

CENTRAL ZONE

Hosmer Lake

- Catch-and-release for all species.
- Fly fishing only, barbless hooks required.

Jefferson County Pond

- 2 fish per day.
- Youth angling (ages 17 and under) and disabled anglers only.

Lake Billy Chinook

Metolius Arm - East boundary is a line running from the west abutment of Round Butte Dam to the southern land point where the Deschutes and Metolius arms intersect; West boundary is the cable car crossing

- Open Mar 1 - Oct 31.
- All regulations for the balance of the reservoir (below) apply.
- Tribal angling permits are required. See the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs information on next pg.
- Closed to all angling from the cable car crossing on the Metolius River to markers downstream.

Balance of reservoir

- Trout limit may include 1 bull trout, 24 inch minimum length.
- All bull trout not retained in the bag limit must be released immediately unharmed.

- Rainbow trout over 20 inches and kokanee/sockeye salmon over 16 inches must be released.
- 5 kokanee per day in addition to daily trout limit.
- No limit on size or number of bass or brown trout.
- Stream regulations apply above ODFW markers on Crooked River and Deschutes River Arms.

Laurance Lake

- Open Apr 22 - Oct 31.
- Wild trout must be released.
- No limit on size or number of bass.
- Artificial flies and lures only.

Link Creek

- Closed.

McKay Creek

- No harvest of rainbow trout over 20 inches.

Metolius River

The following apply to open sections below: *

- Catch-and-release for trout, including bull trout.
- * Cable car crossing near mouth to Bridge 99
- Open all year.
- Artificial flies and lures only.

* Bridge 99 to Allingham Bridge

- Open all year.
- Fly fishing only, barbless hooks required.

* Above Allingham Bridge

- Open May 22 - Oct 31.
- Fly fishing only, barbless hooks required.

Tributaries

- Closed with the exception of Lake Cr, which is managed under zone regulations.

Metolius Pond

- 2 fish per day.
- Youth angling (ages 17 and under) and disabled anglers only.

Mill Creek and Tributaries (Wasco Co.)

- Catch-and-release for trout.

Ochoco Creek

- Mouth to Ochoco Dam
- Open all year.
- No harvest of rainbow trout over 20 inches.

Odell Creek

- Boat ramp at West Davis Lake campground to Odell Lake
- Catch-and-release for trout.

NATIVE MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH ARE NOT PROTECTED

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2021

SPORT FISHING

REGULATIONS



myodfw.com

The spectator was telling one of the competitors how he throws whitefish up on the bank to kill them after he catches them.

“I asked him why, and he said they were the reason the trout population was down on the Crooked River,” Ross recalled.

The man was misinformed — like many anglers who consider whitefish a trash fish.

Native to Central Oregon waters, whitefish actually help trout thrive, according to biologists.

“They've been here for thousands of years, if not longer, and they play an integral ecological role in the fish community,” said Brett Hodgson, a Bend-based fisheries biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. “Their eggs are an important source of food and protein to other trout during the winter months, when (whitefish) are spawning.”

Some anglers contend that whitefish compete with trout for food, thereby hurting the native trout populations. Biologists have been concerned about that issue in the past, but Hodgson points to recent studies showing that whitefish do not directly compete with trout for food.

“There's a lot of partitioning of the diet between whitefish and trout,” Hodgson explained. “There is not a lot of competition for food, and they tend to occupy different areas of rivers.”

Whitefish, sometimes called mountain whitefish, are a salmonid, the same family as salmon and trout. Part of the issue might be that whitefish are simply not as pretty as a red-sashed rainbow trout or a black-spotted brown trout. Whitefish feature a mouth that is turned under, and large, rather unsightly scales.

In Central Oregon, whitefish are native to the Crooked, Deschutes and Metolius rivers, and to Odell, Cultus, Crescent and Suttle lakes.

They are perhaps mostly associated with the Crooked River, where a recent decline in the redband trout population was blamed by some on the flourishing whitefish population.

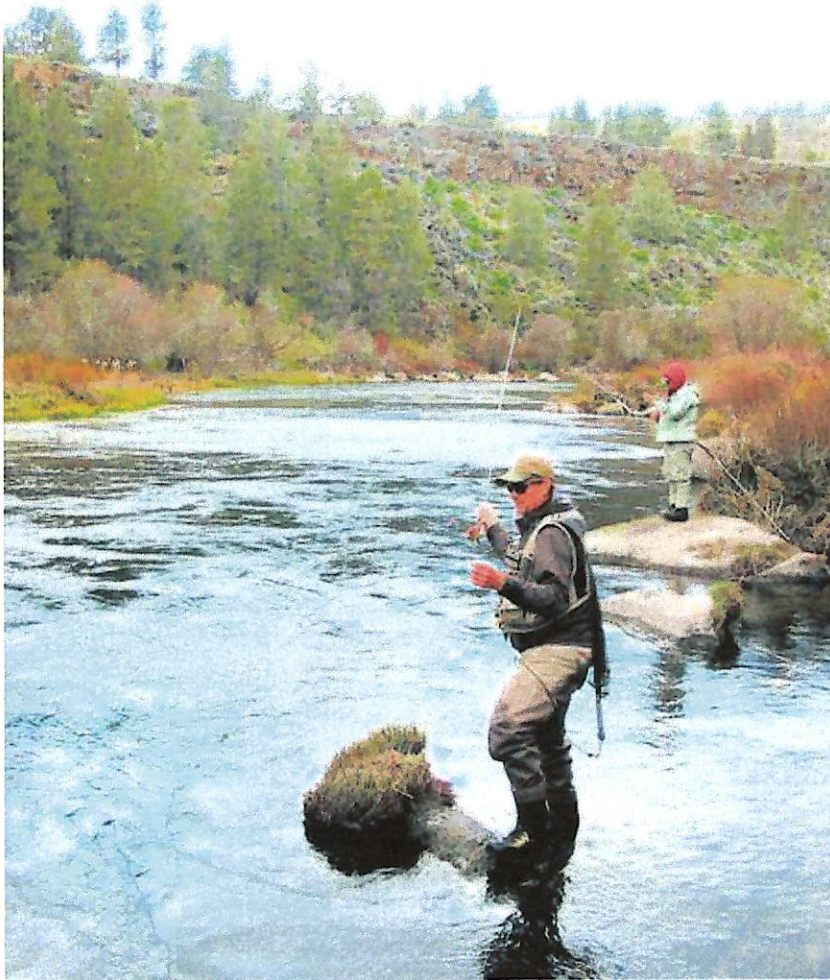
https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/central-oregon-whitefish-angling/article_eaacb0d5-0748-5707-8d26-121a7068612b.html

Central Oregon whitefish angling

Whitefish are often undervalued by anglers

Mark Morical / The Bulletin

May 5, 2011



Bend's Lee Ann Ross, background, and Scott Robertson, fly-fish for whitefish and trout on the Middle Deschutes Monday.

CROOKED RIVER RANCH — Lee Ann Ross could not believe what she was hearing.

The comment came from a casual spectator at the Fly Fishing Team USA Northwest Regional Qualifier earlier this spring on the Upper Deschutes.

But whitefish were not the cause of the decline, according to ODFW. Rather, extraordinarily high water flows had caused gas-bubble disease in the trout.

Bend's John Anderson, a former professor and research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley, headed a recent comprehensive study of the macroinvertebrates in the Crooked River, and how they related to the feeding patterns of trout and whitefish.

His studies revealed that during late fall and early winter months, when most macroinvertebrates are unavailable as food for trout, whitefish eggs serve as a key source of nourishment.

“Whitefish evolved with trout in Western rivers and actually are better adapted to survive in the colder waters than trout,” Anderson said. “I don't know why any angler would want to consider a native Western game fish a trash fish.”

Typically, regulations allow anglers to catch and keep only five trout per day on Oregon waters. But anglers can keep as many whitefish as they want, according to Hodgson. He added that, while whitefish are not commonly considered a delectable fish, they taste good when smoked.

“We're of the opinion that they're a vastly underutilized resource out there,” Hodgson said of whitefish. “We encourage anglers to take advantage of the recreational sport opportunity and consumption.”

Because the Crooked River is once again a torrent — running at 1,200 cubic feet per second below Bowman Dam as of Wednesday — the river right now is basically unfishable.

So currently, the best Central Oregon river options for trout and whitefish angling are the Middle and Lower Deschutes.

I headed to the Middle Deschutes near Crooked River Ranch and Steelhead Falls with Lee Ann Ross and Scott Robertson, two avid fly anglers from Bend, on Monday.

A cold wind ripped through the rugged canyon, but the fish did not seem to mind. Nymphing, we landed and released 40 fish between the three of us on a stretch of river no more than 100 yards long. And yes, most of them were whitefish — but we didn't care.

One complaint that some anglers have about whitefish is that they just don't fight like a trout.

“People say whitefish don't fight, but look at this,” said Robertson, as a whitefish put a deep bend in his rod and took line downstream. “They fight hard. But they don't fight the same as a trout — they're different.”

Anderson compared catching and landing a whitefish to taking a brown trout: They don't come flying out of the river like a rainbow trout, but they put up a fight nonetheless.

Anglers can catch whitefish in much the same way they catch trout: nymphing with a strike indicator. A fisherman targeting trout will often catch many whitefish, and vice versa.

But whitefish do not typically rise to the surface like trout do, according to Robertson.

“They tend to like flashy flies,” he said. “Sometimes they can't resist biting like a trout can. It's more of a reaction thing. They'll grab a fly and spit it out faster than a trout.”

I certainly noticed that on Monday. My strike indicators would dip beneath the water surface, but I would be too late to set the hook. Still, I managed to land several fish, including a 22-inch-long whitefish that weighed nearly 4 pounds on Robertson's net scale.

Looking closely at the fish, I admit it was not the most beautiful of specimens. But to me, landing a big fish is landing a big fish.

“The tug is the drug,” Robertson said.

Even if that tug comes from a whitefish.

Trout or whitefish?

This rainbow trout, top, and whitefish, bottom, were both landed on a nymph pattern called a “Frenchie” on the Middle Deschutes near Steelhead Falls. The whitefish measured 22 inches long and weighed nearly 4 pounds.

LIST OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES FOR BACKGROUND

CHRIS FOSTER

Lifelong Oregonian- Our Family Goes Back to the 1840's in Oregon

April 14, 2021

I thought I would put this list together to provide a background reference to you for my volunteer and other activities, both present and past. This is not bragging, I just wanted to provide some context to the effort to Save the Native Mountain Whitefish.

1. Saving Native Mountain Whitefish- Metolius River- Since 2016.

Also trying to change the regulations to Fly Fishing Only for the entire river since there are so many areas in the Metolius River Basin to bait and spinner/plugs including but not limited to the Kids Pond in Camp Sherman for Kids 17 and younger, Suttle Lake and so many other lakes and rivers available within an hour of Camp Sherman.

2. Volunteer Angler Education Instructor- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife- 1986 – Present

3. Volunteer Fly Fishing Instructor- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at The Bamboo Rod Festival at Black Butte School for all of its 10 year run, introducing kids and family members to fly fishing.

5. Fished the Metolius River since Age 8 in 1957.

6. Member and President- 5 Years- City Kids Fishing Club, taking kids from the inner city of Portland in conjunction with the Portland Parks Department, the Grade and Middle School representatives and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

7. Past Board Member- Metolius River Forest Homeowners Association- 2 Years and Member for 25 years.

8. Volunteer Tree Planting near Abbot Creek- Sisters Ranger District

9. Unofficial "River Keeper"- Metolius River- 60 Years. Volunteer Sign Placement, Cleaning up Trash and Fishing Line up and advising those in violation of the fishing regulations of the correct fishing regulations.

10. Former Captain and Company Commander- Combat Engineer- 162 Engineer Company and Company E 65th Engineer Battalion.

11. Leadership Graduate – Oregon Military Academy- 1972.

12. BS- Business & Technology- Science Minor- Oregon State University 1971.

13. Youth Sports Coalition- Lake Oswego- Founding Member- 3 Years in the Late 1980's.

This volunteer group started with a few of us and grew to about 200 parents and kids to change the priority of athletic field and school facilities back to the kids of Lake Oswego. The City of Lake Oswego and the Lake Oswego School District had a field and facility "Use Agreement" that prioritized (1) School District Kids (That was Correct), (2) through (4) was adult groups with only a 50% requirement for team members to live in the City of Lake Oswego (Incorrect. (5) was Volunteer Based Sports like Lake Oswego Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball.

Some examples were 8-9 year old 3rd grade school kids not being able to practice basketball in their own gym until 9:00PM at night because the adult basketball leagues with only 50% of the team made up from adults in Lake Oswego had the court(s) reserved.

Volunteer Based Sports with 100% Lake Oswego Kids Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball, Soccer and Football not being able to use the fields as adult leagues (50%) had reserved the fields.

Over a 25 year period of time, the City of Lake Oswego charged developers and builders fees which were specifically dedicated to be used (not to be touched) to buy Open Space and Future Park Areas. You guessed it, when we got involved, we discovered that the total amount in that supposed Dedicated Fund was exactly Zero.

With the effort of the Parents and Kids of Lake Oswego, we challenged the School District and the City of Lake Oswego to change the Priority of Field and Facility Use to (1) School Based Sports and Activities and (2) Volunteer Based Sports. The 3rd Grade Lake Oswego Kids sponsored by the YMCA or other were able to practice in the school Gym after school so they could be home in time for dinner and study time and get to bed at a reasonable hour. High School Baseball Players as an example would complete their High School Season and then play Summer Babe Ruth, Junior State or American Legion Baseball on the same field as they played during the regular season.

We lobbied City Hall to purchase and expand the last remaining flat land in Lake Oswego for the kids use since the Dedicated Parks Fund from Developers and Builders had been used for other items in violation of the City Charter. The result was a multi million dollar bond measure to purchase and develop what is now West Lake Park.

West Lake Park has kids play areas, tennis courts, walking trail, a Little League Baseball Field with the only grass infield in the City (the others are dirt), a Softball Field for both youth and adult use, a regulation baseball field and the outfields are used for Soccer, Football, Lacrosse and Music Concerts (Prior to Covid)

You won't see any reference to the Youth Sports Coalition or any plaques on the field as our effort was all volunteer and focused on the kids. Those of us involved, remember the effort.

14. Volunteer Project Manager- 1988- Re-Build Lake Oswego High School Baseball Field

Worked Hand in Hand with Lake Oswego High School Administration/School District, the Head Baseball Coach, Parents and Kids to rebuild the baseball field. We raised \$30,000 to put in irrigation, new grass playing field and apron areas, rebuilt the dugouts and maintained the outfield.

15. Volunteer Project Manager- 1989- Re-Build Lakeridge High School Baseball Field.

Worked hand in hand with the Lakeridge High School Administration/School District, the Head Baseball Coach, Parents and Players to parlay \$4,000 of School District Funds into a \$300,000 Goods in Kind top quality baseball field and eventually Lakeridge High School with Dave Gasser as Head Baseball Coach won 2 State Championships with many games being played on that field.

16. Coached Lake Oswego/West Linn Youth and High School Baseball (20 Years) and Wrestling (10 Years).

SAVING THE OREGON NATIVE MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH AND THE METOLIUS RIVER

MARCH 15, 2021

The Native Mountain Whitefish which has been in the Metolius River likely as long as the Rainbow Trout and Bull Trout, can be killed since they are not protected by the current Oregon Fishing Regulations in Oregon. Currently, only Rainbow Trout and Bull Trout are protected and must be released if caught.

Fish that can be killed for no reason are the Native Mountain Whitefish, Brown Trout and Brook Trout. The Metolius has not been stocked since 1996 when the river was designated as a Wild and Scenic River and is to be managed as such. ODFW states that Brown Trout and Brook Trout are considered invasive species but the Brown and Brook Trout that are in the river have reproduced for at least 4 generations in the Metolius.

In addition, if there are any Salmon and Steelhead running up the river from the Mixing Station at Round Butte Dam, the fishing regulations are confusing as to whether those species can be killed.

There are only about 400-600 fish per mile in the Metolius River which was formed about 10,000 years ago. The number of those fishing the river has increased exponentially in the last several years.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) in Bend and in Salem have not been willing to protect the Native Mountain Whitefish, Brown Trout and Brook Trout. All Fish Species in the Metolius River should be released and not killed.



