mt. McLoughlin with spectacular views. The area also has extensive hiking trails into the Sky Lakes Wilderness. The lakes around Fourmile are stocked every other year from helicopter. High lakes stocked with brook trout within a mile of the USFS campground on Fourmile Lake are Badger, Woodpecker and Squaw. Badger is the most productive but bring a float tube for best success.

**Gerber Reservoir:** Gerber Reservoir is a 4047 acre reservoir located primarily on BLM land.

Crappie fishing can be excellent during good water years when the reservoir fills and much of the bank vegetation is flooded. The Barnes Valley and Ben Hall arms of Gerber Reservoir can be productive for crappie. The best time to fish for crappie is late May to early June. The state record white crappie was caught in Gerber Reservoir in 1967.

In 2014 Gerber Reservoir was lowered to minimum pool of 1000 acre feet. Currently, the lake is very low at 17,000 acre feet. In 2015 Gerber is unlikely to fill and crappie fishing is expected to be very poor.

Yellow perch are also present in the reservoir but typically average 5-inches. Fishing for brown bullhead can be fair. There is a small number of largemouth bass in the lake but knowledgeable anglers target the few hot spots in the reservoir. Redband trout are extremely rare in the reservoir and should be released unharmed. The redband trout population might be extirpated. The reservoir freezes in the winter and can provide fair ice-fishing for yellow perch and brown bullhead.

Gerber Reservoir is located approximately 20 miles east of the town of Bonanza in Klamath County and is open to fishing year-round.

There is an improved concrete boat ramp with dock and several campground areas. Fees are required for day use and camping. Boaters should proceed with caution as the reservoir is turbid and numerous hazards occur.

**Grande Ronde Lake:** Approximately 6,000 legal-sized rainbow trout are stocked each year in mid-late June and July. Naturally reproducing brook trout are also present in the lake. Good high lake fishing in summer when other areas have gotten too warm. The lake is west of Haines on the Anthony Lakes Highway past the ski area, on the north side of the road.

**Heart Lake:** The lake is stocked with kokanee and rainbow trout. Fishing for kokanee is expected to be fair in the spring and early summer; catch rates for rainbow trout should remain good throughout the summer. Brown bullhead were captured during fall sampling and will cause the trout and kokanee fisheries to decline. Please keep all the catfish you catch. Fathead minnow occur in the lake so use lures and flies that mimic this food to target larger rainbow trout.

This is a day-use only lake. An improved boat ramp, two picnic tables and primitive restrooms are available at the lake.

Heart Lake is located south of Hwy 140 west of Lakeview near Quartz Mountain. Turn into the rest area on the south side of 140 and follow the USFS Road 3715 for 9 miles. Look for the Heart Lake sign and follow the dirt road west for 1 mile.

**Highway 203 Pond:** Will be stocked with legal-sized trout on several occasions beginning in April. Fishing should be good for 8 to 12-inch fish. Bluegill and bass are also plentiful (but small) and are fun for kids to catch. The Pond is located 5 miles north of Baker City just off I-84, exit 298.

**Haines Pond and North Powder #1:** Haines Pond will be stocked with legal and trophy-sized rainbow trout once in April. Fishing should be good for 8 to 12-inch fish. The pond will be stocked with legal and trophy-sized trout again in late September

Haines Pond is 1 mile north of Haines on Hwy 30.

North Powder pond will be stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout one time in April. The pond will be stocked with legal and trophy-sized trout again in late September.

North Powder Pond #1 is located about one mile north of North Powder on Hwy 30.

**Higgins Reservoir:** Opens for fishing April 25. Fly fishing is a favorite fishing method on this reservoir, but the landowner has restricted entry to walk-in only. The walk is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. Please respect the property, haul out your trash, and help maintain the privilege of fishing on private land. Fingerling stocking was discontinued on this reservoir in 2006 due to the limited access. Located south of Unity Reservoir about 5 miles on dirt roads

**Holbrook Reservoir:** Annually stocked with fingerlings, legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout. Catch rates for rainbow trout are not expected to be very good this year due to low winter water levels caused by drought conditions. A boat ramp and a few primitive camping spots are available at this reservoir.

This is a very scenic area with lots of watchable wildlife. Holbrook Reservoir, Lofton Reservoir and Heart Lake are all located within a couple of miles of each other off USFS Road 3715.

**Jackson Creek:** Jackson Creek is a tributary to the Upper Williamson River. Jackson Creek will be opened April 25 with the use of bait is now allowed. A primitive USFS campground exists on the creek. Fishing should be good for small brook trout. Flows are low.

**Juniper Lake:** The lake is ice free and but very low. Spring runoff has not yet occurred but we do not expect the lake to fill completely. Few holdover trout are likely to remain in the lake following the low water last year. The lake will not be stocked in 2014. Fish are spawning in late April and early May and fishing during this time will be best in the mornings and evenings.

No special restrictions exist on Juniper Lake. An access agreement was signed with the private landowner, and anglers are allowed to fish from their shoreline. Please be respectful of private property while accessing this area. Juniper Lake is located north of Mann Lake on the East Steens Loop Road or Fields-Denio Road.

**Klamath Lake:** Klamath Lake is the largest lake by surface area in Oregon covering 61,543 acres with a maximum depth of 61 feet and average depth of 14 feet. This area has been increased by the breaching of levees near the Williamson River which increases the surface area by over 3000 acres.

Redband trout in Upper Klamath Lake are managed to attain trophy size and optimum fishing opportunity. Therefore, Upper Klamath Lake is open year-round with a bag limit of one trout. Trophy-size native redband trout greater than 28 inches are available and fish exceeding over 10 pounds are commonly caught. Spawning escapement of redband trout this year was excellent in the Sprague and Williamson River systems suggesting large numbers of fish. Fishing for these large, native redband trout should be very good throughout the lake in the spring and fall. Fishing will be good in Pelican Bay and many other cold water areas in the north part of the lake from June-September. A statistical creel performed by ODFW from 2009-2010 and funded by the Restoration and Enhancement Board showed the highest catch Upper Klamath Lake was during the month of May.

Upper Klamath Lake will not fill this year and is currently 0.5 feet below full pool. Water clarity is currently approximately one foot but will continue to improve. The lake experiences an extreme algal bloom in the summer. This algal bloom creates high pH and ammonia levels, and then depletes dissolved oxygen when the algal bloom crashes. Redband trout move to cold water refuges around late June or July depending on conditions in the lake. ODFW encourages catch-and-release fishing, especially during the summer when trout develop an off flavor due to the algal bloom.

Popular methods for fishing Upper Klamath Lake for trophy redband trout include trolling Eagle Ridge with Rapalas or spoons in fat head minnow, tui chub, sculpin or the silvery blue chub patterns. Bait fishing from shore with dead minnows is popular during the spring at Shoalwater or Howard Bays. Anglers can also access fishing areas in Klamath Falls at Pelican Marina or Social Security Point just north of Moore Park. Flyfishing is very popular in the summer in Pelican Bay at Rocky Point. Trout in Upper Klamath Lake feed on fat head minnows, sculpins, tui and blue chub, leeches, midges and, to a lesser extent water, boatman, crane fly larvae and dytoid beetle larvae.

Boat launches to Upper Klamath Lake include the south end of the lake at Moore Park 1 and 2, and Pelican Marina. Boats can be launched at the Skillet Handle at Running Y Lodge property for residents or guests. There is an improved boat ramp at Howard Bay off Hwy 140 on the west side of Upper Klamath Lake. Camping and boats can be launched for free at the county park at Shoalwater Bay. There also is a boat launch at Rocky Point along with a lodge, store and restaurant. Boat gas and all the amenities are available. On the east side boats can be launched at Hagelstein Park off Hwy 97 and at Modoc Point accessed via an unmaintained dirt road. Use for all public boat ramps on Klamath and Agency Lakes is free.

**Klamath River:** Located downstream of the town of Keno. Fishing for native redband trout peaks in May and June. Anglers need to be aware of river flows on the river as they are regulated by the Keno and JC Boyle Dams. Flows in the Klamath River below the J.C. Boyle Powerhouse fluctuate widely on a daily basis. Anglers can call 1-800-547-1501 for river flow information. Or visit [river flows below Keno dam and below the J.C. Boyle Powerhouse](#).

-Keno Dam downstream to J.C. Boyle Dam is open Jan. 1 through June 15 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. Access to this location is from the Sportman's Park, the roads on the south side of the river and two access points at Keno Dam and PacifiCorp Campground.

Opportunities for native redband trout should be good, and lures and flies are popular methods. Look for blizzard hatches of mayflies, caddiflies and damselflies in May and June. Fish with streamers or spoons in the fall. Flows should be ideal this year for successful fishing in May and June.

-J.C. Boyle Dam to the Powerhouse is open year-round. Anglers can access this area behind JC Boyle Reservoir by the Wild and Scenic road sign off of Hwy 66 or the Topsy campground road. Access to this section is difficult, with the exception of the area just above the powerhouse, due to the steep canyon.

Fishing should be good for small native redband trout from 8 to 12-inches. This stretch typically has stable flows and is mostly spring fed which keeps water temperatures warmer in the winter and colder in the summer. Fishing in this stretch is best in May-June during the golden stonefly and salmonfly hatches. The best methods on this stretch are dry flies and small black spinners.

-J.C Boyle Powerhouse to Oregon/California State Line. Anglers can access this area by the Topsy Grade road on the east side of the river or the Wild and Scenic road from the turnoff on Hwy 66. Fishing should be fair for redband up to 16-inches. Fishing in this stretch is best in May-June during the golden stonefly and salmonfly hatches and again in October-December. The best fishing methods on this stretch are large spinners or leech imitations.

This reach fishes best due low flow periods. During maintenance flow is low and stable and fishing can be very good. You can access PacifiCorps flow and maintenance schedule by calling 1-800-547-1501 or on the Web at <http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/wr/kr.html>.

**Krumbo Reservoir:** Krumbo Reservoir is currently open year round with the restriction that no ice fishing is allowed. The 2015 angling regulations reflect this change. Fishing for rainbow trout has been good this spring with some fish over 18

inches being caught. As the spring progresses into summer, weeds start to make bank fishing for trout a little more difficult. The trout fishing usually picks back up again in the fall, when water temperatures start to cool. Krumbo Reservoir was stocked with legal sized rainbow trout in April of this year and will be stocked again in October.

Bass fishing will be a little slow until the water warms up. The reservoir has produced bass well over 12-inches. This reservoir has great parking, a picnic area and an accessible fishing platform. The reservoir is located at the southern end of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. There are access signs visible from Hwy 205 to Frenchglen, Ore.

**Lake of the Woods:** Open to fishing year-round, the lake is stocked annually with brown trout and kokanee salmon. Legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout are stocked throughout the spring and summer. Good catches of holdover rainbow trout are available early in the spring.

Additional trout will be stocked for the Free Fishing Weekend event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 6. Call George Gregory at (866) 201-4194 for more information.

A late stocking of rainbow trout will occur before Labor Day weekend (Sept. 7) and is a great last weekend with the kids before sending them back to school.

Brown trout and kokanee fishing is also good in the spring. Kokanee are averaging around 11-inches. Brown trout are caught during late evening or early morning using large minnow imitations. Night fishing can also be effective and enjoyable and is legal here.

There are good fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, yellow perch and bullhead. While the largemouth bass population has experienced a recent rebound, yellow perch dominate the catch. A small hook with a piece of worm under a bobber will catch numerous yellow perch. This is a great place to introduce kids to fishing. A worm fished on the bottom of the lake will catch brown bullhead.

Lake of the Woods is 38 miles west of Klamath Falls off Hwy 140.

Take an active role in the management of Oregon fisheries! ODFW will be releasing rainbow trout with bright orange tags near the dorsal fins throughout the year beginning next week to evaluate, harvest, survival, and growth, but we need your help. If you catch a tagged fish, please report it ODFW. Some tags include rewards of up to \$50, and fish can be kept or released. If you release a fish, please write down the tag number and release the fish with the tag intact. ***If the tag includes a reward, the tag must be removed from the fish and returned to ODFW to receive the reward.*** Anglers should report and return tags to ODFW Klamath Falls Field Office at 1850 Miller Island Road West Klamath Falls, OR 97603. Phone number is (541) 883-5732. Anglers can also report tagged fish online at the [ODFW web site](#). Reporting forms will also be available at Lake of the Woods Resort and Store.

**Lofton Reservoir:** Lofton Reservoir is annually stocked with fingerlings, legal-sized and trophy rainbow trout. The reservoir was treated with rotenone during the fall of 2013 to remove tui chub. It is scheduled to be stocked with catchable rainbow trout in May and June 2015.

Bait and lures mimicking minnows are very effective in this reservoir. There is an improved boat ramp and developed campsites available for use at this location. No gas motors are allowed.

Lofton Reservoir is located south of Hwy 140 west of Lakeview near Quartz Mountain. Turn into the rest area on the south side of 140 and follow USFS Road 3715 for 9 miles. Look for the Lofton Reservoir sign and follow the paved road east for 1 mile.

Holbrook Reservoir, Lofton Reservoir and Heart Lake are all located within a couple of miles of each other off of USFS Road 3715.

**Long Creek:** Long Creek is a tributary to the Sycan River. Most of Long Creek is on private timberland property of Green Diamond. Currently, public access is available just upstream of the 27 road crossing. The best fishing occurs in lower Long Creek below the upper 400-00 road crossing. Brook trout are abundant throughout the creek. Redband trout occur in good numbers lower in the system. Flies and lures can be effective all season but best fishing is during the summer when flows are lower. Fly-fishing can be excellent in June during the black drake mayfly hatch and also in August and September using terrestrial insect patterns such as beetle and grasshopper fly patterns. Long Creek opened to fishing on April 25. Fishing should be good for brook trout and redband trout in lower Long Creek.

**Lost River:** Lost River is open to fishing all year. Public access is available at Crystal Springs day use area. Anglers can fish from the specifically designed bridge for fishing at this location. Currently, your best option on the Lost River is to fish for brown bullhead. Brown bullhead can be caught by fishing baits near the bottom. Boats can be launched from an improved boat ramp at Crystal Springs. Fishing should be good for largemouth bass if you can find them. Sacramento perch have been captured below Horseshoe Dam. This is one of the only locations in the state to capture this fish. Expect poor fishing in Lost River as flow were very low last year and will continue to be low this year.

**Lucky Reservoir:** Lucky Reservoir is stocked annually with fingerling rainbow trout. Fishing should be fair for rainbow trout this year. The access road has been improved from County road 3-14A.

This reservoir is very turbid, but extremely productive and large trout (to 15-inches) are caught here every year. The reservoir receives little fishing pressure overall because of its remoteness. There is no boat ramp, but primitive camping is allowed. Access to the reservoir is often limited by snow until late May. Anglers should consider focusing their efforts within a few feet of from the shore.

Lucky Reservoir is located in Warner Lake Basin east of Lakeview. Take Hwy 140 28 miles east of Lakeview to Adel and turn south on to County Road 3-14. Proceed on County road 3-14 for 10-15 miles until you reach County Road 3-14A. Follow 3-14A for 3-5 miles. Call Trevor Watson, the fisheries biologist, for directions from County road 3-14A to the reservoir and for water level updates.

**Malheur Reservoir:** The reservoir experienced extreme low water conditions in the late summer of 2014 and was reduced to the stream running through the middle of it. The reservoir is expected to experience similar conditions in 2015 based on lower than average snowpack in the mountains. Fisherman did report catching 8-12 inch

rainbow trout this spring but very few fish have been caught overall. Currently, there are no plans to stock the reservoir in 2015. If conditions change, the stocking program in Malheur Reservoir will be reinstated. Malheur Reservoir is located 15 miles north of Brogan, which is 25 miles north of Vale on US Hwy 26.

**Malheur River drainage, Upper:** Fishing should be fair for wild redband trout and brook trout after spring run-off occurs. However, stream resident trout do not typically grow larger than 10-inches. The snow pack is again below average, so the streams in the basin should drop into condition a little earlier this year but be very low by fall. The fishing regulations for this area have changed; please see the 2015 angling regulations for site specific information. Remember to release bull trout.

There are several access points to the upper basin. The easiest access is south out of Prairie City via Forest Road 15 to Summit Prairie and Forest Road 13 into the North Fork. Recreationists can also access this area via Forest Road 16 east out of Seneca.

**Malheur River, Lower:** The reservoirs that feed this river reach will not fill this year. The river at Riverside will be stocked with the normal number of fingerling-sized rainbow trout. However, the number of carryover trout from previous year's releases is expected to be poor due to low flows.

Anglers can gain access to Riverside from Juntura in the north or from Crane in the south. Riverside is about 19 miles south of Juntura and about 30 miles north of Crane.

**Mann Lake:** Mann Lake is a unique fishery that offers anglers a chance to catch Lahontan cutthroat trout while taking in views of the Steens Mountain and Alvord Desert. Fishing in Mann Lake during the spring of 2014 was phenomenal but 2015 has been significantly slower. Fisherman have been catching fish in the 17 to 20-inch range this spring but it has been taking longer than usual to hook into fish. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures only (no bait) so please respect the regulations. The reservoir is located off of the East Steens Loop Rd from Hwy 78.

**Midway Reservoir:** Midway Reservoir is located southeast of Gerber Reservoir. Check with the Klamath BLM for maps and specific directions.

**Mill Flat Reservoir:** Mill Flat Reservoir is small 2-acre reservoir located North of Lakeview on the Fremont National Forest. Fishing is usually good in the spring and declines with rising water temperatures and an increase in aquatic vegetation. This is a great location for beginning fly fishermen to perfect their cast because there is no shoreline vegetation to get snagged on. No camping facilities are available; canoes and pontoon boats can be carried in and launched from the bank. For directions, call Trevor Watson, the fisheries biologist (541-947-2950).

**Moon Reservoir:** Moon Reservoir has been a very popular fishery in the past but conditions have deteriorated and fishing is expected to be poor to fair in 2015. The reservoir will be stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout in late April. The BLM has upgraded the boat ramp and restroom area and performed some needed maintenance on the dam. Moon Reservoir can be accessed by taking Hwy 20 to the Double OO Ranch Rd., located west of Hines, Oregon. There is turn off of the Double OO Ranch Rd. that will lead to the reservoir. The road is generally very rough.

**Mud Lake:** Mud Lake is located east of Adel in the Warner Basin on the east side of

the Warner Lakes. The lake is dry this year and will not be stocked with fingerling rainbow trout this spring. Roads could be muddy by late fall with sufficient rain. Primitive camping is available at the reservoir, but there are no pit toilets. Call Trevor Watson, the fisheries biologist, for water level reports (541-947-2950)

**Murphy Reservoir:** Trout fishing is expected to be fair this year, as the reservoir was at very low pool last year. The reservoir water level was good this spring and a few holdover trout are available. It is located above Beulah Reservoir. It is an extremely rough road and steep grade down to the reservoir.

**Murray Reservoir:** Will be stocked with legal-sized trout in April. Fishing should be good for 8 to 12-inch fish, with some larger fish available. Reservoir water level is expected to be quite low this summer. The reservoir is approximately 11 miles south of the town of Unity on Hwy 26.

**Obenchain Reservoir:** Obenchain Reservoir is located near Deming Creek and Campbell Reservoir in Klamath County just off the 335 Rd (600-00). This is a private reservoir and permission is needed to fish. Fishing for bluegill is excellent and most effective fishing is from shore. This is a great place to take the family fishing. There are largemouth bass in the reservoir. The best fishing is in June.

**Owyhee Reservoir:** The reservoir experienced below average water conditions in 2014 and similar conditions are expected for 2015. The reservoir has experienced a peak of 205,390 acre/feet in April of this year and irrigation demands have already started to reduce the water in the reservoir. Spring inflows are not expected to be significant and will not offer much relief.

With the expected low inflow this year, the reservoir should clear much earlier than last year. Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass and channel catfish is expected to be average. Crappie fishing this year is expected to be fair again in comparison to previous years.

There are three access points to Owyhee Reservoir. The best and most popular is located near the dam, which is about 40 miles south of Ontario, via Hwy 201 and two county roads. The second access point is located at Leslie Gulch about 45 miles south of the dam along the reservoir or about 75 miles south and west of Ontario off of US Hwy 95. The third access point is on Dry Creek on the west side of the reservoir. This access point is about 60 miles south of Ontario. About 30 miles south of Ontario turn at Owyhee Junction and drive west about seven miles. At the edge of the farm ground the road will turn from paved to dirt. Continue west and south to Twin Springs camp ground, about 20 miles. At Twin Springs continue south about 10 miles to reservoir. This is road access only; no boat ramp is located on the Dry Creek Arm of the reservoir.

**Owyhee River, Lower:** The reservoir will not fill and spill this spring. The amount of water released this summer is expected to remain near normal until the irrigation district is out of water, likely mid-August. The brown trout population appears to be in good condition with good numbers of 16 to 20-inchers and a few over 20-inches. All brown trout must be released. Rainbow trout continue to be scarce due to high harvest rates and predation by larger trout. Most trout are found between the dam and the tunnel.

Low water and high water temperatures dictate that anglers use extreme care when handling and releasing trout. This area is heavily fished; please be respectful of other anglers, angling regulations and the landscape. The upper end of recreational area was severely burned during 2013.

The river is about 30 miles south of Ontario via Hwy 201. At Owyhee Junction, turn west. About seven miles west, follow the signs toward Owyhee Dam. The paved road is adjacent to the river. Public access begins near the BLM Wildlife Viewing area and continues upstream to the dam.

**Owyhee River, Upper:** There are good numbers of smallmouth bass and channel catfish. Runoff this spring is expected to be far below normal and the river should be at summer base flows as early as mid-May. Redband trout are present in low densities and difficult to fish for.

There are three vehicle access points to the upper river. The upper most access point is at Three-Forks about 40 miles south of Jordan Valley. The next access point is upstream of Rome about five miles. Take county road south about five miles then turn east toward the river. Private land and limited access exists north of the fence just downstream of the access point. Birch Creek is the third vehicle access point to the river. From Jordan Valley, travel eight miles north on US Hwy 95. Turn west on to the Cow Creek Rd. Follow the BLM sign to the Birch Creek ranch about 30 miles from Hwy 95.

**Paiute Reservoir:** This moderate-sized water body is located east of Adel along Hwy 140 at Guano Valley. This reservoir was stocked with fingerling rainbow and Lahontan cutthroat trout as well as legal-sized rainbow and cutthroat trout in 2013, but drought conditions plague the area and fishing may not be very good this year. The reservoir is turbid and anglers should focus efforts near the dam and in shallow water where light has a chance to penetrate. Call Trevor Watson, the fisheries biologist, for water level reports (541-947-2950).

**Peachy Pond:** Peachy Pond is located off Modoc Point Rd. immediately south the Williamson River. Take a right at the Williamson River store just before crossing the Williamson River. Peachy Pond is the first pond on your right. The pond is on private property so please be respectful of the landowner's property.

Peachy Pond will be open to youth 18 and younger, senior citizens over 60 years of age and disabled anglers. Restrooms and garbage facilities are available at the Henzel Park boat ramp on Agency Lake. The pond has a small population of largemouth bass, yellow perch, and bluegill. Crappie were stocked in late May 2013. The success of crappie has not been evaluated. Only bank fishing is allowed. Consult the weekly Recreation Report for updates on fishing success.

Fishing is always very slow in Peachy Pond due to high pH levels. However, fish are available. ODFW is working with the landowner to reduce pH levels to improve fishing.

**Phillips Reservoir:** The reservoir receives several stockings of legal-sized trout throughout the summer. Trolling for trout is the best method of fishing but bank fishermen can do well off points and near the dam. Due to low snowpack in the Elkhorn Mountains it is anticipated that the reservoir will not reach 50 percent

capacity and may reach minimum pool by late summer or fall. Those planning to fish this reservoir should do so in the spring when the water level is at its highest

Yellow perch are averaging 7 to 9-inches. Occasional large and smallmouth bass can be caught as well, with some of trophy size.

In order to improve the trout fishery, ODFW introduced sterile tiger muskie (cross between pike and muskellunge) into the reservoir in the spring of 2013 to help control the abundance of yellow perch in the reservoir. Tiger muskie are a natural predator of yellow perch. The number of tiger muskie in the reservoir will be carefully managed to help control the number of yellow perch, without overly impacting rainbow trout. Fishing for tiger muskie is catch and release only! Harvest or removal of tiger muskie from the reservoir is not allowed. Tiger muskie sampled in April 2014 were 14-inches long.

The reservoir is on Hwy 7 approximately 18 miles west of Baker City.

**Pilcher Creek Reservoir:** We expect fewer 9 to 15-inch trout than in recent years due to a deep drawdown in 2014 brought about by the dry summer and fall. This probably reduced over-winter survival of fingerling trout stocked in the spring of 2014. The reservoir will open to fishing April 25. Fishing for crappie is expected to be slow.

Pilcher Reservoir is approximately 9 miles west of the town of North Powder off of North Powder River Lane.

**Pole Creek Reservoir:** Fishing should be good for rainbow trout, but with fewer holdover trout due to low water. The reservoir did have some carryover water this year; but will not fill this year. The reservoir was stocked with rainbow trout last year, and will be stocked with fingerling and legal-sized trout in June. Fishing for rainbow trout is usually good until late summer.

Pole Creek Reservoir is located 25 miles north of Vale just off US Hwy 26. There is a sign located at the turn off. The reservoir is located on private land so it is day-use only with no overnight camping.

**Powder River:** The river and tributaries open on April 25 and should provide fair to good fishing for 8 to 14-inch rainbow. Legal-sized rainbow trout will be stocked throughout the spring and summer below Mason Dam. Access is best on USFS land for approximately 2 miles downstream of the dam. There is also access from Baker City parks.

There is a good chance that spring Chinook will be released below Mason Dam, likely before Memorial Day. Contact The ODFW East Region office for details.

**Pine Creek and North Pine Creek:** The creeks and tributaries open on April 25 and should provide fair to good fishing for 8 to 14-inch rainbow. Legal-sized rainbow trout will be stocked in June in North Pine Creek, which can be accessed via Hwy 39. Rainbow trout will be stocked in Pine Creek near Cornucopia this year in July.

**Priday Reservoir:** This reservoir is located 5 miles south of Plush in the Warner Basin on west side of the Plush-Adel road. The reservoir was reported as dry during a

wildlife population survey flight over the area early 2015. The reservoir is not going to be stocked this year due to low to no water conditions.

**Rogger Pond:** Fishing for rainbow trout should be good early spring and summer at this old borrow pit located along the Twin Springs road in the South Warner Mountains. This is a very scenic location and a good place near Lakeview to take children to fish. Access to the pond can be delayed by snow until late spring or early summer.

**Sevenmile Creek:** Sevenmile Creek flows from the Cascades Mountains Sky Lakes Wilderness Area. The stream is located approximately 6 miles west of the town of Fort Klamath. Sevenmile Creek below Nicholson Road Bridge will open April 25 and should be fair for introduced brown trout and brook trout. This section is on private property and anglers will need permission from the landowner to fish.

Upstream of Nicholson Road Bridge also opens April 25 and has good brook trout fishing opportunities. Fishing for brook trout will be excellent. Access to upper Sevenmile Creek may be difficult early in the fishing season due to snow. Check with the Forest Service's Klamath Ranger District (541-883-6714) to determine road conditions.

A recent change in the fishing regulations allows for two brown trout and an unlimited number of brook trout to be harvested in all of Sevenmile Creek and tributaries. Catch and release is required for all rainbow (redband) trout. Also, Sevenmile Creek above Nicholson road will be open to the use of bait beginning this year. Angling will be good for brook trout as flows are low.

**Sherlock Gulch:** Fishing success is fair in this reservoir located north of Plush. This year the reservoir is quite low and may go dry during late-summer. Catching fish out of this reservoir is difficult; however, large rainbow trout in this reservoir can make it worth the effort. Call Trevor Watson, fisheries biologist, at the ODFW office in Lakeview for water level updates or directions (541-947-2950).

Primitive camping only and there is no boat ramp on the reservoir. A float tube, pontoon boat or other small boat would work well here. Sherlock Gulch is located a mile north of Sunstone Reservoir near the BLM Sunstone Collection area.

**Sid Luce Reservoir:** The lake is located up the Snyder Creek Rd., off of Hog Back Rd. 3-5 miles north of Plush. Fishing success should be fair for rainbow trout this spring and summer. Many of the larger fish spilled out of the reservoir in 2011 and fingerlings have not yet reached the size anglers have been accustomed to in past years. However, fish up to 17-inches have been reported by anglers in early 2014. Lures or flies that mimic crayfish work well. The reservoir experiences high winds regularly.

There are no developed camping facilities and no constructed boat ramp.

Call Trevor Watson, fisheries biologist, at the ODFW office in Lakeview for directions (541-947-2950).

**Silvies River drainage:** Fishing should be fair for wild redband trout; though few will exceed 10-inches. The snow pack was below average throughout the winter. Streams should be low and fishable in late May or early June. Warmwater fishing for

smallmouth bass in the mainstem will be good, and starts as early as late-May. In August and September of 2014, many portions of the upper Silvies River experienced extreme low flows that created a system of pools connected by subsurface flows. Similar conditions are expected for the fall of 2015.

The Silvies River runs through both BLM and National Forest land; the best maps to use to determine access are the Burns District BLM 30 Minute Series of 'Burns, Oregon' (541 573-4400 [www.or.blm.gov/Burns/](http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns/)) and the Malheur National Forest Map (541 575-3000).

### **Sky Lakes and Mountain Lakes Wilderness:**

Fishing should be good to excellent in some Sky Lake and Mountain Lakes. Access to these lakes via trail should be possible in late May. The most productive lakes in the Sky Lakes Wilderness are Margurette, Isherwood, Badger and Sonya. Look for large rainbow trout up to 18 inches in Isherwood, Sonya and Margurette. Most lakes can be accessed from the Cold Springs Trailhead.

Productive lakes in the Mountain Lakes Wilderness are South Pass, Como, Weston and Harriette. Bubble and fly techniques and casting lures can be very productive. Large rainbow trout occur in Como, Harriette and South Pass. Access to these lakes is a long hike down from the Varney Creek Trailhead.

**Slide Lake:** Slide Lake is a clear lake and contains both hatchery stocked rainbow trout and brook trout. Park at the trailhead and hike approximately ½ mile into the lake. Small brook trout are also available in the pools of Slide Creek.

A very scenic location in the Freemont National Forest off Forest Rd 3360. It can be accessed from Paisley via the 'highline road' or from the Summer Lake side via Government Harvey Pass (mile marker 87).

**Spaulding Reservoir:** The lake is dry this year and will not be stocked with fingerling rainbow trout this spring.

**Sprague River System:** The Sprague River starts in the Gearhart Mountains in Lake County and flows over 100 miles towards Klamath Falls to the Williamson River. The Sprague River flows through the towns of Beatty and Bly which are east of Klamath Falls off Hwy 140. The Sprague River terminates in the town of Chiloquin 30 miles north of Klamath Falls. Fishing for native redband trout should be good in late May and June. The area from Saddle Mountain Pit Rd. upstream to Godowa Springs Road Bridge is open to the use of bait to facilitate the harvest of brown bullhead. Brown trout are difficult to catch in this river but small spoons and sculpin imitations are productive. Brown trout fishing is best in the NF Sprague River.

The Sprague River System is closed to fishing for bull trout and any bull trout captured should be immediately released unharmed and reported to the ODFW office in Klamath Falls (541-883-5732). A recent change in fishing regulations allows anglers to harvest two additional brown trout in the Sprague River watershed.

Sprague River and tributaries opened to fishing Saturday, April 25. The North Fork Sprague River and tributaries above the 3372 road will be open for bait beginning in 2015. This section of the river is dominated with small brook trout. Fishing should be good near the meadow areas of Sandhill Crossing and Lee Thomas

Crossing. Fishing will be slow in the higher gradient section of the canyon above the first 3411 road crossing. There is camping at Lee Thomas and Sandhill Crossing.

**Sycan River:** Fishing should be good in the Sycan River above the Sycan Marsh for brook trout and redband trout from May-June and again in October. Flies and lures are effective in this stretch as this area receives little fishing effort. The Sycan River below Sycan Marsh will be slow with a few fish near the Coyote Bucket area near the Forest Service Boundary which has large brown trout and small redband trout available.

The Sycan River and tributaries opened Saturday April 25. Flows are low and fishable. The best fishing is above the Sycan Marsh as the river went dry in numerous locations below the marsh last year. The upper part of the Sycan River above Paradise Creek and Pikes crossing is dominated by brook trout. Only redband trout are below the marsh with a very rare brown trout. Bait will be allowed in the South Fork of the Sycan River beginning in 2015. The mainstem Sycan River is still restricted to flies and lures only.

**Spring Creek:** Spring Creek is located just north of Chiloquin off of Hwy 97 at Collier State Park. Spring Creek opens May 23. A few brown trout and brook trout are available in Spring Creek. Brown trout move into Spring Creek in good numbers in October. Caddis hatches bring brown trout to the surface during this time.

**Summit Prairie Pond:** Fishing for small rainbow trout should be good early spring and summer at this old borrow pit located along the Twin Springs Rd. in the South Warner Mountains. This is a good place near Lakeview to take children to fish. Access to the pond can be delayed by snow until late spring or early summer.

**Thief Valley Reservoir:** As a result of the dry summer and fall in 2013, the reservoir was drained in early September by the irrigation district to provide needed water for irrigation. All fish in the reservoir were lost. The reservoir has completely filled by February 2014. The reservoir was restocked with sub-legal sized rainbow trout in November 2013. These fish should average 12 to 14-inches long by mid-May 2014.

**Thompson Reservoir:** This reservoir is located south and west of the town of Silver Lake in Lake County. The reservoir contains rainbow trout and largemouth bass. Rainbow trout are distributed throughout the reservoir during the spring and early summer and range from 10 to 18-inches or more. Anglers should target trout from April through June and September through November for best success. Anglers should target largemouth bass from May through July and October for best success.

There are two USFS access roads to the reservoir. Forest Road 27 will take you along the east side of the reservoir and to the East Bay Campground which has the better of the two boat ramps at this reservoir. Forest Rd. 28 will take you to the campground located near the dam.

**Twin Lakes** (Eagle Caps near Halfway): Approximately 2,000 legal-sized rainbow trout will be stocked mid-late June. Fishing should remain good through the summer and fall. Twin Lakes is off the USFS Road 66, northeast of Halfway.

**Vee Lake:** Vee Lake, a moderately-sized lake with a panoramic view of Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, is a popular destination because of its proximity to Lakeview (about 30 miles northeast). The lake is stocked with fingerling and legal-sized trout, and sampling in 2012 found fish averaged 11-inches long with some up to 14-inches.

The lake located on Fremont National Forest north of Mud Creek Campground and has primitive boat ramp. Snow drifts will restrict access until June.

**Warm Springs Reservoir:** The reservoir will not fill this year; and will not store enough water to carryover water into next year.

Fishing was poor in 2014 and 2015 is expected to be similar. Due to the poor water conditions, Warm Springs Reservoir will not be stocked this year. If/when conditions improve; the stocking program will be reinstated.

There is access to Warm Springs Reservoir from Hwy 20 east of Burns on Warm Springs Rd. However, this road is not drivable when it's wet or snow covered. Warm Springs Reservoir can also be accessed from Juntura by the Juntura-Riverside road.

**Warner Valley Lakes** (Hart, Crump, Flagstaff and Campbell): These lakes are located near the towns of Plush and Adel in the Warner Lakes Basin east of Lakeview.

The lakes went dry last year and water levels remain low. It is likely they will go dry again. Anglers should not expend effort at these lakes in 2015.

**Lower Williamson River:** Fishing should be very good this year for trophy redband trout. ODFW monitoring showed good numbers of redband trout spawners on the spawning grounds this year. The most popular method on the river is fishing from a boat using flies or lures. Most anglers hire an experienced guide to take them down the river as catching the large trout can be challenging. Anglers below Modoc Point Bridge troll lures and spoons effectively.

Most of the Williamson River is on private property; however, there is bank access near Chiloquin and Collier State Logging Museum. A popular time for fishing is July-September during the giant *Hexagenia* mayfly hatch.

A recent change fishing regulations allows anglers to keep two additional brown trout from the Williamson River watershed.

**Upper Williamson River:** Fishing in the Upper Williamson for native redband trout and brook trout should be good this year. The average size of redband trout in this reach is 12-inches but fish over 20-inches are available. The Upper Williamson is best fished in June during the black drake mayfly hatch. Fishing is also good in July when the Hex hatch occurs at dark. There are several lodges on the Upper Williamson River that offer exceptional fishing for redband trout and brook trout.

The Upper Williamson River is accessed by taking the Silver Lake highway road off on Hwy 140 approximately 40 miles from Klamath Falls. Access to the Upper Williamson is limited as most of the river is on private property. The river can be accessed at the Old Rocky Ford Area on USFS property.

**Wildhorse Lake:** Access to Wildhorse Lake typically may not open until mid-July; rarely is it earlier than June. Located high on the south end of Steens Mountain, Wildhorse Lake has a naturally reproducing population of cutthroat trout. In 2013, anglers reported having good catch rates for cutthroat trout larger than 12-inches.

A steep trail (five miles round trip) above 9000 feet in altitude provides the only access to the lake. The trailhead can be accessed from the Steens Mountain Loop Road.

**Willow Valley Reservoir:** Fishing for largemouth bass will be fair in the spring. Reservoir levels are expected to be extremely low in the late summer. In May boats can be launched from the boat ramp but this will likely change quickly with the boat ramp dry later in the summer. The Antelope Creek channel is a productive area for bass. The deeper water around the dam and south of the dam can be productive as well as the bay between the boat ramp and dam. The north end of the lake is shallow.

There are a few nice crappie in the reservoir but they're rare. Bluegill are fairly abundant but typically are small. Yellow perch are the most dominant fish in the reservoir but are small and stunted. A few Lahontan cutthroat trout also are available. The reservoir is always turbid and fishing from shore is typically slow.

Willow Valley Reservoir is southeast of Bonanza in Klamath County near the California border. There is a concrete boat ramp but no docks. There are no improved campground facilities and the pit toilet has been destroyed. Camping is allowed.

Recent additions of bass habitat structures by BLM, ODFW and Klamath Bassmasters should continue to improve this fishery.

**Withers Lake:** The lake has been producing brown trout up to 17-inches. Both flies and bait have produced good brown trout catches. The lake also has small brook trout.

Withers Lake is located on the Fremont Forest National Forest northwest of the town of Paisley. The road into Withers Lake is located off USFS Road 3360. There is a short (1/8 mile) walk from the parking area to the lake. No boat ramp or camping facilities are available at this location.

**Wolf Creek Reservoir:** The number of trout in the reservoir is expected to be down from recent years due to the dry late-summer and fall of 2014. Trout are stocked as fingerlings and generally run 10 to 12-inches. Crappie are usually plentiful around structures. Located northwest of the town of North Powder; take exit 283 west off I-84.

**Wood River:** The Wood River opened April 25 and flows are low, which will provide good match the hatch dry fly fishing this year. Numerous mayfly and caddis hatches will occur through October. Fishing in July and August with grasshopper dry flies also can be good for brown trout. Fishing for native redband trout usually improves after June when water quality degrades in Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes.

Brown trout fishing should be fair for the entire season. Casting lures or spoons upstream into deep pools can be effective for brown trout in April and May. Brown trout over 30-inches are available.

The Wood River flows through the town of Fort Klamath in Klamath County and enters the north end of Agency Lake. The river can be accessed at the headwaters at Kimball Park, the USFS day use area just west of Fort Klamath, and by launching boats at Weed Road or Petric Park. The most productive fishing area for dry fly fishing is from Fort Klamath to Weed Road. The area with highest fish density is below Weed Road to Crooked Creek.

Fishing regulations for the Wood River have changed in the last few years from catch-and-release for all fish to a bag limit of two brown trout per day and no limit on brook trout. Redband trout and bull trout must be released unharmed. Anglers will need to be able to properly identify fish species if they plan to harvest fish.

**Yellowjacket Lake:** Fishing should be good for holdover trout in the lake this spring. Fishing should continue to be good until late summer, when weed growth makes angling more challenging. ODFW will stock the lake with fingerling and legal-sized rainbow trout in early May. The fingerling trout should reach legal size by early fall.

This lake has a campground, an unimproved boat ramp, and good shoreline access. It is northwest of Hines on the Malheur National Forest. Directions from Hines, Oregon: Go northwest on County Rd. 127 (Hines Logging Rd.). This road will become USFS Rd. 47. Remain on this road to USFS Rd. 37, turn right onto this side and marker for Yellowjacket Campground. Follow signs three miles to campground and lake.

For more information about fishing opportunities in the Southeast Zone, please contact the nearest ODFW office:

**Hines District Office**

Hines, OR 97738  
541-573-6582

**Lakeview Field Office**

Lakeview, OR 97630  
541-947-2950

**Ontario Field Office**

Ontario, OR 97914  
541-889-6975

**Klamath Watershed District Office**

Klamath Falls, OR 97603  
541-883-5732

**La Grande Watershed District Office**

La Grande, OR 97850  
541 963-2138

## **SNAKE RIVER ZONE**

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**Brownlee Reservoir:** Fishing is usually good for bass, crappie, catfish, perch and trout. Channel catfish fishing will be slow until the weather warms up in May. Fluctuating water levels are common in spring and can throw the bite off temporarily. Best fishing for crappie, bass and perch are around points and in coves. Richland and Halfway are good places to find tackle and advice.

**Oxbow Reservoir:** Fair to good fishing for bass, crappie, catfish, perch and trout. Halfway and Oxbow are good places to get tackle and advice.

**Hells Canyon Reservoir:** To provide additional fishing opportunities, returning adult steelhead trapped below Hell's Canyon Dam are re-released into Hells Canyon Reservoir. These fish are then considered trout over 20 inches and a Combined Angling Tag is not needed. A new regulation in 2014 allows harvest of three adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout over twenty inches in Hells Canyon Reservoir, Sept. 1 through Dec. 31.

**Snake River upstream of Brownlee Reservoir:** Snow pack throughout southeastern Oregon and southern Idaho is below normal, and stream flows in the Snake River near Weiser are expected to be below normal. Channel catfish fishing should begin to improve in late April with peak catch rates from mid-May to mid-June. Smallmouth bass fishing should improve as flows drop and water temperatures rise.

There are four boat access points to the Snake River in Oregon. The northern most boat ramp is located at the BLM site at Oasis about 20 miles north of Ontario via Hwy 201. There is a boat ramp located in the Ontario State Recreation Area just north of Ontario off Hwy 201. The Nyssa boat ramp is located at the west end of the US 20-26 Bridge into Idaho. The Adrian boat Ramp is located at the east end of the Hwy 18 bridge south of Adrian.

**Snake River downstream of Hells Canyon Dam:** Spring trout fishing for residual steelhead smolts up to 18 inches is generally productive in the 15 miles below Hells Canyon Dam. Since 2012, only adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout may be kept in the Snake River below Hell's Canyon Dam. Action for smallmouth bass picks up in April and will produce all the way into early October. These fish are very active and anglers can have some huge days fishing for smallmouth. Target the backwaters and eddies and slow margins of the river. Anglers will catch fish on anything from a simple spinner to top water lures.

Large numbers of hatchery steelhead are released in Snake River tributaries and at the base of Hells Canyon Dam. As a result, good numbers of adipose-clipped summer steelhead are generally available for harvest from October through March. Fishing just below the dam is generally good from late October through March. Good bank fishing is available directly below the dam and about a mile down at Stud Creek.

Some years salmon runs are hefty enough to allow fisheries. A spring chinook fishery opened April 25 and will remain open until managers announce a closure. Fall chinook season occurs from September to the end of October and are generally open

from the border with Washington to the boundary below Hells Canyon Dam. Check the ODFW website for details.

Also remember, barbless hooks are required on the Snake when fishing for salmon, steelhead or sturgeon.

Other bank fishing locations are limited to a few access points on the Oregon side and at Dug Bar. Dug Bar is accessed by traveling to Imnaha, then north down the Imnaha River. The road is not suitable for passenger cars. Hearty hikers also can access the Snake at Eureka Bar via 4 mile walk down the Imnaha River through an impressive canyon on a well-used trail. The river is large and usually difficult to wade; anglers should use caution.

Fishing from a jet boat is very popular. Guides usually are available leaving from Lewiston and Rogersburg, Idaho. Some lodging is available in the canyon or campers may choose a "drop-off" trip.

**Hells Canyon Reservoir:** To provide additional fishing opportunities, returning adult steelhead trapped below Hell's Canyon Dam are re-released into Hells Canyon Reservoir. These fish are then considered trout over 20 inches and a Combined Angling Tag is not needed. A new regulation in 2015 allows harvest of three adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout over twenty inches in Hells Canyon Reservoir.

## MARINE ZONE

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**Anglers are reminded that regulations are subject to change in-season - check before you fish. New for 2015: anglers may retain one canary rockfish (although ODFW strongly advises releasing uninjured fish at depth), and retention of China, quillback, and copper rockfish is prohibited. Additionally, Marine Reserve areas are closed to all harvest.**

Springtime provides excellent marine fishing opportunities and several species are available from ocean and bay shores and jetties. In particular, lingcod, greenling, black rockfish, and perch species are popular with anglers. Black rockfish and lingcod are often on the bite after recently completing their annual spawning cycle.

The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish, of which no more than 3 may be blue rockfish, no more than 1 may be canary rockfish, and no more than 1 may be a cabezon during the cabezon season of July 1 through Dec. 31. There are separate daily limits for lingcod (two) and flatfish other than Pacific halibut (25). Yelloweye, China, copper, and quillback rockfish are prohibited at all times and in all waters. Regulations are subject to change because of quotas – check before you fish. Find fish identification and other tips [here](#). **Anglers are urged to avoid canary rockfish (retaining one only if it is injured and caught incidentally while targeting other species such as black rockfish) and to use a descending device for any that are released.**

**Tillamook Bay and jetty:** Lingcod, rockfish, greenling, and perch can be caught along the jetties of Tillamook Bay. Crabbing also is available in the bays and the ocean.

**Lincoln County rocks, bays and beaches:** As with other rocky spots along the Oregon coast, the jetty in Newport finds anglers catching various species of perch, rockfish, and greenling throughout the year. Lingcod are caught in rocky habitat too. Spring is a good time to try for perch in bays, especially when rain does not interfere with salinity: make it a “bay day” by digging for bay clams at low tide and fishing for perch at high tide. Ocean beaches hold considerable promise for redbtail surfperch anglers, usually around high tide, and are worth trying whenever surf conditions are safe.

**Coos County beaches and jetties:** Redtail and silver surfperch, sand sole and starry flounder are biting in the spring and early summer. Striped bass can be a welcome surprise to those surfperch anglers casting in the surf. Anglers will find a mix of pile, white, and striped surfperch in Coos Bay around structures and along the Coos jetties in the spring and early summer. Also available are grass, black, and blue, rockfish, rock and kelp greenling, cabezon, lingcod, and starry flounder. Sardines, anchovies, and herring are often caught in spring and early summer off docks and piers around Coos Bay, when large schools enter the estuary. Razor clamming is presently closed along the entire Oregon coast; however, contact the Department of Agriculture’s Shellfish Hotline at 1-503-986-4728 / 800-448-2474 for more information on periodic clamming closures.

**Curry County beaches:** Redtail, striped and silver surfperch are available in the spring and early summer. The most popular beaches are located at the mouth of Hunter Creek, Winchuck River, Elk River and at Nesika Beach. You can also catch surfperch from the Rogue River jetties.

## Ocean salmon

Recreational and commercial troll Chinook salmon fishing this year is shaping up to be another very good year for Chinook salmon, and a better than average year for coho salmon. The forecasted abundance for adult returns destined for key river basins of the Columbia River, the Central Valley in California, and the Klamath River are all looking good for this year.

Thanks to continued strong hatchery and naturally produced coho populations, the 2015 ocean coho seasons will provide almost as much fishing opportunity as the banner 2014 season. Mark selective fishing for hatchery coho beginning in late June is expected to be very good along the Oregon Coast, especially from Bandon up to the Columbia River. The Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. non-selective coho season will open September 4 to coincide with Labor Day weekend.

Summary of the 2015 Ocean Seasons:

- North of Cape Falcon to Leadbetter Pt., Washington
  - Recreational season for hatchery fin-clipped Chinook from May 30-June 12 (10,000 coastwide quota).
  - Recreational season for all salmon from June 13-Sept. 30 with a 2 fish limit, of which only 1 can be a Chinook and all coho must be fin-clipped. Quota of 79,400 coho with 15,000 Chinook guideline.
- South of Cape Falcon
  - Sport Chinook from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mt. open March 15 through Oct. 31, and from Humbug Mt. to the OR/CA border open May 1 through Sept. 7.
  - Sport fin-clipped coho open June 27-August 9 (quota of 55,000 coho) from Cape Falcon south to OR/CA Border
  - Sport non-selective coho from Sept. 4 through Sept. 30 with a quota of 12,500. Open from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mt.

## Halibut

May is a popular time for targeting Pacific halibut; and Oregon's quota, set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, is just slightly above last year. Some changes in 2015 include:

- In the Columbia River subarea, the all-depth seasons have been combined into one season.
- In the Columbia River and Central Oregon Coast Subareas, retention of other species of flatfish is now allowed on all-depth halibut days.

This year's seasons are:

- **Columbia River Subarea** (Leadbetter Point, Wash., to Cape Falcon): Nearshore season quota is 500 pounds. Open May 4, inside the 40-fathom line (defined by waypoints), Monday-Wednesday. All-depth season: Open May 1, four days per week, Thursday-Sunday, through 9,754 pounds or September 30.

- **Central Oregon Coast Subarea** (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain): Nearshore season quota is 21,076 pounds. Open July 1, seven days per week, inside the 40-fathom line (defined by waypoints) through the earlier of quota or Oct. 31. All-depth seasons combined quota is 154,557. Spring all-depth season: Open May 14-16, May 28-30, June 11-13, and June 25-27. Backup days are July 9-11 and July 23-25. Summer all-depth season: Aug. 7-8 and every other Friday and Saturday after Aug. 7-8 until the quota is reached.
- **Southern Oregon Subarea** (south of Humbug Mountain): Quota is 7,318 pounds. Season: seven days a week through the earlier of quota or Oct. 31.

Find the most up-to-date halibut information [here](#).

### **Clam Digging**

The daily bag limit for purple varnish clam is 72, making it easier to dig a full meal of this small but tasty clam. The purple varnish clam is also known throughout the Pacific Northwest as the purple mahogany clam, the dark mahogany clam, the varnish clam, and the savory clam. Populations of purple varnish clams are well established in several Oregon bays and estuaries including Sand Lake, Siletz Bay, Alsea Bay, Siuslaw River estuary and Coos Bay.

Other bay clams – like the gaper, butter, littleneck, cockle, and softshell – are abundant in Oregon’s coastal estuaries and bays. For information on where and how to dig go to:

<http://dfw.state.or.us/mrp/shellfish/bayclams/index.asp>

**Razor clams:** Shellfish biologists predict another abundant year for razor clams with plenty of medium- and small-sized clams on the Clatsop beaches. For where and how to dig for razor clams, visit:

<http://dfw.state.or.us/mrp/shellfish/razorclams/index.asp>.

As of May 14, the entire Oregon coast is closed to razor clamming due to elevated levels of domoic acid. Call the shellfish safety hotline 800-448-2474 for updates as the season progresses.

**Crabbing:** This spring, several bays have better crabbing for Dungeness and red rock crab than in the ocean. However, during periods of rain, crabbing in bays may slow due to decreased salinity, but boat crabbers can still expect to land a few keepers. For more crabbing information please visit:

<http://dfw.state.or.us/mrp/shellfish/crab/index.asp>.

### **Marine Reserves**

Prohibitions at Oregon’s marine reserves at Redfish Rocks, near Port Orford, and Otter Rock, near Depoe Bay, went into effect on Jan. 1, 2012. Additionally, Cascade Head, in Lincoln City and Cape Perpetua, near Yachats also had prohibitions in effect starting Jan. 1, 2014. Fishing, crabbing, clamming, hunting and gathering seaweed are all prohibited. Beach walking, surfing, bird watching, diving and other non-extractive uses continue to be allowed.