

# ***Welcome to the ODFW Recreation Report***

## **FISHING, HUNTING, WILDLIFE VIEWING**

**August 13, 2013**

### **Warmwater fishing**

While trout fishing has slowed in many locations due to high air and water temperatures, warmwater fish like bass, bluegill and yellow perch continue to offer opportunities for good fishing. Our [warmwater fishing webpage](#) is a great place to get started, and you'll find the latest condition updates here in the Recreation Report.

### **Head out to the high lakes**

With temperatures high now might be a good time to head out to Oregon's high mountains. Many mountain lakes available for day use or overnight camping that require only a short hike into them. Some of these waters get very little use, and anglers will often find the solitude incredible. If you plan to camp keep in mind that overnight temperatures at the higher elevation can be quite chilly. Maps should be available from the local U.S. Forest Service office. Be aware of fire restrictions because fire danger is high in many areas.

### **2013-14 Oregon Game Bird Regulations now online**

See the PDF on the Hunting page: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/index.asp>

### **Archery hunters – Errors in the regulations on Chesnimnus bag limit, traditional equipment only area**

The 2013 Oregon Big Game Regulations contain errors in the archery section. On page 51, the "Traditional Archery Equipment Only" restriction should not be in the Columbia Basin, Biggs, Hood and Maupin Units—that restriction is for the Canyon Creek Area only. On page 79, the Chesnimnus hunt bag limit of "one bull elk" (hunt #258R) should be "one elk." These errors were [corrected by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in June](#).

### **Check fire restrictions before heading afield!**

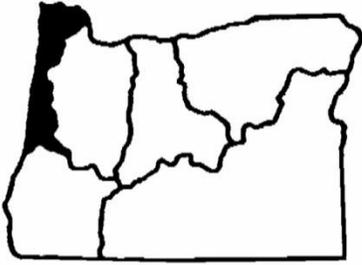
Fire danger is at record levels according to the Oregon Dept of Forestry. Follow all fire restrictions while hunting, fishing or viewing wildlife and see ODF's webpage for the latest on restrictions (click Landowner/Corporate Closure Chart for private land closures)

[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest\\_Restrictions\\_&\\_Closures](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest_Restrictions_&_Closures)

### **ODFW pheasant hunts are perfect for beginners!**

ODFW is planning a variety of pheasant hunting clinics for youth and adults this September. These are perfect for people new to hunting. See details here:

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/education/outdoor\\_skills/workshops/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/education/outdoor_skills/workshops/index.asp)



## NORTHWEST ZONE

### **BARBLESS HOOKS NOW REQUIRED**

Effective Jan. 1, 2013 the following tributaries of the Columbia will be restricted to barbless hooks when fishing for salmon, steelhead and trout:

- Young's River from Hwy 101 Bridge upstream to markers at confluence with Klaskanine River.
- Lewis and Clark River from Hwy 101 bridge upstream to Alternate Hwy 101 Bridge.
- Walluski River from confluence with Young's River upstream to Hwy 202 Bridge.
- Gnat Creek from railroad bridge upstream to Aldrich Point Road.
- Knappa/Blind Slough select areas.

Fall chinook regulations took effect in coastal areas on Aug. 1. Wild coho fisheries won't open until Sept. 15 in coastal basins.

### **Send us your fishing report**

we'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#)—the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

### **Check out the new trout stocking map**

Find the location and details about the many lakes ponds and streams that receive hatchery trout from ODFW's fish hatcheries on the new [Google-based fishing map](#).

### **NORTH COAST LAKES**

Trout stocking is complete until September. Angling is slow for the most part as lakes have warmed up. Fish early or late in the day, or concentrate on warm water species, especially in Vernonia Pond, Cullaby, or Lake Lytle which all have reasonable bass populations, along with some panfish. Water quality may be poor in some areas.

### **MID COAST LAKES**

Trout stocking in the mid coast is done for the season. Trout fishing is typically slow during the summer months but will pick up in the fall once water temperatures cool

down. Most water bodies get stocked multiple times per season and can have a good number of carry over fish available to anglers.

Fishing for warm water species is good spring through fall and is often an overlooked past time along the coast. Largemouth bass, perch, bluegill and brown bullhead are the most common warm water fish. The Florence area offers the most opportunity along the mid coast such as Siltcoos, Tahkenitch, Woahink, Sutton, and Mercer lakes.

**ALSEA RIVER:** cutthroat trout, chinook

Cutthroat trout fishing is fair to good in the main stem river and other large basin tributaries that are open to fishing such as Fiver Rivers and Drift Creek. Casting small spinners or fly fishing can be very productive in the deeper pools or glides. Sea-run cutthroat trout are showing up in good numbers. They can be found from the bay up to mid river. Trolling or casting small lures can be effective in tidewater.

The chinook season is open with the new deadline at Rivers Edge Park boat ramp. A few chinook are being caught in the lower bay and jaws fishery during the right conditions but the fishery does not tend to produce much catch until around mid-September.

**KILCHIS RIVER:** trout

Angling for cutthroat should be fair to good. Sea-run cutthroat should be spread out from tidewater upstream. Anglers are reminded that no bait is allowed above tidewater through Aug. 31.

**NEHALEM RIVER:** trout, chinook

Chinook fishing success is fair to good. The best prospects are in the lower bay (up to the Wheeler/Nehalem area) but fish will begin to spread further in to tidewater thru August. Trolling herring or spinners are the most common techniques. Keep your gear near the bottom. Angling for trout in the Nehalem River should be fair to good. Sea-run cutthroat are available in the bay and lower river. Troll or cast small spinners along shorelines for best success. Anglers are reminded that no bait is allowed above tidewater through Aug. 31.

**NESTUCCA RIVER AND THREE RIVERS:** steelhead, chinook, cutthroat

Fishing for summer steelhead has been slow to fair. Three Rivers is closed to angling below the hatchery until October. Sea-run cutthroat are available in tidewater and further upstream. Fishing should be fair to good. Fall chinook won't show in decent numbers in tidewater until around Labor Day generally.

**SALMON RIVER:** cutthroat trout, chinook

Cutthroat trout fishing is fair in the main stem river and tributaries that are open to fishing. Casting small spinners or fly fishing can be very productive in the deeper pools, glides and tide water. Sea-run cutthroat trout can be found from the lower bay up past the hatchery this time of year. A few early returning chinook could start

showing up at anytime now. Best chances early in the season would be in lower to mid tidewater.

**SILETZ RIVER:** steelhead, cutthroat trout, chinook

Summer steelhead fishing is slow as the river conditions are low, clear and around the warmest of the year. Good numbers of fish are in the river and can be found from head of tide water up to the fishing deadline with the best fishing in the upper river early in the mornings. Good bank access is from Moonshine Park up to the deadline. Cutthroat trout are available through the main stem and other open tributaries such as Drift Creek and Schooner Creek. This is the time of year when sea run cutthroat trout are available from the bay up to mid river.

Boat anglers continue to pull in a few chinook each day from the bay to the mid tidewater reaches. The big push of fall chinook typically does not start until mid-September.

**SIUSLAW RIVER:** cutthroat trout, chinook

The Siuslaw and Lake Creek basins can provide anglers with fair to good cutthroat trout fishing. Using small spinners or flies in the slower deeper section, by cover or cool water sources can be a productive technique. Good returns of sea-run cutthroat trout are showing up in the bay up through tidewater. Trolling small lures or bait with flashers can be an effective technique.

A small number of fall chinook could start showing up in the lower bay any time now. Best chances would be to troll near the mouth of the river or lower tidewater areas on an incoming tide. The good push of fish typically does not start until around mid-September.

**TRASK RIVER:** steelhead, cutthroat

Very few summer steelhead have been reported. Angling for cutthroat is fair to good, with sea-run fish in tidewater and in the lower river.

Anglers who catch a steelhead or salmon with numbered tag(s) are encouraged to [report catch information](#) via the internet at or by calling ODFW at 503-842-2741 and asking for Derek Wiley. All live tagged fish that are not legal to retain or are voluntarily not kept should be released quickly and unharmed with tags intact.

**WILSON RIVER:** steelhead, cutthroat

Summer steelhead angling is slow to fair. Summer steelhead are spread out through the river. Many fish tend to head for the upper river during the hot part of summer. Use a little lighter gear as the water is very clear. Angling for cutthroat is fair. Target tidewater for early arriving sea-runs. Flies or small spinners are effective.

**YAQUINA RIVER:** cutthroat, chinook

Cutthroat trout anglers are having fair success. The sea-run cutthroat trout are around in fair numbers with the mid to upper tidewater area producing the best results from trolling or casting small lures.

The fall chinook fishery is closing in with a small number of fish starting to enter the lower tidewater area. Look to troll the incoming tide through the switch. If possible, fish near the temperature break between the river water and salt water intrusion from the incoming tide.

**YOUNGS BAY:** chinook

Fall chinook angling should be improving as fish move into the upper bay/tidewater areas. Bobber and bait should be effective.

## **NORTH COAST HUNTING**

### **OPEN: COUGAR, BEAR**

Use the [Oregon Hunting Map](#) to see where to hunt.

**Cougar** - Are most effectively taken by using predator calls. However, cougar densities are relatively low on the north coast. Successful hunters, remember you must check in cougar (hide and skull) at an ODFW office within 10 days of harvest and bring them in unfrozen. It's also a good idea to prop their mouths open with a stick after harvest for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging. See regulations for details.

**Black Bear** – should be visible especially during early morning and late evening hours in openings such as meadows and clear-cuts. Look for areas with lots of natural foods such as berries as bears are actively feeding when awake. During the middle of the days, consider predator calling (like with cougar). Long, persistent and loud calling works best to bring in bears that may be outside the near vicinity.

## **COASTAL VIEWING**

Sunny days in August should find black-tailed deer fawns frolicking in area pastures and openings near brush and timber. Several does with young may group together as they more actively forage in clear-cut areas and forest roadsides now that fawns have made the switch to solid food.

## **CLATSOP COUNTY**

### **Lower Columbia River**

The lower Columbia River is host to two species of pelicans in the summer months. The white pelicans were previously known to nest only far inland (mainly eastern Oregon), but started nesting on islands in the lower reaches (generally above Tongue Point) of the river in recent years. There are about 200 that frequent the lower Columbia regularly. The brown pelicans have started moving up from California, and are mainly seen along the coastline and the river up to Tongue Point. The brown pelicans will increase in numbers as the summer progresses, and some even attempt to over-winter here.

## **JEWELL MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA**

With the warm days, elk viewing at Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area has been limited to the early morning and late evening hours. Elk have been visible either along Hwy 202 or Beneke Creek Road. Most of the meadows have been mowed so visitors should be able to easily spot elk when they are out. Breeding or rutting behavior should start at the end of August with the peak in mid September. During the rut, evening viewing should be better with many viewers staying until just after dark to listen for the bull bugles and antler crashing.

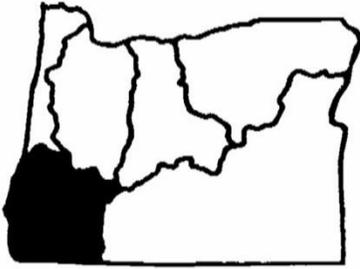
Visitors are reminded that areas posted as wildlife refuge are closed to public access and posted portions of the Beneke Tract are closed to entry during any open Saddle Mt. Elk Season including the general archery season which starts August 24.

## **TILLAMOOK COUNTY**

Colonial nesting seabirds, such as COMMON MURRES, had been attempting to nest on Three Arch Rocks and other near-shore rocks along the north coast. However, as in previous years, bald eagles have ravaged these high profile nesting colonies to the point where few, if any, young are produced at them. As a result, the seabirds must generally sought out more sheltered and isolated locales to bring off a successful nest. Bald eagles have continued to increase in numbers over the years to the point where they are a fairly common sight along north coast estuaries.

## **Cape Meares**

CAPE MEARES STATE PARK AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE is home to nesting peregrine falcons each year, and this year appears to be no exception. To view them, go down to the viewing platform on the north end of the park and look across to the far rock face. The birds usually nest on a grass-covered ledge high up on the shear-faced rock. Often times an adult is perched high in a tree above the eyrie. A pair of binoculars is a minimum for viewing, but a spotting scope is best to see the birds.



## SOUTHWEST ZONE

### FISHING

#### Weekend fishing opportunities:

- Coastal fall chinook seasons open on many rivers on Aug. 1 – get all the details [here](#).
- Largemouth bass fishing has been good the Empire Lakes in Coos County.
- The premier summer trout fishery in the Rogue watershed is the river above Lost Creek Reservoir, offering shade, scenery and fishing opportunities for trout.
- Anglers in the Grants Pass area have been catching fall chinook on the Rogue River.

#### Warm water temperatures increase stress to fish

With the advent of warm summer water temperatures (70 degrees and more), anglers can reduce the stress to fish by taking the following precautions when catching and releasing fish:

- Fish during the cooler times of the day, usually mornings and evenings.
- Use barbless hooks, play and land the fish quickly.
- Trout anglers planning to release fish should avoid fishing baited treble hooks.
- When releasing fish, keep them in the water as much as possible and release them quickly.
- Shift your fishing efforts to higher elevation mountain lakes and streams where water temperatures often remain cool.
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#### Resources for SW Zone anglers

- [50 places to Go Fishing within 60 Minutes of Medford](#)
- [Trout stocking map](#) – Google map of all Southwest Region stocking locations

#### Send us your fishing report

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#) -- the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

#### AGATE LAKE: trout, largemouth bass, black crappie

Fishing for largemouth bass and panfish should be good, especially early or late in the day and on overcast days. The reservoir is 41 percent full.

**APPLEGATE RESERVOIR:** largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, trout

Applegate Reservoir is stocked with legal and larger-sized rainbow trout. Trout anglers will want to fish either deeper areas of the reservoir or the upper reaches where the cooler tributaries enter. Fishing should be good for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

The lake is 61 percent full.

**APPLEGATE RIVER:** rainbow and cutthroat trout, winter steelhead

The Applegate River is open for trout fishing. Only adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout may be retained. All non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be released unharmed.

**ARIZONA POND:** rainbow trout

Trout fishing continues to be good for larger trophy trout. The pond level is still full and should continue to be a good spot to fish all summer. The pond is managed by Oregon State Parks and is open only to youth 17 and under.

**BEN IRVING RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, bass, bluegill, yellow perch, crappie

The reservoir has been stocked with over 4,000 trout. Warmwater fishing for bass and crappie will be best around the edges where there is some structure.

**CHETCO RIVER:** cutthroat trout

The Chetco River mainstem upstream of the power lines (RM 2.2) will close Aug. 1 through Nov. 1. Tributaries remain open for trout fishing per the zone regulations.

[Chetco River flows near Brookings.](#)

**COOPER CREEK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, bass, bluegill, yellow perch, bullhead

Cooper Creek received over 9,000 trout ranging from 8 inches to 2 pounds. Trout fishing with PowerBait has been successful. Some of the trout do have copepods which are tiny parasites on their bodies and gills. These are not harmful to humans, but the lesions can be removed and the meat should be thoroughly cooked. Large yellow perch and bullhead are available with the best fishing success occurring in the early morning hours.

**COOS COUNTY LAKES:** warm water species,

Largemouth bass fishing on Empire Lakes has been good in the early mornings. Bass are hitting topwater baits and plastic worms. There are lots of small bluegills and yellow perch to catch in Lower Empire Lake.

**COOS RIVER BASIN:** Dungeness crab, bay clams, trout, salmon

Trout fishing in streams is open. Anglers should have good success fishing with small spinners or flies for cutthroat trout. The daily limit for trout caught in streams is two per day. For streams and rivers above tidewater, anglers are restricted to using artificial flies and lures until Sept. 1. Barbless hooks are advised if you are going to catch-and-release fish.

If you want to fish for chinook salmon in Coos Bay, then you will want to be fishing in between the jetties. Anglers continue to catch a few chinook trolling cut plug herring on the bar. By the end of the month there should be enough salmon moved up the bay to fish by the Highway 101 bridge and even up to the Marshfield Channel.

Crabbing in Coos Bay continues to be slow for those that ventured out on the bay or crabbing from the docks. Crabbers are reporting pulling pots with lots of females and sub-legal males with an occasional legal male. Best places to crab are from the jetties up to the BLM boat ramp off the North Spit.

In a cooperative effort including ODFW and OSU researchers, hundreds of red rock crabs have been tagged with a small blue "floy tag" in Charleston to gain an understanding of their growth, age, movement, population size, and fishery. Red rock crabs are native to Oregon and are found in only a few Oregon estuaries. If you catch a tagged red rock crab please contact the ODFW Charleston office at 541-888-5515.

Clamming is excellent during low tides near Charleston, off Cape Arago Highway, and Clam Island. There are also good places to dig clams even on positive low tides in Coos Bay. For more information on shellfish in Coos Bay click on the following link: Shellfish Assessment of Coastal Oregon. Before any shellfish harvest trip, make sure to check the Oregon Department of Agriculture website for any updates [http://oregon.gov/ODA/FSD/shellfish\\_status.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODA/FSD/shellfish_status.shtml)

**COQUILLE RIVER BASIN:** trout, smallmouth bass, salmon, crab

Trout season for streams in the Coquille River Basin is open. Anglers should have good success catching cutthroat trout casting spinners or using flies. The daily limit for trout caught in streams is two per day. For streams and rivers above tidewater, anglers are restricted to using artificial flies and lures until Sept. 1. Barbless hooks are advised if you are going to catch-and-release fish.

Smallmouth bass are biting on the Mainstem and South Fork Coquille rivers. There is no size limit or bag limit on the number of smallmouth bass anglers can keep in the Coquille Basin.

A few anglers are starting to troll for salmon in the lower Coquille River from the jetties up towards Rocky Point Boat Ramp. There have been a couple fish caught but the better fishing will be in later August and September.

Crabbing has been slow from the docks in old town Bandon.

**DIAMOND LAKE:** trout

Fishing has been spotty lately. Most of the fish are 12 to 14-inches, but larger fish are also being caught. The fish are very plump and healthy! They've been holding in deeper water lately or the cooler water on the south end.

Anglers can check fishing conditions at Diamond Lake on their website at <http://www.diamondlake.net/fishingreport.html>. Or call their toll free number at 1-800-733-7593, ext 236 or 238 for updates. Contact the Forest Service at 541-498-2531 for more information on campgrounds.

**ELK RIVER:** cutthroat trout

Anglers will want to fish early or late in the morning for the best fishing. Access is limited in the lower river, but the upper river is mainly public.

Check river conditions by calling 541-332-0405.

**EMIGRANT RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie

Fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and other warmwater species should be good. A wide variety of lures can be used to target the bass. Crappie jigs or bait suspended below a bobber are effective for the crappie, bluegill, and yellow perch. Bullheads and the occasional channel catfish can be taken by fishing bait on the bottom.

The water level at Emigrant is at 48 percent of capacity.

**EXPO POND:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill

Fishing for largemouth bass and panfish will be best in the mornings and evenings. Expo Pond has plenty of good bank access, and anglers can catch many of the species present by fishing night crawlers below a bobber. Working lures around the willows and other cover can produce some nice bass.

**FISH LAKE:** rainbow trout, brook trout, spring chinook

Trout anglers will have best success still fishing bait from boats in deeper water. Chinook salmon (considered to be trout in the lake), brook trout, and tiger trout are also present. Tiger trout must be released unharmed. Anglers are encouraged to report catches of larger spring chinook or tiger trout to the local ODFW district office.

The reservoir is at 35 percent of water storage capacity.

**FLORAS LAKE:** rainbow, cutthroat trout

The lake is best fished from a boat, as there is limited bank angling. The lake can be very windy, so anglers will want to check the weather prior to heading out.

Although not a very big population, Floras Lake has a few largemouth bass.

Boat anglers are reminded to clean all aquatic vegetation off their boats and trailers before heading home to help control the spread non-native plants and animals.

**GALESVILLE RESERVIOR:** rainbow trout, bass

Galesville Reservoir is open to angling year-round. In addition to trout, the reservoir has also been stocked with coho smolts for the last couple of years. Many people mistakenly think these fish are kokanee. All of the coho smolts are adipose fin-clipped. The older coho are generally 12 to 14-inches long. In Galesville Reservoir, all landlocked salmon are considered trout and are part of the five-per-day trout limit, with only one trout over 20-inches long allowed for harvest.

The reservoir has been stocked with over 10,000 trout this year. Anglers are reminded all bass between 12 and 15 inches must be released, and only one bass over 15 inches may be taken per day. Call 541-837-3302 for information on camping and boat launching conditions.

**GARRISON LAKE:** rainbow trout

Anglers fishing some of the deeper edges along weed beds have been picking up some larger trout. Boat anglers will want to keep an eye on the weather and fish the lake when there is no wind. Early morning is usually the best time. Access for bank anglers is best at the 12<sup>th</sup> street boat ramp or along the foredune accessed through Tseriadun State Park. Garrison Lake is located in the middle of Port Orford.

**HEMLOCK LAKE & LAKE IN THE WOODS:** trout

Fishing at Hemlock has been good with power bait or worms. A few of the trout are less than 8 inches long and need to be released. For access to other high lakes, contact the Forest Service at 541-958-3200 for information on current road conditions and lake accessibility.

**HOWARD PRAIRIE RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

Most trout anglers will want to still fish bait from boats in deep water during the heat of summer. Leader length will need to be long enough to keep the bait above the weeds. Fishing for bass should be good.

The water level is at 67 percent of capacity.

**HUNTER CREEK:** cutthroat trout

This fishery is focused on resident cutthroat trout and makes for a good stream fishing trip. Most fish will be 6 to 10-inches with the occasional 12-inch cutthroat. Hunter Creek is closed downstream of the North Fork.

**HYATT LAKE:** rainbow trout

The best bet for summer trout fishing at Hyatt is PowerBait in deeper water such as near the dam. Fishing for largemouth bass should be good. The water level is at 63 percent of capacity.

**ILLINOIS RIVER:** trout, steelhead

The Illinois River below Pomeroy Dam near Cave Junction is open for trout fishing. This is primarily a catch-and release-fishery on wild trout. All non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be released unharmed.

[Illinois River flows at Kerby](#)

**LAKE MARIE:** rainbow trout

The lake was stocked with over 5,000 trout this year. Most anglers use PowerBait or worms.

**LAKE SELMAC:** trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie

Summer is the time for fishing panfish and bass at Lake Selmac. A wide variety of lures such as plastic worms, grubs, and jerk baits can be used to target the lake's trophy bass. Crappie jigs or bait suspended below a bobber are effective for the crappie and bluegill. Bullheads can be taken by fishing bait on the bottom. Don't forget that many warmwater fish can be found close to shore near cover. Anglers can mistakenly cast out past the fish at lakes like Selmac.

**LEMOLO RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, kokanee

Fishing has been good. Brown trout are averaging 16 inches or more but a nice 24-inch brown was also taken recently. The rainbows are 12 to 16-plus inches depending on the stock. People are also catching 13 to 15 inch Kokanee, with some up to 20 inches by trolling deeper water with a small spoon and single hook. The boat ramps are open at East Lemolo and Poole Creek Campgrounds.

From now through Nov. 1, Lemolo has a 5 trout per day, daily limit. A combination of brown trout, rainbow trout and kokanee can be harvested to make up this 5 trout limit. Only 1 trout over 20 inches can be harvested per day. For information on fishing conditions, contact Lemolo Lake Resort at 541-957-8354. For information on campgrounds contact the USFS at 541-498-2515.

**LOON LAKE:** rainbow trout, bass, bluegill

Loon Lake was stocked with over 8,000 trout. The lake is also providing good fishing for crappie, bluegill and bass. The resort is open, and their boat ramp and the BLM ramp are open. Call 541-599-2254 for additional information on campgrounds.

**LOST CREEK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, spring chinook, bass

Lost Creek Reservoir has been stocked with legal and larger-sized rainbow trout. The surface temperature is 71F, so trout anglers will want to search for cooler areas to fish.

Fishing in deeper water and upstream from the Hwy. 62 bridge is probably the best bet in the heat of summer.

Anglers have reported some good success on largemouth bass at Lost Creek recently. The more abundant smallmouth bass can be found along the rocky shorelines.

Lost Creek is at 62 percent of capacity.

**MEDCO POND:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill

Medco Pond offers good opportunities for bank anglers for largemouth bass and bluegills. Still fishing with bait usually produces good results.

**PACIFIC OCEAN AND BEACHES:** bottomfish, salmon, Dungeness crab, halibut

The recreational Dungeness crabbing is open in the ocean. Crabbing has been better in the ocean than inside the local bays.

Fishing for bottom fish including rockfish, and lingcod is now closed outside of the 30 fathom curve until Sept. 30. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two). Retention of 1 cabezon per day is now allowed. Fishing for bottom fish has been a little slower this past week.

Anglers have been catching a few chinook salmon just outside of the Coos Bay bar. Trolling with cut plug herring will work well. Don't forget, when salmon fishing in the ocean your hooks must be barbless.

The **Nearshore halibut** season has closed as of July 26. The next Summer All Depth Halibut fishing days will be August 16-17.

**PLAT I RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, warmwater fish

Plat I has been stocked with over 4,500 trout this year. In addition to trout fishing, the lake also has good bullhead fishing. The reservoir is low and boat anglers should be aware of shallow hazards. Bass can be harvested from March 1 to Oct. 31 and are catch-and-release only from Nov. 1-Feb. 29.

**REINHART PARK POND:** trout

Fishing for bass and panfish will be best in the mornings and evenings, and on overcast days.

## **ROGUE RIVER**

To find out more about conservation, management and outreach efforts on the Rogue River, check out the [Rogue River page](#) on the ODFW Web site.

River users can find stream flows and temperatures for several Rogue River reporting stations at this website: [Rogue River levels](#).

**Rogue River, lower:** steelhead, chinook, steelhead halfpounders, surfperch

Chinook fishing has been slow in the bay as most fish have been moving through and into the lower river.

Summer steelhead and half pounder fishing has been good in the lower river. Most anglers are fly fishing or casting spinners. The best spots to target steelhead are at the tail out or head of pools.

Surfperch fishing has been good. Easy access to some good perch fishing can be had fishing from the sand spit at the mouth of the Rogue River. Anglers should keep on the marine forecast and try to fish when the swells are smaller and there is less wind.

**Rogue River, middle:** steelhead, trout, chinook

Once again it is August, and anglers in the Grants Pass area are catching fall chinook. Anglers may keep both adipose fin-clipped and non adipose fin-clipped chinook from the Hog Creek boat landing to the Fishers Ferry boat ramp through Sept. 30, when the chinook season closes in that area. Favorite fall chinook baits include roe and Kwikfish with sardine wraps.

Summer steelhead are passing through the area. Anglers can have success casting flies, drifting nightcrawlers, or casting spinners like a Panther Martin with a black body and gold blade. The flow at Grants Pass was 1,810 cfs, and the water temperature was 68°F on Aug. 12.

The Rogue River is open for trout fishing; however, only adipose fin-clipped rainbow may be kept. All non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be released unharmed. Anglers are having good success for trout with spoons and spinners.

**Rogue River, upper:** steelhead, trout, chinook

Summer steelhead and trout anglers are doing well on the upper Rogue. Anglers should try flies, worms, lures or small spinners like a Panther Martin with a black body and gold blade. The release from Lost Creek Reservoir was 1,729 cfs, while the flow at Gold Ray was 1,970 cfs and the water temperature was 62°F on Aug. 12.

The river upstream from Dodge Bridge closed to chinook fishing on Aug 1. The river from Fishers Ferry to Dodge Bridge is open to the harvest of both adipose fin-clipped and non-adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon from July 1 through Aug 31.

A total of 8,382 spring chinook and 529 summer steelhead have entered Cole Rivers hatchery so far in 2013. A total of 4,004 spring chinook were released back into the fishery this year. Anglers are encouraged to contact the local district office to report catches of recycled hatchery fish, which are marked with a tag near the dorsal fin.

Trout fishing is always a good bet on the upper Rogue. Only adipose fin-clipped rainbow may be kept. All non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be released unharmed.

**Rogue River, above Lost Creek Reservoir:** trout

The premier summer trout fishery in the Rogue watershed is the river above Lost Creek Reservoir, offering shade, scenery and fishing opportunities for trout. Legal-sized rainbow trout will be stocked weekly at campgrounds and public access sites along Hwy 62 and Hwy 230 until Labor Day. In addition, wild rainbow, cutthroat, brown and brook trout are found in the river and many of its tributaries. Most anglers fish either PowerBait or salmon eggs on light gear, although casting spinners and flies will work as well.

**SIXES RIVER:** cutthroat trout

Anglers fishing early or late are faring the best. Some of the best access is at Cape Blanco State Park, Hwy 101, and Edson Creek.

**SMITH RIVER, Umpqua:** steelhead, sturgeon, striped bass

Trout season is open in the Smith River basin. Check the regulations for gear and harvest restrictions.

**SODA SPRINGS RESERVOIR:** brown and rainbow trout

Soda Springs Reservoir and the Mainstem North to Slide Creek Dam closed to fishing when new regulations went into effect on Jan. 1, 2013. The tributaries between Soda Springs and Slide Creek Dam will be open to catch-and-release angling with flies and lures only. The area above Slide Creek will retain the current regulations. Due to construction at Soda Springs, there is currently very limited access.

**TENMILE BASIN:** largemouth bass, yellow perch

Trout fishing has been slow in Tenmile Lakes due to warm water temperatures. One hundred hatchery rainbow trout were tagged and released into Tenmile Lakes this spring for a tagged fish contest sponsored by Ringo's Lakeside Marina. The trout were tagged with 2-inch long, blue, numbered tags that when caught by anglers can be redeemed for a prize at the marina.

Bass fishing has been decent for anglers in Tenmile Lakes. Largemouth bass can be found in both shallow and deep water near weed lines and/or submerged logs. Five or six inch Senko's are a good bait to use to catch bass in Tenmile Lakes. Anglers should also try to use crankbaits to catch bass.

Yellow perch fishing has been very good in Tenmile Lakes recently. Anglers are catching lots of yellow perch fishing right on the weed lines in 10 to 16 feet of water. The best baits are jigs and/or night crawlers fished on or near the bottom. Some of the yellow perch being caught are very large (12 to 15 inches).

**TOKETEE LAKE:** brown trout, rainbow trout

Fishing is open in Toketee year-round. The campground and boat ramp are now open. For more information call the U.S. Forest Service at 541-498-2531.

**UMPQUA HIGH LAKES AND FOREBAYS:** trout

Clearwater Forebay #2 has been stocked with over 2,000 trout so far this spring. For brook trout anglers should try Cliff, Buckeye, Skookum (North Umpqua), Maidu, Twin and Wolf lakes. Linda, Pitt Lake, and Calamut have been stocked with a native rainbow for the last couple of years. Bullpup and Fuller still have brook trout, but were also recently stocked with some fingerling native rainbows. Contact the Forest Service at 541-957-3200 for road and trail conditions. For information on road and campground closures due to fire, go to: [www.fs.usda.gov/umpqua](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umpqua) under fire info, or: <http://inciweb.org/incident/3562>.

**UMPQUA RIVER, MAINSTEM:** steelhead, chinook, smallmouth bass,

The mainstem Umpqua is closed to wild steelhead harvest, but remains open year-round for adipose fin-clipped steelhead. Chinook fishing is best below the 101 hwy. and a few are being caught while trolling with the incoming tide.

The warmer temperatures are making the smallmouth bass more active and available to anglers. The daily limit on smallmouth was increased to 15 per day. Although the river is low, fishing for bass has been good.

The Mainstem Umpqua and tributaries open for trout May 25. The Mainstem is catch-and-release while the tributaries have a 2 trout daily limit. Check the regulations for additional gear restrictions.

The "[50 Places to go fishing within 60 minutes of Roseburg](#)," handout which is available online or at the office, identifies several good places for salmon and steelhead fishing.

[Umpqua River flows near Elkton](#)

**UMPQUA RIVER, NORTH:** steelhead, spring chinook

Rock Creek Hatchery is once again open for visitors! The hatchery is open to visitors from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The new RockEd facility is lacking displays, but can be opened on request by calling the hatchery at 541-496-3484.

Remember all wild steelhead must be released unharmed. Good numbers of steelhead are available throughout the North with the most success coming in the early morning hours. Anglers are starting to get a few hatchery steelhead in the Swiftwater area.

The springer season on the North is now closed. Starting Aug. 1, the anti-s snag rule for the North Umpqua will end for this year.

Note that from Oct. 1 through June 30, angling in the fly water area is restricted to a single barbless artificial fly which can be dressed with conventional fly tying material. The North Umpqua mainstem and the tributaries upstream of Soda Springs Reservoir are open for trout angling through Oct. 31. See gear and harvest restrictions.

[North Umpqua River water levels at Winchester Dam](#)

**UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH:** smallmouth bass, trout

The South Umpqua and tributaries opened for trout on May 25. See the regulations for harvest and gear restrictions by location. Smallmouth bass fishing is also open during the trout season. The daily bag limit is 15 bass per day. The water is low so float fishing will mostly be from rubber raft-type crafts. There is no harvest of either spring chinook or fall chinook allowed in the South Umpqua during any angling season.

[South Umpqua River water levels near Riddle](#)

**WILLOW LAKE:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass, black crappie, brown bullhead

The lake is stocked with rainbow trout weighing up to one pound. There are also largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and other warmwater gamefish available to anglers. Anglers targeting crappie, bluegill, and yellow perch have been doing well fishing bait below a bobber or by working crappie jigs around structure.

**WINCHESTER BAY:** chinook, surfperch

Winchester Bay has been a good port for chinook fishing. A few fish are also starting to enter the freshwater. Fishing for bottomfish in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful.

**WINCHUCK RIVER:** cutthroat trout

The Winchuck River mainstem will close Aug. 1 through Nov. 1. Tributaries remain open for trout angling per the zone regulations.

## **SOUTHWEST ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN: COUGAR, COYOTE**

### **Check fire restrictions before heading afield!**

Fire danger is at record levels according to the Oregon Dept of Forestry. As of July 30, the largest fires are in SW Oregon. Follow all fire restrictions while hunting and see ODF's webpage for the latest on restrictions (click Landowner/Corporate Closure Chart for private land closures)

[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest\\_Restrictions\\_&\\_Closures](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest_Restrictions_&_Closures)

### **Mandatory Reporting**

Thanks to all hunters who reported their 2012 tags on time. Hunters who did not report 2012 deer and elk tags on time will pay a \$25 penalty fee when they purchase a 2014 hunting license. If your 2012 deer and elk hunts extend into 2013, you have until April 15, 2013 to report your hunt. More information on reporting

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/reporting/index.asp>

### **Wolves and coyotes can look alike**

Most wolves in the state today are in northeast Oregon but a few have dispersed further west and south. Wolves are protected by state and/or federal law and it is unlawful to shoot them. Coyote hunters need to take extra care to identify their target as [wolves can look like coyotes](#), especially wolf pups in the mid-summer and fall. ODFW appreciates hunters' assistance to establish wolves' presence in Oregon; please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online](#) reporting system.

Use the [Oregon Hunting Map](#) to see where to hunt.

## **COOS COUNTY**

**Bear** – General bear season opens August 1. Bear numbers in the county are healthy. Dry weather conditions should cause bears to feed most actively near streams and other water. Mild conditions this spring resulted in a very strong berry crop throughout most of the county. Bears will be taking advantage of that so the best hunting will be near berry patches. In years where berry production is so good

bears can afford to be picky about where they feed. So hunters may find many places where berries are available in profusion but bear sign is absent. When bears find places to feed without disturbance from humans they will likely continue to feed there. Scouting for bear sign is important and hunters should not spend time hunting areas with little sign.

**Cougar** – The cougar season is currently open. Hunters can expect an average year. Cougars are abundant throughout with indicators pointing to stable or increasing numbers. Hunting cougar is a challenge because these animals are very secretive, but harvest success is greatest adjacent to private land with high deer populations using a predator call.

**Coyote** - Populations are good in Coos County and they will often respond to calls. Calling coyotes in the coast range is challenging due to brush. Many landowners with sheep are complaining about losses of sheep to coyote predation. Hunters interested in hunting coyotes may find success in asking for permission to hunt private land where landowners are losing sheep.

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Fire situation is severe in Douglas County. Here are some links that provide information:

[http://www.dfpa.net/Fire\\_Season\\_Info.asp](http://www.dfpa.net/Fire_Season_Info.asp)

<http://www.swofire.com/>

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umpqua/home/?cid=fsbdev3\\_056210](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umpqua/home/?cid=fsbdev3_056210)

[www.fs.usda.gov/umpqua](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umpqua)

<http://inciweb.org/state/38/>

**Cougar** – The cougar season is currently open. Hunters can expect an average year. Cougars are abundant throughout with indicators pointing to stable or increasing numbers. Hunting cougar is a challenge because these animals are very secretive, but harvest success is greatest adjacent to private land with high deer populations using a predator call.

**Bear** – General bear season opens August 1st. Hunters can expect an average year. The dry weather conditions will concentrate bears near streams where foraging will be better. Hunters should concentrate their efforts in the berry patches in early morning and late afternoon. Bear numbers are good with the highest numbers in the coast range, and with smaller populations in the Cascades. Successful bear hunters are reminded there is a mandatory check-in for all harvested bear within 10 days of harvest (see regulations for details).

## **JACKSON, JOSEPHINE, CURRY COUNTIES**

From Gold Beach to upper Rogue fire danger is rated as high to extreme with precaution levels at III. This web site provides info on forest service lands. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou/> Most private timber company lands are likely closed due to fire; check with landowner for more information.

**DENMAN WILDLIFE AREA:** Remember to get your parking permit for 2013. Hunters get the permit free with their purchase of an annual hunting license. Display on car dash. [More information](#)

### **Wildlife pre-scouting**

Now is the time for archers to begin their annual pre-scouting trips to the woods. August 24 is not far away, hunters should be spending this next month locating the elk and deer herds. Much of the animals found now will be in that general locations come opening season. High elevations are the place to look. Besides, it's a great time to be in the woods to avoid most of the heat found in the valleys.

**BEAR** general season opens August 1. Hunters can expect another average year. Bear numbers continue to be abundant. With hot dry weather which is typical for this time of year bears will be found around cooler wet drainages. As the berry crops become ripe hunters should locate these areas to find bears. The best times to look for bears are in the early morning and late evenings. Successful bear hunters are reminded there is a mandatory check-in for all harvested bear within 10 days of harvest (see regulations for details).

**Youth Elk season** started August 1 for units in our area. This is a great opportunity for the youth to harvest an elk. These hunts are designed to provide young hunters with a safe, well supervised, low-stress setting where they can enjoy the hunt while building fundamental skills. Remember youth must wear hunter orange.

**Cougar** - General season is open statewide year-round or until zone quotas are met. Southwest Cascades zone B has 165 quota and Coast/North Cascades zone A has 120. Refer to regulations for more information. Hunters are beginning to go out in the field after deer and elk which is prey for cougars. Hunters are encouraged to carry a cougar tag while hunting other animal, you never know when an opportunity will come available. Most cougar hunters success comes from predator calls.

**Western Gray Squirrel** - Open only in the year-around portion of the Rogue Unit, check Big Game Regulations for area descriptions. Squirrels can be found in oak or mixed conifer stands. This is a great animal to hunt for first time hunters.

**Coyotes** - Are abundant in our area. Remember to ask for permission to hunt on private lands.

## **SOUTHWEST ZONE VIEWING**

### **COOS COUNTY**

#### **Young animals**

It is the time when young wild animals are becoming active and visible. This can present opportunities to see young birds learning to forage in their habitats and young mammals following their mothers, learning to do what they do. People should enjoy the opportunity to see these animals but should not try to capture them or interfere with their lessons. Often young animals are left alone by their mothers as they go off to forage for food. These animals are not abandoned. Some of them know only to freeze in place when confronted by an animal or someone that may pose a threat to them. The young animal may lay also down in the middle of a

footpath when approached by a hiker. The best course of action is to leave these animals where they are so their mother can come find them later. If you find an animal you think is abandoned or in distress, the best thing is to call your local ODFW office to report the situation. Let the professionals decide the best way to deal with the situation.

### ***Marine Mammals***

Seal and Sea Lion abundance in coastal waters around Coos County is high this time of year, especially south of Coos Bay. At Simpson Reef, a heavily used haul out exists. From the look out, viewers can see California sea lions, Steller sea lions, harbor seals and elephant seals.

At this time of year, elephant seal females give birth to their young. These large babies may be encountered on sandy beaches. They often appear to be injured, abandoned, or even dying—but they are not. It is normal for female elephant seals to leave their young to fend for themselves after only a month of nursing. During this time, elephant seal pups live off fat reserves and molt their skin. The molted skin decays and causes them to smell, which supports the appearance that they are sick. They are not; this is a normal part of their development.

Do not approach seals and sea lions you may find on Oregon beaches. If you think an animal you find is, in fact, in trouble, contact your local ODFW office to report the animal or contact the Marine Mammal Stranding Network an (800) 452-7888.

### ***Bald Eagles***

Bald eagle viewing can be good because the birds are feeding on waterfowl near coastal bays, estuaries and along the coast. Areas to see eagles include Winchester Bay near Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, Cape Arago Hwy. in Coos Bay, East Bay Drive in Coos Bay and Rocky Point in the lower Coquille River.

### ***Nesting Sea birds***

Common murre, pigeon guillemots, cormorants and other sea birds that nest on coastal islands are doing so in big numbers presently. Large congregations of birds are visible from places like Cape Arago, Coquille Point and other near-shore islands. Those interested in viewing these birds will want to have binoculars or spotting scopes because it generally is not possible to approach closely to these birds. However, these nesting islands can provide spectacular views.

A good place to get information on this opportunity can be obtained from ODFW offices on the coast or from the US Fish and Wildlife Service office in Newport, Oregon. 7/9/13.

### **CURRY, JACKSON, JOSEPHINE COUNTIES**

LOST CREEK LAKE provides 30 miles of trails which includes portions of the Rogue River National Recreation Trail. Along the lake and river banks a wide variety of wildlife and wild flowers can be observed. During spring and early summer months, deer with their young may be seen early in the mornings and late evenings along water ways. A brochure of the trail system can be picked up at federal land agency and visitor centers in the area.

### *Denman Wildlife area*

Many people are visiting the area for fishing opportunities where bass, blue gills and bullhead catfish are caught. School and scout groups are scheduling appointments where Area staff has provided presentations and tours of the area. Wheatstone pond has new gosling showing up; come watch them grow up throughout the summer. Remember to keep your dog under control and not disturb any nests or birds.

### ***On the Coast***

#### ***California brown pelicans***

California brown pelican numbers are increasing along the coast. Many of these birds are migrating up the coast to summer here and farther north. When conditions are windy, as they commonly are in summer on the coast, these birds will fly very close to beaches and will occasionally congregate behind jetties and other points to rest. These resting flocks can be hundreds strong, creating a great viewing opportunity. Bring your binoculars.

For a great birding trail along the southern coast, visit Oregon Birding Trails, <http://www.oregonbirdingtrails.org/>

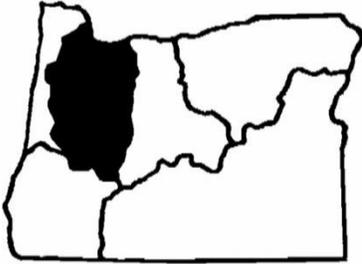
### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

#### ***Gamebirds***

The young chicks of California and mountain quail, blue and ruffed grouse, wild turkey and pheasants are now being seen throughout the county. Coveys of California quail are common on the Umpqua Valley floor usually associated with blackberry cover and water. Many blue and ruffed grouse and their young are found in mid to high elevation forested areas in our local mountains. Wild turkeys and their poults are very common throughout the Umpqua Valley usually on private lands in oak savannah habitat. Most pheasants are found in central Douglas County associated with pastures and ranches.

#### ***Acorn Woodpecker***

Is a colorful medium-sized black and white clown faced woodpecker with a red crown sought after by birders for their lifetime bird list. This highly social woodpecker is commonly seen with young this time of the year in the lower elevations of Douglas County in pine-oak woodlands where oak trees are abundant. Look for this loud and vocal woodpecker in Roseburg at River Forks Park, N. Bank Mgt. area and Whistlers Park. Since this woodpecker is a hoarder look for signs of a granary in the bark of large pine trees that are used to store insects and acorns in cracks and crevices.



## WILLAMETTE ZONE

### FISHING

#### Weekend fishing opportunities:

- Surplus summer steelhead have been recycled on the Clackamas River at McIver, Barton and Riverside parks.
- Chinook fishing continues in the Willamette Basin – there are fish available for those willing to work for them. Check out the reports for the Willamette, Clackamas and Santiam rivers. And don't forget the Sandy.

#### Warm water temperatures increase stress to fish

With the advent of warm summer water temperatures (70 degrees and more), anglers can reduce the stress to fish by taking the following precautions when catching and releasing fish:

- Fish during the cooler times of the day, usually mornings and evenings
- Use barbless hooks, play and land the fish quickly
- When releasing wild fish, keep them in the water as much as possible
- Shift your fishing efforts to higher elevation mountain lakes and streams where water temperatures often remain cool.

#### Trout stocking in North Willamette Valley lakes and ponds

- Anglers in the North Willamette District may wonder why local valley ponds aren't stocked in the summer months. The warm summer weather results in a couple of issues in low elevation lakes and ponds that prohibit trout stocking. One problem is water temperature. Once the water gets to 70° or above this high temperature can be lethal to newly stocked trout coming from a hatchery with much cooler water. Additionally, a lack of rainfall results in very low dissolved oxygen levels in the water; with no exchange of fresh water provided in the lakes and ponds, the dissolved oxygen available drops to levels very lethal to trout.
- Although valley waters aren't being stocked in summer months, anglers can find several lakes stocked regularly that are close to the metro area. These are either higher in elevation or have a regular source of fresh water from mountain rivers and streams. These would include Harriet Lake, Faraday Lake, and Estacada Lake, to name a few.
- If weather and rainfall cooperates, anglers can expect to see places like Hagg Lake and St Louis Ponds stocked again in September.

### WARMWATER FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many locations throughout the Willamette Valley where anglers can go to pursue warmwater species such as bass, crappie, bluegill perch, walleye and catfish. The summer months are a good time to consider angling for warmwater fish. Several good spots are listed below. For additional information about Oregon's warmwater fisheries, visit the [ODFW website](#).

### **Benton County**

- Adair Pond – 6 acres; Hwy. 99W south of Adair Village at ODFW regional office. Largemouth bass, redear sunfish, bluegill, channel catfish.
- E.E. Wilson Pond – 8 acres on E.E. Wilson Wildlife Management Area east of Hwy. 99 W between Corvallis and Monmouth. Redear sunfish, stocked trout.

### **Clackamas County**

- Wilsonville Pond – 6 acres; on west side of I-5, 1 mile south of the Wilsonville Rest Area. Take Exit 282 from I-5, west on Butteville Road to Boones Ferry Road, south on Boones Ferry Road 0.5 miles. Largemouth bass, bluegill, brown bullhead.
- Bluegill Lake – 7 acres; Cascade Gateway Park in Salem off Hwy. 22. Largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie.
- Goose Lake – 9 acres; 7 miles north of Salem. White crappie, largemouth bass.

### **Marion County**

- Mission Lake – 40 acres; about 5 miles north of Keizer in Willamette Mission State Park. White crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, black crappie.
- Santiam River – From confluence with Willamette River upstream to Jefferson. Largemouth bass, smallmouth bass.
- St. Louis Ponds – 7 ponds comprising 54 acres; 2 miles west of Gervais on the west side of I-5 freeway. No boats allowed. Special regulations apply. Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, green sunfish, white crappie, black crappie.
- Walling Pond – 8 acres; 16<sup>th</sup> and McGilchrist Streets in Salem. Largemouth bass, stocked rainbow trout.
- Walter Wirth Lake – 20 acres; Cascade Gateway Park in Salem. Largemouth bass, bluegill, brown bullhead, channel catfish.
- Woodburn Pond – 14 acres; east of I-5 from Woodburn north on Boones Ferry Road to Crosby Road, then north on Edwin Road to the pond. Largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, white crappie, channel catfish.

### **Multnomah County**

- Benson Lake – 40 acres; Multnomah Falls. White crappie, largemouth bass, brown bullhead.
- Blue Lake – 64 acres; 3 miles northeast of Troutdale off Marine Drive. Largemouth bass, brown bullhead, black crappie, bluegill. ~~bluegille~~.
- Bybee Lake – 275 acres; north Portland Road, Portland. White crappie, brown bullhead, largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, yellow perch
- Delta Park Ponds – 100 acres; north Portland in west Delta Park. Brown bullhead, bluegill, largemouth bass.
- East Salish Pond – 12 acres; located in Fairview next to Reynolds Middle School. This pond is occasionally stocked with crappie, bass and other warmwater species by members of the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club.
- Multnomah Channel – Adjacent to Hwy. 30 between Portland St. Helens. Access off Hwy. 30 and off the dike road on Sauvie Island. Crappie, yellow perch, walleye, bullhead, bluegill, largemouth bass.

### **Columbia County**

- Clatskanie Slough – north of Clatskanie off Hwy. 30. White crappie, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bluegille, largemouth bass, black crappie.
- Deer island Slough – 68 acres; northwest of Columbia City off Hwy. 30 at Riechold Chemical (access only at the south end). White crappie, brown bullhead, yellow bullhead, largemouth bass, bluegill, yellow perch.
- Scappoose Bay – 600 acres; south end of St. Helens, off Multnomah Channel. Brown bullhead, white crappie, black crappie yellow perch largemouth bass.
- Vernonia Lake – 45 acres; southeast part of Vernonia off Hwy. 47. Bluegill, yellow perch, largemouth bass. Excellent bank access, improved boat launch.

### **Send us your fishing report**

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#) -- the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

### **STOCKING SCHEDULE**

The 2013 schedules are posted at our website:

[North Willamette stocking schedule](#)

[South Willamette stocking schedule](#)

### **Check out the new trout stocking map**

Find the location and details about the many lakes ponds and streams that receive hatchery trout from ODFW's fish hatcheries on the new [Google-based stocking map](#).

**ALTON BAKER CANOE CANAL:** trout

The Alton Baker Canoe Canal will be stocked weekly through the summer. The canal will be stocked this week with a total of 550 legal-sized and larger trout along its length. The canal is located within Alton Baker Park and can be accessed off of Club Road in Eugene. The Canoe Canal is located in downtown Eugene behind Autzen Stadium. A 4-acre pond at the midpoint of the canal is a good spot but it can be fished all along its 2-mile length from Day Island Road in Eugene to Aspen Street in Springfield. Summer steelhead are occasionally caught in this system and anglers are reminded they will need a combined angling tag to legally harvest a steelhead. It is legal to fish with two rods in the Alton Baker Canoe Canal, provided the Two-Rod Validation has been purchased.

**BENSON LAKE:** rainbow trout, white crappie, largemouth bass, brown bullhead

Stocked the week of June 3 with 4,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 40-acre lake located in Benson State Park in the Columbia River Gorge. From Portland, head east on I-84, park is located on the south side of the freeway approx. 1/2 mile west of Multnomah Falls.

**BETHANY POND:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, bullhead

Stocked the week of April 29 with 2,000 legal sized rainbow trout. This is a 10-acre pond located at Bethany west of Portland. The pond is maintained by [Tualatin Hills Park and Rec.](#) Amenities include picnic tables, restrooms, and a paved, ADA accessible trail.

**BLUE RIVER above BLUE RIVER RESERVOIR:** trout

Blue River above Blue River Reservoir was last stocked for the season in early July. The river is stocked at multiple locations up to Quentin Creek. Take FS Road 15 from Hwy 126 about 5 miles east of the town of Blue River to access Blue River above the reservoir.

**BLUE RIVER RESERVOIR:** trout, warmwater species

Blue River Reservoir was last stocked for the season in early July. Blue River Reservoir is located east of Eugene near the town of Blue River, north of Highway 126 and is open to year-round fishing.

**BREITENBUSH RIVER:** trout

This scenic river flows for approximately 30 miles into Detroit Reservoir. It was stocked on July 31 for the last time with 1,800 legal size rainbow trout. Because the water runs cold throughout the year there are usually good numbers of fish throughout the summer. Forest Road 46 runs along most of its length so access is very good despite some steep and brushy sections. The river has some native rainbow and cutthroat trout and a few brook trout might also be found. Daily limit is five trout over 8 inches (only one fish over 20-inches), no limit on brook trout and the use of bait is allowed. The river is closed to salmon fishing.

**CANBY POND:** rainbow trout

This pond will not be stocked until further notice due to large amounts of aquatic vegetation in the pond. Check this site for updates. Canby Pond is a 1-acre pond located on the south end of Canby in Canby City Park. The park is south of Hwy 99E and adjacent to the Molalla River. **Angling restricted to youth age 17 and under or holders of one of the Disabled Anglers permits.**

**CARMEN RESERVOIR:** trout

Carmen Reservoir was last stocked for the season the week of July 29 with 2,250 rainbow trout. Carmen Reservoir is accessed via FS Road 750 off Hwy 126, about 2 miles south of Clear Lake, and is open all year. Motor boats are prohibited on Carmen Reservoir.

**CHEADLE LAKE:** bass, bluegill

This 60-acre former mill pond in Lebanon provides an excellent warm water fishing experience for the beginner as well as the seasoned angler. Largemouth bass up to 16 inches and panfish up to 9.5 inches were reported in mid-June. To get there take Russell Road east off Main Street about a mile. There is a small boat ramp and ADA fishing dock at the parking lot and there is foot access most of the way around the pond.

**CLACKAMAS RIVER:** summer steelhead, spring chinook

Summer time angling conditions continue on the Clackamas River due to low flow and warm water, but anglers are still hooking into summer steelhead and spring chinook. It's definitely a drift boat or pontoon fishery, and those giving it a try should get out early before the recreational tubers and rafters arrive. The most productive water accessible by boat appears to be from McIver Park down to Barton while bank anglers are landing few fish up near McIver Park at Dog Creek, near Rivermill Dam, and up above Hwy 211 near Cazadero. Bank anglers should make note that an angling deadline is clearly marked up near Rivermill Dam and the fishway; it is illegal to fish or even cast above this deadline.

The Clackamas Hatchery at McIver Park has processed nearly 2,000 spring chinook so far this summer, a number that is below seasonal averages for early August but slightly ahead of last year. Most of these springers swam in, but about 400 were brought down from the North Fork Trap sorting facility by PGE.

Monday hydrological data for the Clackamas shows flows up a bit after weekend thunderstorms at 922 cfs, with a gauge height in Estacada of 10.89 ft. and the water temperature near 63°.

**CLEAR LAKE:** trout

Clear Lake was stocked in late July with 2,000 legal-sized and 500 larger sized rainbow trout. It will be stocked again in late August. The lake is accessed from Highway 126 approximately 70 miles east of Springfield. Cabins and row boats are available for rent from [Clear Lake Resort](#).

**COAST FORK WILLAMETTE RIVER:** trout

The Coast Fork of the Willamette River was last stocked for the season in mid-May at several locations near Cottage Grove.

[Coast Fork basin-specific regulations and stocking schedule.](#)

**COMMONWEALTH LAKE:** trout, bass, bluegill, crappie

Stocked with 200 one-pound trout the week of May 13. This is a three-acre stocked lake within the [Commonwealth Lake Park](#) in Beaverton, Oregon. Commonwealth Park is maintained by [Tualatin Hills Park and Rec. Amenities](#) include ADA accessible trail, picnic tables, playground, restrooms.

**COTTAGE GROVE POND:** trout, warmwater species

Cottage Grove Pond was last stocked for the season in early April. To access the pond, travel east from Cottage Grove on Row River Road. Cottage Grove Pond is located behind the truck scales and may be accessed via an asphalt pathway. Only the pond with the dock is stocked with hatchery trout.

**COTTAGE GROVE RESERVOIR:** trout, warmwater species

Cottage Grove Reservoir was last stocked for the season in mid-April. In addition, warmwater fish and holdover trout are available to anglers. The reservoir is south of Cottage Grove.

NOTICE: The Oregon Health Authority has issued a health advisory updating information about eating fish caught in Cottage Grove Reservoir. Under the advisory issued June 5, 2012 people can safely consume up to nine meals per month of hatchery-grown rainbow trout month that are 12 inches in length or less. People can distinguish hatchery-grown rainbow trout by the absence of the adipose fin, which is clipped before hatchery fish are released into streams and reservoirs. Despite the new exception for rainbow trout, mercury contamination for resident warm-water fish, including bass, bluegill, crappie and bullhead continues to be a concern. Women of childbearing age, particularly pregnant or breastfeeding women, children under six years of age and persons having liver or kidney ailments should avoid eating any fish from this reservoir other than rainbow trout. Healthy women beyond childbearing age, other healthy adults and healthy children six years of age and older should eat no more than one 8-ounce meal of fish other than rainbow trout per month.

**CRESWELL POND (GARDEN LAKE):** trout, warmwater

Creswell Pond was last stocked for the season in early April. The pond is located in Garden Lake Park on the east side of I-5 in Creswell.

**DETROIT RESERVOIR:** trout, kokanee

Located 50 miles east of Salem, this large lake (approximately 3,000 acres at full pool) receives over 100,000 trout throughout the year. The reservoir was stocked in early July with 6,000 legal-sized rainbow trout with further stockings anticipated later in the fall season. The water level is currently at full pool (as of Aug. 11) and all boat ramps are available. Check with local outfitters in the town of Detroit to find out more.

**DEXTER RESERVOIR:** trout

Dexter Reservoir was stocked in late April/early May. The next stocking will occur in late September. Dexter Reservoir is adjacent to Highway 58 near Lowell and is open all year.

A blue-green algae warning was issued for Dexter Reservoir 7/03/13. See <http://public.health.oregon.gov/healthyenvironments/recreation/harmfulalgaeblooms/pages/blue-greenalgaeadvisories.aspx> for additional information.

**DORENA RESERVOIR:** trout, warmwater

Dorena Reservoir was last stocked for the season in late April. Dorena Reservoir is east of Cottage Grove on Row River Road and is open all year.

A blue-green algae warning was issued for Dorena Reservoir 7/25/13. See <http://public.health.oregon.gov/healthyenvironments/recreation/harmfulalgaeblooms/pages/blue-greenalgaeadvisories.aspx> for additional information.

**DORMAN POND:** trout

Stocked the week of April 29 with 2,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is an 8-acre pond west of Forest Grove at the junction of Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 6.

**EAGLE CREEK:** spring chinook

Anglers should look for the return of adult spring chinook from 240,000 smolts released annually at the Eagle Fern Park acclimation facility. The return of these fish will be very dependent on stream flows, and whether the fish can get up into the creek; if not, anglers can expect them to be holding in areas around the mouth of Eagle Creek in the Clackamas River. They can be identified by having a right maxillary fin-clip along with an adipose fin-clip.

Reliable reports indicate that these fish are holding in deeper pools above Eagle Fern Park with a few bright springers landed in the canyon between the middle fish ladder and the hatchery.

Long stretches of Eagle Creek run through private property, particularly up near the hatchery and from an area below the lower ladder on down past Bonnie Lure to the mouth. Anglers are advised to pay close attention to where you fish and we encourage you to ask permission prior to accessing or crossing private lands on your way to your favorite fishing hole. See Page 15 of the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulation pamphlet for more information on "Your Rights to Use the Surface, Bed, and Banks of Oregon's Rivers and Lakes."

**EAST FREEWAY LAKE:** trout, bass, bluegill, crappie

This pond features some good size bass and crappie and this time of year is excellent for some warm water fishing. A boat ramp is available. To get there take the State Police exit in Albany and follow the frontage road south (3 Lakes Road) for several miles.

**ESTACADA Lake:** trout, steelhead, chinook, coho

Stocked the week of July 15 with 1,800 legal-sized rainbow trout. Estacada is a 150-acre reservoir on the Clackamas River behind River Mill Dam. There is a fishing dock and ADA-accessible fishing platform that provide the only non-boating access. There is a boat ramp in Milo McIver State Park at the lower end of the reservoir, picnic areas, and restrooms. There is a fee for entering the park.

**FALL CREEK above FALL CREEK RESERVOIR:** trout

Fall Creek above Fall Creek Reservoir was last stocked for the season in mid-late June. Wild fish continue to be available. Fall Creek and Fall Creek Reservoir are north of Lowell and east of Unity.

**FALL CREEK RESERVOIR:** trout, warmwater

Fall Creek Reservoir was last stocked for the season in late April. Upriver stockings will also benefit this reservoir. Fall Creek and Fall Creek Reservoir are north of Lowell and east of Unity.

**FARADAY LAKE:** trout

Stocked the week of July 15 with 1,800 legal-sized rainbow trout. Faraday Lake is located one mile southeast of Estacada at the Faraday Hydroelectric Project.

**FERN RIDGE RESERVOIR:** largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead

This 9,000 acre lake just 12 miles west of Eugene is the Willamette Basin's largest water body. It has four boat ramps and there is good bank angling along the dam and at the shoreline parks. For local information regarding the lake, contact the Lane County Parks Department at 541-682-2000.

This lake is mostly shallow with a band of deep water from the original channel of the Long Tom River. The reservoir produces crappie over 12 inches and bass angling has been very good in recent years. Best time of year for crappie is in spring after the water temperature reaches the mid-50s, but fish can still be found in deeper water year round. July and August are peak months for largemouth bass. Fish the shoreline along the southern part of the reservoir, especially the sloughs and inlets where there is underwater structure.

**FOSTER RESERVOIR:** trout, bass, perch, catfish

This scenic 1,200-acre reservoir on the South Santiam River is located just 30 minutes from Interstate 5. There is good bank access at several rest stops and campgrounds, and two seasonal boat ramps. It was stocked again on May 21 with 4,000 rainbow trout. Please remember that *kokanee* and only adipose fin-clipped *trout* may be taken and there are no limits on size or number of *bass*. All boat ramps are available at this time. From I-5 take US 20 east from Albany to the town of Sweet Home. The reservoir is 3 miles past the town on the left.

**GREEN PETER RESERVOIR:** kokanee, trout, bass

This large reservoir east of Sweet Home is a premier kokanee fishery with a bag limit of 25 fish per day. It also supports stocked rainbow trout and some large smallmouth

bass. Reservoir levels are at full pool and both Thistle Creek and Whitcomb Island boat ramps are open. It was stocked in May for the last time this summer with 6,000 legal rainbow trout. Stocking will resume later in the year when water temperatures cool. Kokanee are deep this time of year – anglers report excellent catches below 60 feet.

**HALDEMAN POND:** trout

Stocked the week of April 29 with 3,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 2-acre pond located within the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area. From the Sauvie Island bridge, take Sauvie Island Rd. to NW Reeder Rd, then Oak Island Rd.

**HARRIET LAKE:** trout

Stocked the week of July 15 with 3,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 23-acre reservoir on the Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas River within the Mount Hood National Forest.

**HARTMAN POND:** trout, bass, crappie, perch

Stocked the week of June 3 with 1,250 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a small fishing pond in the Columbia River Gorge just off I-84 at Benson State Park.

**HENRY HAGG LAKE:** rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, yellow bullhead, native cutthroat trout

Henry Hagg is a 1,110-acre lake seven miles southwest of Forest Grove. Maintained and operated by Washington County, the park features numerous picnic areas, two boat launching facilities, more than 15 miles of hiking trails, and observation decks for wildlife and bird watching.

**HIGH MOUNTAIN LAKES:** trout (rainbow, brook, cutthroat)

There are many mountain lakes available in the area for day use or overnight camping that require only a short hike into them. Many are easy day hikes, perfect for packing in a lunch and doing some fishing then heading home in early evening. Some of these waters get very little use, and anglers will often find the solitude incredible. If you plan to camp keep in mind that overnight temperatures at the higher elevation can be quite chilly. Maps should be available from the local U.S. Forest Service office.

**HILLS CREEK RESERVOIR:** trout, warmwater

Hills Creek Reservoir is open to fishing all year. All non-adipose fin-clipped trout and salmon must be released unharmed. This reservoir is stocked annually with 100,000 adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook fingerlings and 200,000 adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout fingerlings. These fish grow to catchable size within a year.

**HILLS CREEK above HILLS CREEK RESERVOIR:** trout

Hills Creek was last stocked for the season in late May, although wild trout continue to be available.

**HORSESHOE LAKE:** trout

Stocked the week of July 1 with 2,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 14-acre lake located in the Olallie Lake Basin on the Mt. Hood National Forest. There are a few campsites available at Horseshoe Lake Campground.

**HUDDLESTON POND:** trout, bass, bluegill

Stocked the week of June 3 with 1,200 legal-sized rainbow trout, 100 larger trout and 25 trophy trout. This is a 5-acre pond located within Huddleston Pond Park in the city of Willamina, Ore. A former mill pond, it contains woody debris that provides habitat for bass and bluegill. It reaches a maximum depth of about 10 feet, with shallow "kid-friendly" edges. It is ADA accessible in places, with a restroom and picnic areas nearby. There is paved parking lot and small ramp for people who want to launch small, non-motorized boats.

**JUNCTION CITY POND:** trout, crappie

This prime fishing pond has been regularly stocked with trout since January ranging from legal-size up to 'pounders.' It was stocked last in June with 1,000 legal size rainbow trout. Due to rising water temperatures, further stocking will be curtailed until later in the year when recycled steelhead arrive. Casting spinners and plunking with PowerBait can be effective strategies for these fish. Junction City pond is located about 2 miles south of Junction City on 99W on the west side of the highway. There is excellent access around the entire 8-acre pond. As a reminder, zone regulations apply: five trout daily may be kept and only one over 20 inches. The steelhead stocked are considered 'trout' and the only-one-over-20-inches regulation applies.

**LEABURG LAKE:** trout

Leaburg Lake was recently stocked with 1,500 legal-sized rainbow trout. Leaburg Lake is a 55-acre lake located directly behind Leaburg Dam on the McKenzie River approximately 17 miles east of Springfield on Highway 126 East.

**MCKENZIE RIVER below Leaburg Lake:** trout, salmon, steelhead

The McKenzie River below Leaburg Lake was stocked the week of July 29 from Leaburg Town Landing to Hendricks Bridge with 3,000 fish. Only adipose fin-clipped trout may be taken down to Hayden Bridge. No trout harvest is allowed below Hayden Bridge. Angling is restricted to flies and lures after June 15.

[McKenzie basin-specific regulations and stocking schedule.](#)

**MCKENZIE RIVER above Leaburg Lake:** trout, steelhead

The McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake was boat-stocked in early August from Forest Glen Boat Ramp near Blue River to Goodpasture Landing. The river will be boat stocked every 3 weeks (with one exception when it is 2 weeks) through mid-September. Rainbow trout will be truck-stocked at the boat landings between boat stockings, including this week with 7,750 legal-sized rainbow trout.

[McKenzie basin-specific regulations and stocking schedule.](#)

**MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE RIVER above Hills Creek Reservoir:** trout

The Middle Fork Willamette River above Hills Creek Reservoir was last stocked for the season in late June from Staley Creek bridge downstream to Sand Prairie Campground. Only adipose fin-clipped trout may be retained.

[Middle Fork basin-specific regulations and stocking schedule.](#)

**MOLALLA RIVER:** steelhead, spring chinook

The Molalla River flows are dropping much like other rivers in the area, making the Molalla a drift boat fishery, although water levels are still holding up enough for decent angling opportunity. Spring chinook that are returning from direct releases of smolts completed in 2010 and 2011 should be available in the Molalla River and it's also not unheard of for an occasional summer steelhead to nose into the lower river looking for cooler water than the Willamette. The Molalla River is open for adipose fin-clipped chinook and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year, with the use of bait allowed May 15-July 15 but the use of single barbless hooks is encouraged. Refer to the 2013 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for more information.

**MT HOOD POND:** trout

Stocked the week of May 20 with 500 rainbow trout. The pond also offers angling for several different species of warm water fish including crappie, bluegill, and catfish. Anglers are reminded that from April 1 through Aug. 31 fishing at Mt. Hood Pond is restricted to youths 17 and under as well as individuals who possess a valid Oregon Disabilities Fishing Permit.

**NORTH FORK RESERVOIR:** trout

Stocked the week of July 15 with 3,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 350-acre reservoir of the Clackamas River behind North Fork Dam approximately 5.2 miles east of Estacada, Ore. The lake has a boat ramp, moorage, picnic area, and accessible fishing platforms.

**NORTH AND SOUTH SANTIAM:** steelhead, trout

Water levels are still excellent for fishing, currently 1,240 cfs at Mehama on the North Santiam and 922 cfs at Waterloo on the South Santiam (levels as of Aug. 12). Fish counts at Willamette Falls are falling off, but respectable numbers of summer steelhead (12,641) and spring chinook (29,094) have entered the ladder as of July 27. As of Aug. 7, 4,037 summer steelhead and 2,593 spring chinook had entered the the fish ladder at Foster dam, and most of them were recycled below to give anglers another shot at them. The Foster trap is now closed and will remain so through at least the first week of SEP to allow continuing construction of the new collection facility. On the North Santiam, approximately 36 summer steelhead and 4,243 spring chinook have passed above Stayton into the upper river through Aug. 8. When the 'bite' is on, bobbers and jigs are the preferred angling method with spoons, spinners and egg clusters also being effective.

River levels best for fishing are below 3,000 cfs at the Mehama gauge. You may check for current conditions at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov>.

CAUTION: The section between Shelburn and Green's Bridge remains hazardous for boaters because of downed trees and multiple side channels. Better bets are the floats below Green's Bridge and above Stayton.

CAUTION: The boat slide at Upper Bennett Dam on the North Santiam is in a state of disrepair due to prior high-flow events. Reports indicate that the slide *may* still be used, however EXTREME caution is required.

**OLALLIE LAKE:** trout

Stocked the week of July 1 with 4,000 legal-sized rainbow trout and 125 trophy trout. This is the largest of more than 200 lakes within the Olallie Lake Scenic Area. Lake is located on the southern edge of the Mt. Hood National Forest.

**PROGRESS LAKE:** trout, brown bullhead

Stocked June 7 with 600 half-pound rainbow trout and 100 one-plus pounders. This is a 4-acre pond next to the Progress Ridge Town Center in Beaverton, Oregon. The pond is an old rock pit and has a maximum depth of 54 feet. There is a sidewalk, fishing platform and viewing platform on one side of the lake. The lake is owned by Tualatin Hills Parks and Rec. Boating and swimming are prohibited on this lake.

**QUARTZVILLE CREEK:** trout

This beautiful stream is located above Green Peter Reservoir and provides excellent opportunities to fish for trout. There is good bank access along most of its length. Trout season opened April 28 and ends October 31. The river was last stocked July 24 with 2,000 rainbow trout with further stockings not anticipated until later in the spring. There are opportunities to catch some nice wild cutthroat trout as well. Light gear works best and fly fishing can be very good, but bait is also allowed. There are two BLM campgrounds as well as numerous designated campsites along the road. To get there, follow the directions to Green Peter Reservoir and continue around the lake until the river begins.

**SALMON CREEK:** trout

Salmon Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork Willamette River east of Oakridge, and was stocked in early August with 700 legal-sized rainbow trout and 150 larger trout.

**SALMONBERRY LAKE:** trout

Stocked June 12 with 600 legal-sized rainbow trout and 100 one-pounders. This lake is located approximately 9 miles northwest of St. Helens on Pittsburg Rd.

**SALT CREEK:** trout

Salt Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork Willamette River east of Oakridge, and was last stocked for the season in early July. Fish are released at multiple locations.

**SANDY RIVER:** summer steelhead, spring chinook

Despite continuing low water conditions the Sandy has been providing some good springer fishing opportunity, with several bright chinook landed in the past week. The warm weather and recent thunderstorms did add some turbidity to the river but many experienced Sandy River anglers claim that the slightly grey/green-colored conditions are ideal for springers.

Reports indicate the best fishing is between Oxbow Park and mouth of the Salmon River, with good catch reported around Marmot and Sleepy Hollow. Look for deep holes, early in the morning and later in the evening. Effective presentations include a bobber and eggs/sand shrimp, spoons, spinners, and even wet flies in the long, deep riffles where chinook sometime lay. Access to the river by boat can be found at ramps in Oxbow, Dodge, Dabney, and Lewis and Clark parks. There are many spots for bank access including Marmot, Revenue, Cedar Creek, Oxbow, Dabney, along the Old Scenic Hwy upstream from Troutdale, and at the mouth of the Salmon River.

Monday hydrological data for the Sandy River has flows dropping a bit since last week at 479 cfs, a gauge reading of 7.96 ft and the water temperature up near 60°.

**SANTIAM RIVER NORTH FORK above Detroit Lake:** trout

Weather permitting, you may find this highway route to be an excellent family outing for simply enjoying nature. The river was stocked at the end of JUL with 3,000 rainbow trout; that will be the last summer stocking of the year. Please be aware that this section of river above Detroit Lake is closed to salmon fishing.

**SCOUT LAKE:** trout

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:** trout

Stocked the week of June 3 with 2,600 legal-sized rainbow trout and 200 larger trout. Sheridan Pond is a 2 1/2-acre pond located on the edge of town. It provides excellent access for families and kids. Good parking. From Hwy. 18, take exit 33 to Balston Rd., turn right and left to the pond.

**SILVER CREEK RESERVOIR:** trout, catfish

Stocked the week of June 10 with 2,600 legal-sized rainbow trout and 250 larger trout. This is a 65-acre reservoir on Silver Creek 2.5 miles south of Silverton on Hwy. 214.

**SMALL FRY LAKE:** trout

Stocked the week of June 17 with 300 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a two-acre youth-only fishing pond located next to Promotory Park and North Fork Reservoir near Esticada. There is a fish cleaning station and restroom located within walking distance of the pond.

**SMITH RESERVOIR:** trout

Smith Reservoir was last stocked for the season in late June, but will continue to benefit from Carmen Reservoir stockings upstream through late July. Smith Reservoir is north of Trail Bridge Reservoir and is accessed by turning off Hwy 126 at Trail Bridge Reservoir and following FS Road 730 north to Smith Dam. The reservoir is not visible from the highway and is open to year-around fishing.

**SOUTH FORK YAMHILL RIVER:** rainbow trout, cutthroat trout

Stocked the week of June 3 with 2,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. Trout are released in multiple locations between Gold Creek Road Bridge and Willamina. Yamhill River Road runs parallel to much of this section of the river and provides adequate turnouts and parking at several locations along the way. The remaining 15 miles of river open to trout fishing has some public access but also meanders across private lands. ODFW reminds anglers to be aware of and respectful toward private property rights along the river.

**ST. LOUIS PONDS:** trout, bass, crappie, bluegill, yellow perch, channel catfish

St. Louis Ponds is a 54-acre complex of seven ponds owned and managed by ODFW. It has a number of ADA-accessible fishing platforms and a paved trail that meanders around some of the ponds. Parking is very limited, so carpooling is encouraged, and participants may need to walk in a mile from the gate at the entrance of the complex. St. Louis Ponds is located 13 miles north of Salem and west of I-5. To get to there from the north, take the Woodburn exit off I-5. Then go east to Hwy. 99E. At Hwy. 99E, head south to the town of Gervais. At the light, go west on Gervais Rd. through Gervais. Gervais Rd. changes to St Louis Rd. Continue west on St Louis Rd. as it crosses over I-5 to Tesch Lane, at the railroad crossing. Go left on Tesch Lane and follow the signs to the ponds. For more information, contact Jeff Fulop at (971) 673-6034.

**SUNNYSIDE PARK POND:** trout, bass, bluegill

This 4-acre pond is located 2 miles above the upper end of Foster Reservoir. Since the beginning of the year, this family-friendly pond has been stocked with over 2,000 trout ranging from larger-size to 2.5 pound brooders. It was last stocked in May with 333 legal size rainbow trout. Sunnyside Pond also offers bluegill and largemouth bass year round. The park has a campground and picnic area and is a great place to take kids fishing. There is boat ramp access to the Middle Fork arm of Foster Reservoir. To get there from I5, take US 20 through the town of Sweet Home and continue around Foster Reservoir to Quartzville Creek road. Take a left and follow this road for two miles to the park.

**TIMOTHY LAKE:** rainbow trout, brook trout, cutthroat trout, kokanee

Stocked the week of June 17 with 5,500 legal-sized rainbow trout. Lake will not be stocked the remainder of the summer due to elevated water temperatures. Timothy is a 1,400-acre lake about 80 miles east of Portland past Mt. Hood. From Hwy 26 turn onto Forest Rd 42 (Skyline Rd), and then west to Forest Rd 57. Timothy is one of the most popular family camping and fishing destinations in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The lake's south shore features four developed campgrounds and boat

ramps. Three smaller, less developed campgrounds are found in the north. A trail system for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians circles the lake. Motorboats are allowed on Timothy Lake, although a 10 m.p.h. speed limit is in place.

**TRAIL BRIDGE RESERVOIR:** trout

Trail Bridge Reservoir was last stocked for the season in late July and is open to year-round angling. This waterbody is adjacent to Hwy 126 and is approximately 60 miles east of Springfield. Only adipose fin-clipped trout may be harvested from Trail Bridge Reservoir. Flies and lures only may be used.

**TRILLIUM LAKE:** trout

Stocked the week of Aug. 12 with 2,500 legal-sized rainbow trout. Trillium is a 60-acre lake located approximately three miles east of Government Camp off of Hwy 26. This lake is popular for fishing, camping and photography, often clearly reflecting Mount Hood. A large campground at the lake features a seasonal boat ramp and wheelchair-accessible floating dock.

**TROJAN PONDS:** trout, warmwater species

The pond was stocked the week of April 15 with 5,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 15-acre lake just east of Rainier on the north side of Hwy 30 at the Trojan nuclear facility.

**WALLING POND:** trout, crappie, bass

In winter and spring, Walling Pond receives over 5,000 trout ranging in size from legal to multi-pound brooders. As a reminder, brooders are considered trout so zone regulations apply: five trout daily may be kept and only one may be over 20 inches. The pond is located within the Salem city limits west of I-5. Take Turner Road off Mission Street.

**WALTER WIRTH LAKE:** trout, crappie, bass

Since the first of the year, this pond has received several stockings totaling over 8,000 fish providing anglers an opportunity to catch trout of all sizes, from legal 8-inch trout to whoppers over 10 pounds. It was stocked again in June with 2,000 legal and 250 larger size rainbow trout. As a reminder, brooders are considered trout so zone regulations apply: five trout daily may be kept and only one over 20 inches. This wheelchair accessible lake is located just east of Salem within Cascade Gateway Park, west of I-5 at Hwy. 22. Take Airport Rd. or Turner Rd. to reach the lake.

**WAVERLY POND:** trout, bluegill, catfish

Since the beginning of the year, Waverly Pond has received 2,500 trout ranging in size from 'larger' to trophies. It was stocked in May with 160 legal and 20 larger-size rainbow trout. Please be aware, only one fish over 20 inches may be kept. Here is an excellent in-town fishing opportunity. From I-5 take exit 234 west towards Albany. The pond, located a quarter mile down the Pacific Boulevard and on the right, will be found in a beautiful park-like setting.

**WEST SALISH POND:** panfish, trout

The Salish Ponds Wetlands Park restoration project is far enough along that anglers are able to go in and fish both the east and west ponds. A variety of warm water species can be found in both ponds, with the east offering the greatest opportunity. As of yet ODFW hasn't resumed the stocking of trout but hopes to get the west pond back on the schedule before the end of the year.

**WILLAMETTE RIVER:** spring chinook, summer steelhead, sturgeon

Willamette Falls spring chinook passage has maintained a steady pace with counts showing between 40 and 100 fish per day over the falls. Through July 20 the passage of adult springers stood at 27,273 while the jack count stood at 1,567. The counts for summer steelhead were at 12,453.

Hydro readings at Willamette Falls on August 5 show flows up slightly at 7,800 cfs, visibility unchanged near 6.8 ft., and the water temperature near 76°.

## **WILLAMETTE ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN: COUGAR and BEAR**

### **Check fire restrictions before heading afield!**

Fire danger is at record levels according to the Oregon Dept of Forestry. Follow all fire restrictions while hunting and see ODF's webpage for the latest on restrictions (click Landowner/Corporate Closure Chart for private land closures)

[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest\\_Restrictions\\_&\\_Closures](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest_Restrictions_&_Closures)

### **Mandatory Reporting**

Thanks to all hunters who reported their 2012 tags on time. Hunters who did not report 2012 deer or elk, tags on time will pay a \$25 penalty fee when they purchase a 2014 hunting license. The deadline to report on spring bear and spring turkey tags is January 31, 2014. More information on reporting

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/reporting/index.asp>

### **Hunter orange required for youth**

Don't forget: hunters age 17 and under must wear a fluorescent orange upper garment OR hat when hunting upland game birds (except turkey) and game mammals (deer, elk, bear, cougar, pronghorn, goat, sheep, and western gray squirrel) with a firearm.

Use the [Oregon Hunting Map](#) to see where to hunt.

Industrial forestland owners will usually have information regarding access to their property posted on their gates and usually have a "hotline" devoted to providing up-to-date access for hunters. In addition, many private timberlands use the following link to provide information regarding the access policy for their private lands.

Hunters need to have permission to hunt or make sure hunting is allowed before accessing private lands:

[www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/corporate\\_closure.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/corporate_closure.shtml)

**BE PREPARED**

Hunters should be preparing now for upcoming big game hunting seasons. Sight-in and practice with your firearms or bows to ensure that when you do get the chance to harvest an animal you are confident in your shooting skills. Many of the local gun ranges will have public sight-in days where you can practice your shooting skills and there are 3-D archery shoots available in the Willamette Valley where you can practice. This is also a good time to ensure that your hunting and camping equipment is in good condition. If not, you will have plenty of time to purchase those items that you need.

Hunters are reminded to be prepared for emergencies by keeping survival equipment such as food, water, signal mirror, whistle, sleeping bag and first aid kit with you and in your vehicle during your outdoor adventures. Don't forget to wear the proper clothing; it is your first defense against the elements. Let someone know where you will be and when you expect to return just in case your vehicle becomes stuck or breaks down.

### **Field Care of Harvested wildlife**

The proper handling of harvested wildlife is the most important criteria to ensure its value as table fare. After properly tagging the animal, the hunter should remove the entrails and get the hide off to start the cool-down process. Wipe down the carcass with a dry cloth to remove any foreign material and keep the carcass clean by placing it into a cloth game bag. Warm weather conditions (greater than 50 degrees) can increase bacteria loads so hunters need to get the carcass cooled/refrigerated as soon as possible. Never place the carcass inside of a plastic bag, tarp or in water since wet or damp meat spoils more quickly. Talk to your local meat processor or butcher to get additional information concerning the proper care of wildlife or go online to find websites that cover this topic.

**Cougar** - Season is open. Dry weather conditions will concentrate the cougars' prey species where food sources are more abundant and palatable such as around lakes, ponds, streams and wetlands. Because of the hot summer temperatures, cougars will usually bed down during the daytime. This results in more cougar activity during low light hours and in areas that have less sunlight, like dense forests and north slopes of mountains. Hunters should spend time scouting these areas to increase their opportunity for success.

Successful cougar hunters will need to check-in any cougar taken at an ODFW office within 10 days of the kill. Hunters are reminded that biologists located in field offices may be out in the field handling other issues so call ahead to make arrangements to have your cougar checked-in. ***The hide and skull must be unfrozen and the skull and proof of sex must be attached to the hide.*** Hunters are required to submit the reproductive tract of any female cougar taken. Please review the 2012 Big Game Hunting Regulations before your hunting trip to ensure that you are familiar with all of the requirements.

**Bear** – Season is open. Fall bear hunters find the greatest success targeting natural food sources. In early August, bears are beginning to feed on berries. The huckleberries and Himalayan (Armenian) blackberries are ripening and bears can be found feeding on trailing blackberries, blackcap raspberries, salmon berries, cascara, or other ripe berries. Hunters should look for berry patches with sign of recent bear foraging. It is best to find a good vantage point to sit and wait for a bear to return.

Early in the hunting season bears will be spending the majority of their time in cool and shaded areas trying to avoid the heat. Although bears are most active in the mornings and evenings, on relatively cooler days bears may be active all day. They will be feeding on the abundant berry crops primarily in the early morning hours so hunters will need to be up and on stands before daylight. When out scouting, hunters should be looking for bear sign close to streams, lakes and adjacent to cool north slopes of timber.

**NEW:** Hunters get a free Sauvie Island parking permit with their purchase of an annual hunting license. Display on car dash. The parking permit is also required at EE Wilson Wildlife Area near Corvallis and a number of other areas. [More information.](#)

## **WILLAMETTE ZONE VIEWING**

### **The pileated woodpecker, a spectacular sight**

#### *Where to see the bird*

In the Willamette Zone, look, first, for habitat. There are many places to see pileated woodpeckers. Remember, they prefer the forest, which doesn't necessarily mean the wilderness. Visit the [Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary](#), which in only ten minutes from downtown Portland or the running trail in Forest Park—last weekend, there was a pileated woodpecker on the trail; access the trail from NW Thurman Street.

East of Salem, [Silver Falls State Park](#) provides good habitat for this woodpecker and several others. Hikers on the [Bruno Meadows Trail](#) in the Willamette National Forest out of Detroit will enjoy many mountain forest birds and may see or hear a pileated.

At [EE Wilson Wildlife Area](#) in Monmouth, focus on the hardwood-conifer forest east of the angling pond where it borders on Forest Service property.

[Fern Ridge Wildlife Area](#), five miles west of Eugene, is another great place. In the Zuwalt Park area you will find several parking areas along Jeans Road. A variety of habitats are available here. Pileated woodpeckers use the older stands of firs towards the north end of this unit. [Viewing sites at Fern Ridge.](#)

#### *About the bird*

The pileated, or crested, woodpecker was the model for the cartoon character, Woody Woodpecker. It is a large black-and-white bird with a bold red feathered crest and distinctive call. You may hear its powerful drumming before you see it. In Oregon, look for it in older forests in the Blue Mountains, East and West Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Willamette Valley and Coast Range ecoregion. They prefer mature forests and younger forests with large snags and logs, requiring large diameter snags for nesting and foraging.

The pileated woodpecker eats the carpenter ants, beetles and termites it uncovers while excavating large diameter dead or fallen trees and logs. Once the woodpecker has moved on, its rectangular excavations serve as home to other birds and mammals.

To hear its call, see a photo and more about the pileated woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*, visit Cornell Lab of Ornithology [All About Birds Web site](#).

To find out where else to see one in Oregon, see the [Northwest](#), [Southwest](#), [Northeast](#) and [Central](#) Zone viewing reports.

### **Valleywide Wildlife Viewing**

Oregon has 15 species of bats most of which occur in the Willamette Valley. Look for bats foraging for insects at dusk. Anywhere close to water is a good place to see bats and they may even fly over your back yard. These little creatures are good to have around as they can eat up to 600 mosquitoes in an hour! The Valley wildlife refuges are all good places to see these fascinating animals.

Beaver, river otter, mink, muskrats and the introduced non-native nutria are common residents along waterways in the Willamette Valley. They can be seen by quietly floating the Willamette River in a canoe or other non-motorized boat and watching the shoreline. They are most visible early in the morning or in the evening when other boat traffic is minimal. Occasionally these animals are seen in the Delta ponds or from the river bike path in Eugene and Springfield or in many of the farm ponds on the valley floor. The non-native nutria has displaced the muskrat from much of the Willamette Valley.

### ***Fern Ridge Wildlife Area***

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area is open daily for public use providing great wildlife viewing opportunities. (One section of levee in the western portion of the Fisher Butte unit is posted closed to provide wildlife sanctuary.)

Observant visitors may catch a glimpse of black tailed deer and furbearers including beaver and otter, mink, red fox and coyotes. Some of the unusual and special bird species to be on the lookout for include white pelicans, black terns, band-tailed pigeons, yellow-headed blackbirds, osprey and bald eagles. This is a great time of year to look for waterfowl, shore birds, wading birds, songbirds, raptors, reptiles, and amphibians.

There is an elevated viewing platform in the Fisher Butte unit just south of Royal Avenue that is open year-round. A second viewing platform is under construction and scheduled for installation this summer. The new viewing platform will be located 1/4 mile north of the Fisher Butte unit parking lot on Hwy 126.

Visitors are reminded that dogs must be kept on leash at all times. Visitors are also cautioned that there have been recent vehicle break-ins at Fern Ridge and in local parks, so please secure your valuables before departing your vehicle. Parking areas are located along Highway 126, Nielson Road, Cantrell Road, Territorial Road, and Clear Lake Road. Contact the wildlife area headquarters, (541) 935-2591 if you have any questions.

[Directions to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.](#)

### **Sauvie Island**

*Sauvie Island Wildlife Area*

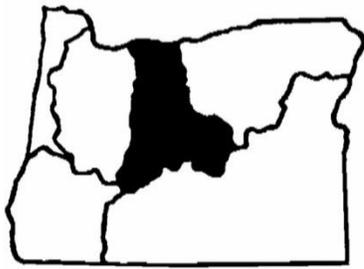
Nesting season is winding down and now it is time to start looking for a variety of song birds, also shorebirds starting their fall migration and juvenile bald eagles and great blue heron taking their first flights. The best viewing opportunities are at Coon Point, Oak Island Nature Trail and Rentenaar Road.

Hikers are reminded to use their insect repellent before starting the walk to the Warrior Rock Lighthouse. Dogs are welcome on the Wildlife Area but must be kept on leash at all times.

Blackberry season is starting so please call the Sauvie Island ODFW office (503) 621-3488 ext. 0 to obtain your permit.

A parking permit is required for the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area and can be purchased at ODFW Point of Sale vendors or at the Sauvie Island ODFW office, Monday through Friday during office hours.

Find directions to [Sauvie Island Wildlife Area](#) on the ODFW website.



**CENTRAL ZONE**

## **FISHING**

### **Weekend fishing opportunities:**

- East Lake has been HOT, with some of the best trout fishing in years.
- Steelhead fishing on the lower Deschutes has been good from the mouth to Beavertail.

### **Warm water temperatures increase stress to fish**

With the advent of warm summer water temperatures (70 degrees and more), anglers can reduce the stress to fish by taking the following precautions when catching and releasing fish:

- Fish during the cooler times of the day, usually mornings and evenings
- Use barbless hooks, play and land the fish quickly
- When releasing wild fish, keep them in the water as much as possible
- Shift your fishing efforts to higher elevation mountain lakes and streams where water temperatures often remain cool.

### **Send us your fishing report**

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#) -- the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

### **ANTELOPE FLAT RESERVOIR:** trout

Warm water temperatures are limiting opportunities and reducing trout feeding behavior. Best success will be had in the deeper water near the dam.

### **BEND PINE NURSERY POND:** trout

Fishing for bluegill is good.

### **BIG LAVA LAKE:** rainbow trout

Anglers are having good success with rainbow trout in the 12 to 18-inch range making up most of the catch. All gear types are producing fish.

### **BIKINI POND:** rainbow trout

No recent reports; likely too warm for trout.

**CLEAR LAKE RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

No recent reports

**CRANE PRAIRIE RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, brook trout, kokanee, largemouth bass

Anglers are catching large brook trout, kokanee and rainbows. Anglers are reporting success with flies, lures and bait. Kokanee in the 16-18-inch range are showing up in good numbers resulting in the best fishing for this species in Crane in many years. With the warmer weather anglers should concentrate their efforts in the old channels.

**CRESCENT LAKE:** rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout and kokanee

Opportunities for rainbow and brown trout are good.

**CROOKED RIVER BELOW BOWMAN DAM:** redband trout and mountain whitefish

Fishing for 10-16 inch rainbow has been good. Trout over 20-inches are considered steelhead.

[Flows below Bowman Dam.](#)

**CULTUS LAKE:** rainbow trout, lake trout

No recent reports.

**DAVIS LAKE:** redband trout, largemouth bass

No recent reports.

**DESCHUTES RIVER:** steelhead, redband trout

**Mouth to the Pelton Regulating Dam:** steelhead, redband trout, whitefish, fall chinook

Summer steelhead fishing has been good in the lower Deschutes from the mouth upstream to Beavertail Campground. Anglers traveling to the Deschutes should be aware that the White River has been causing visibility problems due to thunderstorms.

Anglers are reminded that Deschutes is currently open to the retention of fall chinook until Oct. 31.

Anglers, who catch a tagged hatchery steelhead with an orange anchor tag, are encouraged to report catch information to ODFW at 541-296-4628 or via the internet at [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/The Dalles/fish\\_tag\\_returns.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/The Dalles/fish_tag_returns.asp). Anglers catching a tagged wild fish should release it immediately without recording any information.

Anglers can check the trap the seasons catch at Sherars Falls as an indicator of fish movement in the Middle Deschutes at:

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/fish\\_counts/sherars\\_falls/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/fish_counts/sherars_falls/index.asp).

**Lake Billy Chinook to Bend:** rainbow trout, brown trout

Flows are typical for irrigation season: approximately 130 cfs above Lower Bridge and 400-500 downstream. Rainbow trout average 10 to 16-inches, while brown trout up to 26-inches are available. Anglers will find better access downstream of Lower Bridge. Remains open year round; however, gear is restricted to artificial flies and lures only.

**EAST LAKE:** rainbow trout, brown trout, Atlantic salmon, kokanee

Rainbow trout fishing has been excellent. Anglers are reporting the best action in many years. Brown trout are also available. All gear types are resulting in success. ODFW is continuing its chub removal efforts in East Lake.

Catch-and-release only on all non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout – all rainbow trout with an intact adipose fin must be released.

ODFW released a predacious strain of redband trout native to the Blackwater River in British Columbia. Blackwater redband trout grow quickly and should provide a trophy fishery in years to come. In the short term, catch-and-release regulations will allow the Blackwater trout to grow large enough to prey on the chub.

Blackwater trout have **not** been adipose fin clipped. All other stocks of rainbow are adipose-clipped and available for harvest.

**FALL RIVER:** rainbow trout

Fishing is restricted to fly fishing only with barbless hooks. Fall River is periodically stocked with hatchery rainbow trout throughout the summer months.

**FROG LAKE:** rainbow trout

No recent reports.

**HAYSTACK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, brown trout, kokanee, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill

No recent reports.

**HOOD RIVER:** summer steelhead

Success has been low on summer steelhead in the Hood River. Warm temperatures are causing Mt. Hood glacial melt, which has created very turbid water making fishing difficult due to low visibility.

**HOSMER LAKE:** Atlantic salmon, brook trout, rainbow trout, cutthroat

Rainbow and cutthroat trout are now available in Hosmer. Anglers are reporting good action on both. These species are available for harvest. Opportunities for Atlantic salmon and brook trout continue to be good.

**LAKE BILLY CHINOOK:** bull trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee, smallmouth bass

Opportunities for 8 to 10-inch smallmouth bass are excellent. Bull trout anglers should focus on the upper part of the Metolius Arm. Kokanee angling is fair. A tribal angling permit is required in the Metolius Arm. Please check the special regulations for this area.

Anglers are reminded there are small numbers of spring chinook and summer steelhead in Lake Billy Chinook as part of the reintroduction effort. Please release these fish unharmed.

**LITTLE LAVA LAKE:** rainbow trout, brook trout

No recent reports.

**LOST LAKE:** rainbow trout, brown trout

The lake has been stocked and should be great fishing for newly stocked and hold over trout. Fly anglers should pay close attention to evening hatches of mayflies, as fishing can be excellent during these evening hatches.

**METOLIUS RIVER:** redband trout, bull trout

Trout fishing has been good. Insect hatches should offer lots of opportunities for good dry fly fishing. Fishing for bull trout should be excellent. Large streamer flies fished in the deeper pools and slots are the best bet.

The Metolius River upstream of Allingham Bridge is fly fishing only and all species are catch-and-release.

**NORTH TWIN:** rainbow trout

Fishing is good.

**OCHOCO CREEK UPSTREAM TO OCHOCO DAM:** rainbow trout

Fishing for trout has been good for trout averaging 8 to 10 inches.

Angling is restricted to artificial flies and lures only; two trout per day with an 8-inch minimum length. Trout over 20 inches are considered steelhead and must be released unharmed.

**OCHOCO RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

The water level is low which may make launching a boat difficult.

**ODELL LAKE:** kokanee, lake trout, rainbow trout

Kokanee angling is fair with most fish in the 11-13 inch range. Lake trout are available in the deeper water. Bull trout are also present and must be released unharmed. Anglers are reminded to be familiar with the difference between these two species.

**PAULINA LAKE:** brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee

Kokanee and rainbow trout fishing is very good. Large brown trout are also available.

Catch-and-release only on all non-adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout – all rainbow trout with an intact adipose fin must be released.

ODFW released a predacious strain of redband trout native to the Eagle Lake in British Columbia. Eagle Lake redband trout grow quickly and should provide a trophy fishery in years to come. In the short term, catch-and-release regulations will allow the Eagle Lake trout to grow large enough to prey on the chub.

Eagle Lake trout have **not** been adipose fin clipped. All other stocks of rainbow are adipose-clipped and available for harvest.

**PINE HOLLOW RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

The reservoir has been stocked and should offer anglers a great chance to catch recently stocked legal and brood-size rainbow trout. Fishing can still be good for early morning or late evening trout, after the recreational users leave the lake and it begins to calm.

**PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout and largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie

Opportunities for bass and crappie are excellent. Anglers are reporting bigger smallmouth bass than in recent years.

**PRINEVILLE YOUTH FISHING POND:** rainbow trout and largemouth bass

No recent reports.

**ROCK CREEK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

Anglers should be aware that the reservoir is being drawn down for irrigation, and will offer very limited opportunity.

**SHEVLIN YOUTH FISHING POND:** rainbow trout

Shevlin Pond is fishing well and was stocked last week.

**SOUTH TWIN LAKE:** Rainbow trout

Fishing continues to be good.

**SUTTLE LAKE:** brown trout, kokanee

Anglers are reporting good numbers of large brown trout. Trolling in approximately 30 feet of water is effective. Kokanee are abundant but average size is small.

**TAYLOR LAKE:** largemouth bass

The lake offers excellent opportunity to catch trophy largemouth bass during the summer. Trout anglers will have to wait for the lake to cool this fall, before fishing for trout.

**WALTON LAKE:** rainbow trout

Fishing should be good as the lake was stocked this week.

**WICKIUP RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, brown trout, kokanee, largemouth bass.

Fish are scattered, but anglers are reporting catches of 18-20 kokanee as well as a few large brown trout.

**CENTRAL ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN: COUGAR, COYOTE**

**Archery hunters – Errors in the regulations on Chesnimnus bag limit, traditional equipment only area**

The 2013 Oregon Big Game Regulations contain errors in the archery section. On page 51, the "Traditional Archery Equipment Only" restriction should not be for the Columbia Basin, Biggs, Hood and Maupin Units—that restriction is for the Canyon Creek Area only. On page 79, the Chesnimnus hunt bag limit of "one bull elk" (hunt #258R) should be "one elk." These errors were [corrected by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in June](#).

**Check fire restrictions before heading afield!**

Fire danger is at record levels according to the Oregon Dept of Forestry. Follow all fire restrictions while hunting and see ODF's webpage for the latest on restrictions (click Landowner/Corporate Closure Chart for private land closures) [http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest\\_Restrictions\\_&\\_Closures](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest_Restrictions_&_Closures)

**Mandatory Reporting**

Thanks to all hunters who reported their 2012 tags on time. Hunters who did not report 2012 deer and elk tags on time will pay a \$25 penalty fee when they purchase a 2014 hunting license. More information on reporting <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/reporting/index.asp>

**Wolves and coyotes can look alike**

Most wolves in the state today are in northeast Oregon but a few have dispersed further west and south. Wolves are protected by state and/or federal law and it is unlawful to shoot them. Coyote hunters need to take extra care to identify their target as [wolves can look like coyotes](#), especially wolf pups in the mid-summer and fall. ODFW appreciates hunters' assistance to establish wolves' presence in Oregon; please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online](#) reporting system.

Use the [Oregon Hunting Map](#) to see where to hunt.

## **PRINEVILLE/OCHOCO WILDLIFE DISTRICT**

COUGAR are present throughout the Maury, Ochoco, and Grizzly units. The Maury and Ochoco units are recommended because of their greater amounts of public lands and better accessibility. Remember cougars must be checked in at an ODFW office within 10 days of harvest. Please consult the synopsis for all required parts and be sure to call first to make an appointment.

COYOTES offer an exciting challenge and will be closely associated with deer and antelope during the fawning time of year. Both the Maury and Ochoco have sizeable areas of public lands that provide hunting opportunities. Hunters should use caution, be properly equipped and prepared for whatever the weather might bring.

GROUND SQUIRRELS have become less active as the weather has warmed up. Higher numbers are in Crook County on private lands along the Crooked River between Prineville and Paulina. Permission from landowners is necessary to access and hunt these lands.

## **THE DALLES WILDLIFE DISTRICT**

COUGAR season is open. Hunters wishing to pursue cougar will find best success near areas of deer and elk concentrations and near recent cougar kills and calling. Successful hunters, remember you must check in cougar (hide and skull) and bear skull at an ODFW office within 10 days of harvest and bring them in unfrozen. It's also a good idea to prop their mouths open with a stick after harvest for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging. See regulations for details.

COYOTE: Those wishing to pursue will find the best success near agricultural lands. Be sure to ask permission to hunt private lands. Limited opportunities may also be found at White River Wildlife area, and on lower elevation forest service lands.

BLACK BEAR: Statewide fall black bear season opened August 1<sup>st</sup>. Hunters focusing on berry patches and grassy/forb patches may increase their chance to harvest a bear. Utilizing predator calls may also prove effective. Hunters are required to check in unfrozen bear within 10 days of harvest.

## **WHITE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA**

**Vehicle Access:** As of January 1, 2013 new rules took effect that prohibit all recreational ATV use on the Wildlife Area, also camping is only allowed in designated camping areas.

A [parking permit](#) is now required to use/park on the White River Wildlife Area along with other ODFW wildlife areas.

**Cougar** - Open all year or until zone mortality quotas have been met. Look for areas that have recent deer and elk activity. Focus your efforts along migration routes, and along rim rocks and canyons. Look for fresh tracks or kills to increase success. Deer are down on the Wildlife Area for the winter so it is a good area to look for cougars.

**Coyote** - Hunters should be looking in open areas along the eastern perimeter of the wildlife area. Open fields can provide good calling opportunities on the area.

## **CENTRAL ZONE VIEWING**

### **Crook County**

The Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Management Area (WMA) North shore road is open to motorized traffic. The WMA offers camping, shoreline angling and opportunities to see a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, coyotes, otter, beaver, raptors, shorebirds and waterfowl. As Prineville Reservoir draws down it is exposing mud flats and leaving shallow flooded wetlands making for excellent bird viewing. Maps of the wildlife area are available at the Prineville ODFW office and at Prineville Reservoir State Park office.

Mallard, gadwall and cinnamon teal broods are numerous throughout the county. American wigeon, shoveler, green-winged teal, Northern pintail and wood duck can also be seen, but are less common... Numerous Canada goose broods have been seen and can be found throughout Crook County, but are becoming hard to distinguish from adults.

Other waterbirds that have been seen throughout Crook County, but in higher concentrations around Prineville and Ochoco reservoirs, include American avocets, black-necked stilts, white-faced ibis, yellow legs, killdeer, Western, Clark's, pied billed and eared grebes, American white pelicans, double-crested cormorants, great blue herons, Caspian terns and a variety of gull species.

Common passerine species observed throughout Crook county this time of year include red-winged and brewers blackbirds, western kingbirds, American and lesser goldfinches, house finches, lark sparrows, mountain bluebirds, spotted towhees, Northern orioles, cedar waxwings and tree, cliff and barn swallows.

Raptors can be found throughout the area. Red-tailed, ferruginous hawks, northern harriers, kestrels, prairie falcons and golden eagles can be found throughout Crook County and are usually associated more closely with open/agricultural areas. Bald eagles and osprey can be found associated with water bodies.

Most Antelope fawns were born in late May. Fawn mule deer and calf elk were born by early June. They have become more visible as young are starting to travel with mothers.

Young of any species should be left alone. Do not try to catch baby birds or mammals because you think they are abandoned. Young are rarely abandoned by their parent, if you leave the area the mother will return to care for her young.

8/7/13.

## **DESCHUTES COUNTY**

As July Transitions into August, we're entering into the hottest part of the year. Folks looking to enjoy the outdoors and view wildlife, but escape the heat of the lower elevations, may want to visit the Cascade Mountain Lakes, such as Wickiup and Crane Prairie, where impressive numbers of waterfowl can be seen along with

mountain chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, gray jay, red-crossbill and many more of the mountain bird species. Keep your eyes and ears open for the sounds and observations of woodpeckers, especially in areas with beetle or fire killed trees.

Western fence lizards and sagebrush lizards can be seen through most of the day, but will seek shade during the hottest hours. They can be found in many areas of Deschutes County, but the best places to find them include sagebrush habitats with rocky outcrops. If you find yourself in open areas with volcanic soils or in pine woodlands, look for the diminutive short-horned lizards as they sit motionless near active ant mounds in search of their favorite food; ants. For the most part, it is too hot for snakes to be abroad during the day, but they can be found in the early morning soaking up the first rays of the sun. And keep your eyes peeled when traveling on dirt roads in the evenings as snakes like to lie along roadway edges and absorb the heat from the ground as it is released to the cool of the evening. Be careful if you come across a rattlesnake, common in canyon areas and never try to pick one up. If you hear the warning rattle, but cannot see the snake; locate the sound and move in an opposite direction. Rattlesnakes are not aggressive and will not chase you, but they will defend themselves if threatened.

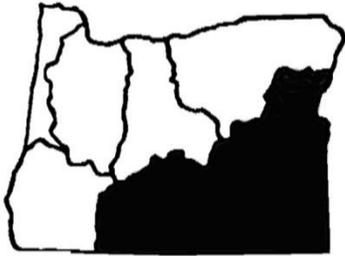
Late summer to early fall is also the time when most amphibian species metamorphose and, in the case of western toads, can be seen in the hundreds or even thousands, around the edge of lakes and ponds. Sparks Lake on Cascade Lakes Highway, just west of Mount Bachelor is a good place to look for western young western toads and tree frogs.

Both bald and golden eagles can be seen at Smith Rock State Park in north east Deschutes County, along with one of their potential food sources; yellow-bellied marmots. 8/5/13.

## **WASCO AND SHERMAN COUNTIES**

The Lower Deschutes River provides ample wildlife viewing opportunities. California Bighorn Sheep are frequently observed in the canyon and can provide fantastic viewing this time of year. The best spot to view sheep is from the BLM access road just downstream and across the river from Sherar's Falls (along Hwy 216).

Other wildlife that may be seen along the river include black-taildeer, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, Osprey, and Golden and Bald eagles. Waterfowl are commonly observed on the river, and visitors can usually see many different songbirds and upland game birds that also call the canyon home. 3/19/13.



## SOUTHEAST ZONE

### FISHING

#### Weekend fishing opportunities:

- Several area lakes Anthony and Grande Ronde lakes have been stocked recently and should offer good summer fishing for rainbow trout. These include Anthony, Grande Ronde, Fish (Steens), Fish (Wallowa) and Deadhorse lakes.
- 

#### Warm water temperatures increase stress to fish

With the advent of warm summer water temperatures (70 degrees and more), anglers can reduce the stress to fish by taking the following precautions when catching and releasing fish:

- Fish during the cooler times of the day, usually mornings and evenings
- Use barbless hooks, play and land the fish quickly
- When releasing wild fish, keep them in the water as much as possible
- Shift your fishing efforts to higher elevation mountain lakes and streams where water temperatures often remain cool.

#### Send us your fishing report

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#) -- the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

#### **ANA RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

The reservoir has been stocked with rainbow trout within the last month. Fish can be caught using bait, lures, and flies from shore or boats.

#### **ANA RIVER:** hatchery rainbow trout

Rainbow trout have been stocked in the river within the last month. Rainbow trout are active throughout the year in the river and anglers have been catching fish with bait, flies or lures.

#### **ANNIE CREEK:** brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout

Fishing regulations have changed on Annie Creek to protect rainbow trout in the stream. The daily limit is two brown trout per day. All redband trout and bull trout

must be released unharmed. There is no limit on brook trout. Fishing is always slow on Annie Creek due to the low abundance of fish. Currently flows are low. Access to fishing is available at the USFS snow park just before you enter Crater Lake National Park. Any rainbow trout caught in the creek should be reported to the ODFW office in Klamath Falls.

**ANTHONY LAKE:** rainbow trout, brook trout

The lake was stocked with trophy-sized rainbow trout the week of July 22. Fishing is good.

**BALM CREEK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, crappie

The reservoir was stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout in early May. The water level is very low for this time of year.

**BEULAH RESERVOIR:** redband trout, hatchery rainbow trout, whitefish, bull trout

Recent fishing reports indicate catch rates are fair to good. Average size of trout ranged from 12 to 18-inches. The reservoir water level continues to drop, it was 3 percent full and inflows averaged 45 cfs (Aug. 13). The water level is several hundred yards below the end of the boat ramp making launching and retrieving boats difficult.

USBR crews will be sampling fish populations in the reservoir. If you catch a tagged trout report it to the Hines office at 541-573-6582.

**BLITZEN RIVER:** trout

Flows in the Blitzen River at Page Springs Gauge continue to drop. The latest measurement on Aug. 13 was 31 cfs. Over the last week, water temperatures at Page Springs gauge ranged from 56°F to 78°F. Water temperatures above 68°F greatly increase the chances of hooking mortality. The upper Blitzen opened to harvest on May 25; the Little Blitzen is open year around for catch-and-release.

**BLUE LAKE (Gearhart Wilderness):** rainbow trout, brook trout

Blue Lake is a beautiful 20 acre lake located in the Gearhart Wilderness Area northeast of Bly, Oregon. The lake has a maximum depth of 35 feet providing trout good over-winter conditions resulting in good survival. The lake is stocked annually with 2 to 3-inch rainbow trout and there are a very few brook trout. Hook and line sampling captured 11 rainbow trout ranging in size from 12 to 16-inches.

**BULLY CREEK RESERVOIR:** bass, crappie, yellow perch, catfish, and trout.

The reservoir water level continues to drop; it was 9 percent full on Aug. 13. Anglers report crappie are running 5 to 7-inches but on the skinny side. Water level is far below the end of the boat ramp.

**BURNS POND:** trout, bass

The pond remains full, but water temperatures are on the rise. Fishing has been slow for trout 8 to 10-inches, but fair for trout over 16-inches. Twenty tagged fish are in

the pond. If you capture a tagged fish return the tag to the Hines office (237 Hwy 20 S) for a prize.

**CAMPBELL LAKE:** rainbow trout, brook trout

The lake was last stocked July 26 with legal (8-10") and larger (>12") rainbow trout. Anglers reported successful fishing following the stocking. Plenty of rainbow trout should remain in lake and can be caught using various angling methods

**CHEWAUCAN RIVER:** redband trout

The river upstream of Hwy 31 remains open and the use of bait is PROHIBITED! The river is clear and the lower river is flowing at 38 cfs. Water temperatures are in the upper 60s and anglers should consider fishing early or late for two reasons: 1) the fishing is likely to be better during these times as fish are near the surface, 2) water temperatures are slightly lower reducing stress to the fish.

**CHICKAHOMINY RESERVOIR:** trout

The reservoir is at half-full and remains very turbid. Fishing has been slow for trout in the reservoir. Warm water temperatures and what could be a blue-green algae bloom have resulted in trout dying in the reservoir.

**COTTONWOOD MEADOWS:** rainbow trout, brook trout

Fishing should be good for legal (8 to 11-inches) rainbow trout. Anglers also have the opportunity to catch brook trout up to 14-inches and rainbow trout up to 20-inches.

**COW LAKES:** largemouth bass, white crappie, brown bullheads, rainbow trout

Neither lake filled this year. It is likely that both lakes have been or will be drawn down to very low levels soon. No recent fishing reports. The lakes are no longer stocked with rainbow trout due to poor habitat quality.

**DEADHORSE LAKE:** rainbow trout, brook trout

The lake was last stocked July 26 with legal (8 to 10-inches) and larger (longer than 12 inches) rainbow trout. Anglers reported successful fishing following the stocking. Plenty of rainbow trout should remain in lake and can be caught using various angling methods.

**DELINTMENT LAKE:** trout

Good fishing for holdover trout in the 10 to 12-inch size range. The lake was stocked in mid-May, and there are lots of trout in the 8 to 10-inch size range available to anglers.

**DEMING CREEK:** redband trout and bull trout

Deming Creek is a very small stream with small redband trout. Fishing for bull trout is always closed.

**DEVILS LAKE (FISHHOLE CREEK):** largemouth bass, black crappie, yellow perch, brown bullhead

Fishing is good for bass and bullhead. Large crappie are available. Target the areas around emergent vegetation.

**DOG LAKE:** largemouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, brown bullhead

Fishing for perch and panfish should be heating up. The reservoir is closed to the retention of trout to protect native redband trout.

**DUNCAN RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

The reservoir was stocked in the last month with trout from 8 or 12-inches. The reservoir is 70-80 percent full and small boats can be launched at the boat ramp.

**FISH LAKE (Steens Mountain):** rainbow trout, brook trout

Fishing has been good for recently stocked rainbow trout.

**FISH LAKE (Wallowa Mountains):** rainbow trout, brook trout

The lake has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. Fishing should be good for both rainbows and brook trout.

**FOURMILE LAKE:** rainbow trout, lake trout, kokanee, brook trout

Water temperatures have cooled slightly on the surface but rainbow trout will be holding in deeper water (15-20 feet). Anglers are catching lake trout around 20 inches and numerous rainbow trout. Fishing will be fair for rainbow trout. The lake was last stocked on July 15 with trophy and larger rainbow trout and will not be stocked again until Labor Day weekend. Look for the traveling sedge hatch in the early morning and late evenings. These caddis flies run across the surface of the water after hatching. Dry fly fishing with large elk hair caddis imitations scurrying across the surface of the water can be effective at catching brook trout. Another effective method is using a clear bubble and large caddis imitation behind the bubble. Stomach analysis of rainbow trout showed they were consuming terrestrial beetles.

**GERBER RESERVOIR:** crappie, yellow perch, brown bullhead and largemouth bass

Fishing has been slow with a few small yellow perch begin caught. Gerber Reservoir currently holds the State record for white crappie at 4 pounds 12 ounces. Gerber Reservoir is very low and approximately one-fifth full.

**GRANDE RONDE LAKE:** rainbow trout, brook trout

The lake was stocked the week of July 22 with legal-sized rainbow trout. Fishing should be good.

**HAINES POND:** rainbow

The pond has been stocked with both legal-sized and larger one-pound rainbow trout. Fishing will slow as the weather warms.

**HEART LAKE:** rainbow trout, kokanee

Fishing has been fast for 8 to 10-inch rainbow trout. Bait or trolling have been working well. Anglers can access the reservoir using either the Fish Hole Creek road or the Quartz Mountain road (3715). The reservoir is day-use only and has a boat ramp, picnic tables, and a pit toilet.

**HOLBROOK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

Fishing has been fast for 8 to 10-inch rainbow trout. Bait has been working well. Anglers can access the reservoir using either the Fish Hole Creek road or the Quartz Mountain road (3715). Local anglers are reporting some success using various methods. The reservoir has a few primitive camp sites, boat ramp, and pit toilet.

**HWY 203 POND:** trout, bass, bluegill

The pond has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

**J.C. BOYLE RESERVOIR (Topsy Reservoir):** Largemouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, crappie, goldfish

Fishing for warmwater fish is slow due to poor water quality conditions. Fishing for brown bullhead is best at the day use areas immediately upstream and downstream of the bridge crossing JC Boyle Reservoir.

**JUNIPER LAKE:** cutthroat trout

The lake is getting very low, although enough water remains to continue to angle for fish. Fishing in the pool at the SW end has been good. The lake can be accessed on public land off the East Steens Loop RD on the SE side. A large portion of the lake is privately owned, as indicated by the fence lines, however bank access is permitted. Please be respectful of private property.

**KLAMATH AND AGENCY LAKES:** redband trout and yellow perch

Fishing has been fair for lure and flyfisherman. Most fishing occurs out of a boat this time of year with little activity from shore anglers using dead minnows. Anglers are successful trolling lures or casting flies and lures. Most redband trout are concentrated in cold water areas of Pelican Bay and mouths of the Williamson and Wood Rivers. ODFW encourages catch and release as this fishery is managed for trophy trout. Water temperatures have declined which should improve angler success. Redband trout captured should not be removed from the water, resuscitated by cradling and pumping gills by moving fish back and forth through the water. Redband trout should be landed and released as quickly as possible by pushing the fish towards deeper, colder water. It is unlawful to continue to fish for the same type of fish after taking and retaining a catch or possession limit. Algae is dense in most of the lake especially during light wind conditions.

**KLAMATH RIVER:** native rainbow-redband trout

The section from Keno Dam to J.C. Boyle Reservoir (Topsy Reservoir) is closed to angling and reopens on Oct. 1.

The Klamath River between JC Boyle Dam to JC Boyle Powerhouse offers excellent spinner fishing as well as good dry fly fishing with small flies. Most fish in this section are small and average 10 inches. Below the springs this section remains near a constant 360 cfs of flow. size 12-14 elk hair caddis or stimulators. The smaller fish in this section usually can't take larger flies or lures.

Below the JC Boyle powerhouse the fish get slightly larger than the aforementioned reach and average 12 inches but rarely exceed sixteen inches. River flows in this section are typically quite high during the day. Fishing trips should be planned when flows are lower.

Check current flow levels [here](#). If flows are 900 cfs or lower the river is fishable. Dead drifting rubber legged stonefly patterns can be good. A four wheel drive vehicle is currently needed to access this area. Most fish are in the 6-8 inch range but numerous 12 inch fish can be caught with 16 inches the maximum. Currently, operation at the hydro system below the powerhouse has operated with high flows (peaking) throughout most daylight hours. Lower flows might be encountered in the morning until 8 a.m. and again in the evening at 8 pm. Fishing is slow unless fishing in the early morning or late evening hours before peak flows occur. Numerous caddis fly species are hatching.

**KRUMBO RESERVOIR:** trout and largemouth bass

Fishing has been good for trout and bass, however recent fishing reports describe angling as slow for trout. The lake was stocked with 15,000 legal-sized trout before opening weekend.

**LAKE OF THE WOODS:** hatchery rainbow trout, kokanee, hatchery brown trout, yellow perch, brown bullhead, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, crappie, tui chub

Lake of the Woods was last stocked the week of the June 24 with legal and trophy rainbow trout. The Lake will not be stocked again until just before Labor Day due to very warm water temperatures. Fishing should be fair for hatchery rainbow trout. Rainbow trout are holding in the colder water at 15-20 feet.

Fishing is good for yellow perch using small lures, flies or bait. Fishing for largemouth bass is good around large wood in the lake and around the multiple docks along the lakeshore. Nighttime electrofishing showed good numbers of largemouth and smallmouth bass. All smallmouth bass were less than 10-inches. Angling for brown bullhead near submergent vegetation should be good. Call Lake of the Woods Resort for recent reports Toll Free at 866-201-4194 or visit their [website](#).

**LOFTON RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

Catch and size limits for rainbow trout have been removed prior to a planned rotenone project to remove Tui chub in October 2013. Fishing has been slow, but should pick up again in September as water cools. The lake will close to fishing

October 14, 2013 and remain closed to fishing through March 31, 2014. This will allow ODFW fish biologist to treat the reservoir and prepare for post-treatment stocking of rainbow trout. The reservoir is has a 26-unit campground, boat ramp, picnic tables, and a pit toilet.

**LOST RIVER:** largemouth bass, brown bullhead, yellow perch

Fishing is slow for brown bullhead at Crystal Springs Day use area. Largemouth bass and yellow perch are also available and fishing has slowed due to poor water quality. Boats can be launched at Crystal Springs and at the ODOT Mitigation Wetland off Highway 140 just east of Olene. Fishing for largemouth bass should be good in the vicinity of Big Springs in Bonanza.

**MALHEUR RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

The water level is dropping, and is less than half full. The boat ramp is challenging to use. ODFW currently has no plans to remove the bag limit on the reservoir.

**MALHEUR RIVER** (Warm Springs Reservoir downstream to South Fork Malheur River): redband trout and hatchery rainbow trout

Water releases from Warm Springs Reservoir averaged 375 cfs on Aug. 13. Fishing the Riverside area is expected to be fair, the water is very turbid and water temperatures are in the upper 70s (F).

**MALHEUR RIVER** (from the South Fork Malheur River near Riverside, downstream to Gold Creek): redband trout and hatchery rainbow trout.

Discharge at Juntura averaged 420 cfs on Aug. 13. No recent fishing reports, although it is expected that warm water and high turbidity is impacting the catch rates for trout in this area.

**MALHEUR RIVER, NORTH FORK:** redband trout, whitefish, and bull trout

Fishing for redband trout should be good, reports of warm water and algae in the river have been received.

**MALHEUR RIVER, MIDDLE FORK:** redband trout, brook trout, and bull trout

Fishing for trout is fair to good. Flows have dropped and are below average for time of year.

**MANN LAKE:** trout

Catch rates are fair for cutthroat trout in the lake. Most fish are 14 to 16-inches long, with several over 20-inches being caught. Warm lake temperatures will impede catch rates for the remainder of the summer.

**MILLER LAKE:** brown trout, kokanee, rainbow trout

Angling is very good for rainbow trout. *Callibaetis* mayflies are hatching. Miller Lake was stocked last week with legal and larger rainbow trout. Fishing should be good from boat or bank. The brown trout population is robust but difficult to catch due to

clear, deep water. Trolling through the kokanee schools is likely the most effective method. Fishing in Miller Creek at the outlet of Miller Lake can be good for small brook and brown trout. Bait is allowed in Miller Creek.

**MOON RESERVOIR:** bass, trout

No recent fishing reports, but trout fishing is expected to be best during the spring months. Bass fishing has been fair., Turbid, low water conditions are making fishing challenging. Carp are plentiful in the reservoir and easily harvested with a bow or bait.

**MUD LAKE:** trout

The reservoir may be one of the best lakes to fish for rainbow trout in the Warner Basin (Plush-Adel) this year. Sampling in June of 2012 found fish up to 12-inches and they likely have increased in size since then. Target the margins of the reservoir where light penetration is better if using flies or lures. PowerBait is another good option at this reservoir.

**MURRAY RESERVOIR:** trout

The reservoir has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

**NORTH POWDER POND:** rainbow trout

The Pond has been stocked with both legal-sized and larger one-pound rainbow trout. Fishing is slow for trout.

**OVERTON RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

This small reservoir has trout up to 13-inches and provides a beautiful view of the Goose Lake valley. The reservoir does have duck weed that can make it difficult to fish at times from the shore. The best option for anglers is to use a small boat (row) or pontoon/float tube to access the open-water areas. The trout are very willing to take flies, lures, or bait.

**OWYHEE RESERVOIR:** largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, yellow perch, catfish

The water level in the reservoir continues to slowly drop, it was 13 percent of full and inflows averaged 64 cfs (Aug.13). The boat ramps at McCormack State Park and Leslie Gulch remain out of the water increasing the difficulty of launching and retrieval of boats. All other boat ramps are open for use. Fishing is improving. The best fishing for both bass and crappie occurred from Dry Creek arm to Doe Island.

**OWYHEE RIVER (Lower):** brown trout and hatchery rainbow trout

Water releases below Owyhee Dam averaged 129 cfs (Aug. 13). Fishing for trout is fair to good. A few rainbow trout have been caught from the work camp downstream to the tunnel. The average size of brown trout ranges from 16 to 20-inches.

ODFW conducted spawning surveys in the Owyhee River below Owyhee Dam on Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 8-9. A total of 1,488 brown trout redds were counted for a density of 197.3 redds per mile. Only in 2009 and 2010 were more redds counted.

**FIRE AFFECTS OWYHEE RIVER ACCESS**, updated July 9: The Owyhee River access road has been re-opened. However, fire restrictions still apply – no open fires, no smoking outside of a vehicle, no chain saws.

**OWYHEE RIVER (Upper):** smallmouth bass and channel catfish

Owyhee River flows continue to be far below average for this period of time. They averaged 64 cfs on Aug. 13. Fishing for smallmouth and channel catfish is good.

**PAIUTE RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, Lahontan cutthroat trout

Fishing will be best during the spring when water temperatures are below 65 °F. This reservoir may become dry this year.

**PHILLIPS RESERVOIR:** trout, perch

The reservoir is at 40 percent of capacity. There was a moderate die-off of yellow perch in late June. The cause has yet to be determined, but other species of fish have not been affected indicating a disease outbreak within the perch population. Boat ramps at Union Creek and near the dam are functional, but launching at the Union Creek launch will become difficult as the water continues to recede.

**PILCHER RESERVOIR:** trout, crappie

Fishing is fair for 10 to 14-inch rainbow trout. The reservoir is receding, but the high water launch is still usable.

**POISON CREEK RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

Hot weather is expected to increase water temperatures significantly in the reservoir pushing trout into deeper water and potentially turning off active feeding behavior.

**POLE CREEK RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

The reservoir is below half full and dropping. Catch rates remain fair. This reservoir was stocked with legal-sized trout on May 28. Anglers report rainbows from 10 to 18-inches.

**POWDER RIVER:** trout, spring chinook

The reach immediately below Mason Dam has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

**PRIDAY RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

The trout range in size from 13 to 15-inches, but are skinny because of competition from brown bullhead. Anglers should consider keeping a limit of trout. Anglers can catch rainbow trout using bait, lures and flies.

**SKY LAKES AND MOUNTAIN LAKE WILDERNESS:** brook trout and rainbow trout

Fishing at most wilderness lakes should be good. Try Badger Lake just northeast of Fourmile Lake or South Pass Lake near Aspen Butte. Angling at Weston Lake near Lake of the Woods is excellent for 8-inch brook trout. Fish the deeper of the two lakes adjacent to each other as some maps call the shallow lake Weston. Other good lakes to try are Sonya, Trapper and Margurette Lakes off the Cherry Creek trail.

**SHERLOCK GULCH RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

No recent report.

**SPAULDING RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

The reservoir is very low and will become dry by the end of summer. ODFW will restock the reservoir with fingerling rainbow trout (4-inches) once water is available. Fingerling rainbow trout do very well here if water remains and will be 8 to 10-inches by the end of summer.

**SPENCER CREEK:** redband trout, brook trout.

Fishing will be very good for small redband trout, most less than 8-inches.

**SPRAGUE RIVER:** wild redband trout, brown trout, yellow perch, brown bullhead, largemouth bass

River flows are very low for this time of year. Due to the low abundance of redband trout in most of the Sprague River and current water quality fishing will be slow. The best locations to fish for trout are around Beatty. Fishing should be fair for redband trout. Peak water temperatures have increased and are 76 degrees near the confluence with the Williamson River.

**NORTH FORK SPRAGUE RIVER AND ALL TRIBUTARIES:** wild redband trout, brown trout, brook trout

Fishing should be good at most areas as flow is very low for this time of year. The North Fork Sprague River at the 3411 road crossing is a high gradient river with mostly pocket water. If you can receive permission to fish on private property below the 3411 road then fishing will be very good. Fishing regulations have changed to allow the harvest of two brown trout and two redband trout as part of your daily bag limit. Stonefly and caddisfly dry fly patterns work best for flyfisherman. There is no daily limit on brook trout.

**SEVENMILE CREEK:** brook trout, brown trout, redband trout

Fishing is very good for brook trout. Best fishing is just above Nicholson Road. Fishing regulations have changed on Sevenmile Creek to allow for the harvest of two brown trout per day. All redband trout must be released unharmed. There is no limit on brook trout. Public access occurs above Nicholson Road. Below Nicholson Road is private property.

**SOUTH FORK SPRAGUE RIVER AND ALL TRIBUTARIES:** redband trout, brook trout, brown trout

Fishing is slow as flow is very low. Fishing regulations have changed to allow the harvest of two brown trout and two redband trout as part of your daily bag limit. There is no daily limit on brook trout. Angling for bull trout is closed. Any bull trout captured should be reported to ODFW at (541-883-5732).

**SPRING CREEK:** redband trout, brown trout, brook trout

Fishing will be slow as the creek is very clear and cold with few adult fish.

**SUN CREEK:** brook trout, brown trout, bull trout

ODFW does not recommend angling on Sun Creek as most of the fish were removed last year. The creek will be treated again in 2013.

**SYCAN RIVER:** wild redband trout, brook trout, brown trout

Fishing is fair at most areas as flow is very low for this time of year. Fishing regulations have changed to allow the harvest of two brown trout and two redband trout as part of your daily bag limit. There is no daily limit on brook trout.

**THOMPSON RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass

Most anglers are fishing from boats and focusing their efforts near the dam and Thompson Valley campground (also near dam). The water is warming into the upper 70s and algae is suspended in the water. Fishing can be good despite the algae and anglers have been catching fish from 8 to 18-inches when they target deep-water areas near the dam. Some anglers have reported parasites on the gills and internal organs. The fish are safe to eat, but anglers can remove (cut) flesh with parasites if they prefer.

**THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR:** trout

The reservoir is at 61 percent of capacity and receding. The water level is now below the concrete boat launch, launching of boats is not advised. No recent fishing reports but, receding water level and warm temperatures equates to slow angling. The reservoir was drained last summer so there are no holdover fish. It was stocked with sub-legal rainbows in November.

**TWIN LAKES (Wallowa Mountains):** rainbow trout, brook trout

The lake has been stocked with legal-sized rainbows; fishing should be good.

**UNITY RESERVOIR:** trout, bass, crappie

The reservoir is at 34 percent of capacity and receding. No recent fishing reports. Anglers are reminded that a new regulation is in place allowing harvest of bass only under 15 inches in length.

**VEE LAKE:** rainbow trout

Trout were stocked in the reservoir last week (June 12) and fishing should be excellent throughout the summer.

**WARM SPRINGS RESERVOIR:** smallmouth bass, white crappie, catfish, perch, and hatchery rainbow trout

The water level in the reservoir continues to drop. The reservoir was 1 percent full and inflows averaged 7 cfs (Aug. 13). The reservoir is quickly approaching minimum pool level, 1400 ac/ft. The boat ramp is out of the water by a significant distance. No recent fishing reports.

**UPPER WILLIAMSON RIVER:** wild redband trout, brook trout

The Upper Williamson River (from Kirk Bridge to Headwaters) and all tributaries opened on April 27. The hex (large yellow mayflies) hatch is waning. *Hexagenia limbata* hatch at night around 9:15 pm. Casting large dry flies to large redband trout is exciting. There is no daily limit on brook trout.

**LOWER WILLIAMSON RIVER:** wild redband trout, brown trout

Fishing is good. Flows are low for this time of year. Redband trout have moved into the Williamson River from Upper Klamath Lake in good numbers. Public access areas include Collier State Park and the boat ramp in Chiloquin. Anglers can also pay to fish from the bank or launch a boat at the Waterwheel Campground below highway 97. The hex (large yellow mayflies) hatch is waning but bugs are still around. *Hexagenia limbata* hatch at night around 9:15 pm. Casting large dry flies to large redband trout is exciting.

Water temperatures have remained stable below the confluence of the Sprague River and are peaking at 62 degrees. Redband trout captured should not be removed from the water, resuscitated by cradling and pumping gills by moving fish back and forth through the water. Redband trout should be landed and released as quickly as possible by pushing the fish towards deeper, colder water. It is unlawful to continue to fish for the same type of fish after taking and retaining a catch or possession limit.

**WITHERS LAKE:** brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout

This lake can be accessed from Paisley or from the Government Pass road. Brown trout range from 6 to 14-inches with a few larger fish. Brook trout are 5 to 7-inches and a few rainbow trout are larger than 10-inches. The lake is a short walk (100 yards) from the parking area and can be a great place for pontoons or float tubes.

**WILLOW VALLEY RESERVOIR:** largemouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, bluegill

Fishing for warmwater game fish has been good. Look for bass in the Antelope Creek arm or in the shallow bay just north of the dam.

**WOLF CREEK RESERVOIR:** crappie, trout

The reservoir is lower than normal for this time of year, but the boat launch is functional. Fishing is fair for 10 to 12-inch rainbows.

**WOOD RIVER and all tributaries:** wild redband trout, brown trout, brook trout

Fishing should be good for brown trout especially using dry flies that match grasshopper. Windy weather is the best as many grasshoppers are blown onto the water. Fishing regulations have changed on Wood River to allow for the harvest of two brown trout per day. All redband (rainbow) trout must be released unharmed. There is no limit on brook trout. The Wood River is fished most effectively from boat as there is little public property. Boats launched at Loosley, Fort Klamath or headwaters need to be low profile to get under bridges. Typical drift boats will not make it. Drift boats can be launched at Weed Road or Petric Park. Casting spoons or plugs upstream into pools is effective at catching brown trout. Access from shore is available at the Wood River BLM wetland and the USFS Day Use Area.

#### **YELLOWJACKET LAKE:** trout

Fishing for holdover trout has been fair. The lake has been stocked with legal sized trout for the season. Weeds and water temperature are making angling challenging.

#### **SOUTHEAST ZONE HUNTING**

##### **OPEN: COUGAR, COYOTE**

##### **Check fire restrictions before heading afield!**

Fire danger is at record levels according to the Oregon Dept of Forestry. Follow all fire restrictions while hunting and see ODF's webpage for the latest on restrictions (click Landowner/Corporate Closure Chart for private land closures)

[http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest\\_Restrictions\\_&\\_Closures](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest_Restrictions_&_Closures)

##### **Mandatory Reporting**

Thanks to all hunters who reported their 2012 tags on time. Hunters who did not report 2012 deer and elk tags on time will pay a \$25 penalty fee when they purchase a 2014 hunting license. More information on reporting

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/reporting/index.asp>

##### **Wolves and coyotes can look alike**

Most wolves in the state today are in northeast Oregon but a few have dispersed further west and south. Wolves are protected by state and/or federal law and it is unlawful to shoot them. Coyote hunters need to take extra care to identify their target as [wolves can look like coyotes](#), especially wolf pups in the mid-summer and fall. ODFW appreciates hunters' assistance to establish wolves' presence in Oregon; please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online](#) reporting system.

Use the [Oregon Hunting Map](#) to see where to hunt.

#### **HARNEY COUNTY**

Hunting maps for Harney County

<http://www.co.harney.or.us/huntmaps.html>

**Cougar** - Hunting is open. Populations are healthy and distributed throughout the district in any area with a big game prey base. Successful hunters must check-in cougars no more than 10 days after harvest; please bring cougar in thawed and with mouth propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

**Coyote** - Populations are fairly high throughout Harney County. Pups are starting to leave the dens, however adults are still very territorial. Coyote vocalization calls still work best until the pups start to disperse, which will be mid to late August. Be aware that bobcats and cougars may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing and open season limitations exist for these species.

Fall **BEAR** season opened August 1. Bear populations in Harney County are generally low. While no formal surveys are done for bear in this area, bear populations appear to be stable. Hunters are reminded that hunter harvested bear **MUST** be checked in at an ODFW field office within 10 days of harvest; please bring bear in thawed and with mouth propped open for easier tissue and tooth collection.

Youth antlerless **ELK** hunts also opened August 1. Elk populations are stable in Harney County.

**ANTELOPE** season opens this weekend August 10<sup>th</sup>. Antelope will be concentrated around water sources due to lack of water throughout the desert this year. **SAGE GROUSE** seasons were approved by the Commission. The deadline for applications is August 26<sup>th</sup>. No permits will be issued in the Trout Creek subunit of the Whitehorse WMU due to the Holloway fire last summer. Season dates are September 7<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **KLAMATH COUNTY**

**Gerber Youth Antelope tag holders:** Klamath County OHA will host its Annual Orientation and BBQ for the kids and their families on August 16<sup>th</sup> at Gerber Campground. ODFW, OSP and the BLM provide tips and help point you in the right direction for a successful hunt! Contact Karen Duke at 541-281-6518 for more information and to RSVP.

Fall **BLACK BEAR** seasons opened August 1. While no formal surveys are done for bear in this area, bear populations appear to be stable or increasing slightly. Highest concentrations of bears in Klamath County will be found along the eastern slope of the Cascade Mtns. In previous years, hunters have found success with stand hunting near water holes and by glassing open hillsides where bears commonly feed on berries and during morning and evening hours. Hunters are reminded that hunter harvested bear **MUST** be checked in at an ODFW field office for sample collection and measurement. Field office staff are frequently out of the office, so please call ahead to the nearest ODFW field office and make an appointment. Field office locations and contact information can be found on the ODFW website.

**Cougar** - Hunting is open year round. Populations are healthy and distributed throughout the district in any area with a big game prey base. Don't forget successful hunters must check-in cougars no more than 10 days after harvest; please bring cougar in thawed and with mouth propped open so that field staff can quickly process the animal and get you on your way.

**Coyote** - Pups have left dens by now and using some calling can be a great way to call in some not so wary coyotes. Coyotes are distributed over the entire county in good numbers.

## **KLAMATH WILDLIFE AREA**

*Updated Feb. 19, 2013*

### **Gorr Island Unit**

Gorr Island is located four miles south of the Miller Island Unit in the Klamath River, accessible only by boat.

### **Shoalwater Bay Unit and Sesti Tgawaals Unit**

Shoalwater Bay and Sesti Tgawaals are both located on the west side of Upper Klamath Lake approximately 10 miles to the north and west of Klamath Falls.

### **Miller Island Unit**

The Miller Island Unit is located 6 miles south and west of Klamath Falls.

A **Wildlife Area Parking Permit** is now required to park on the Wildlife Area. Cost is \$7 daily or \$22 annually. Free with purchase of hunting license. Buy [online](#) or at an [ODFW office that sells licenses or at a license sales agent](#).

Klamath Basin waterfowl numbers are available on the US Fish and Wildlife website at <http://www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges/cenfindex.html>

Running and training of dogs is allowed only in the Dog Training Area by the boat ramp on Klamath River from February 1 until August 1, 2013.

Overnight camping is not allowed on the Miller Island Unit. Discharge of firearms is prohibited except by permit. If you have any questions, please contact Klamath Wildlife Area at (541) 883-5734 or [lanny.a.fujishin@state.or.us](mailto:lanny.a.fujishin@state.or.us).

## **LAKE COUNTY**

**Antelope** seasons have started. The West Beaty Butte, Warner and South Wagontire hunt areas have water in the major large waterholes but all of the smaller holes are dry. Because of the restricted water hunters are asked to locate their camps at least ¼ mile away from water so wildlife can still come in for a drink.

**Cougar** - Hunting is open. Populations are healthy due to good habitat and prey base. If hunters can find a fresh cougar kill, calling within a ½ mile of that kill can be very effective.

**Coyote** - Numbers appear to be increasing throughout the county. Pups have left the den and are starting to disperse. Prey distress sounds will be effective for the rest of the year.

**SAGE GROUSE** seasons were approved by the Commission. The deadline for applications is August 26th. No permits will be issued in the Trout Creek subunit of the Whitehorse WMU due to the Holloway fire last summer. Tag numbers in Warner unit were reduced to 80. Season dates are September 7th – 15th.

## **SUMMER LAKE WILDLIFE AREA**

*This section was updated on July 9, 2013*

**Parking permits are now required on all vehicles. Hunters get the permit free with the purchase of their annual hunting license.**

Discharging firearms is prohibited, except by special permit.

**Breeding season continues and molting is underway. Duck broods and flightless molting ducks are becoming very obvious. Viewers are reminded that running or training of dogs is prohibited. Please keep dogs on leash or under very close control during this critical time of the year.**

Please contact Summer Lake Wildlife Area at (541) 943-3152 or email [martin.j.stlouis@state.or.us](mailto:martin.j.stlouis@state.or.us) for additional information.

## **MALHEUR COUNTY**

**Drought Conditions-** Drought conditions persist throughout Malheur County and restrictions are in place on all public lands. Please check with the land management agency for current restrictions. Please follow all fire restrictions and use extreme caution and discretion to avoid starting a fire. In addition please do not camp at desert water sources. These water sources are very important to wildlife

**Cougar** - Hunting is open. Populations are healthy and distributed throughout the district in any area with a big game prey base. Successful hunters must check-in cougars no more than 10 days after harvest; please bring cougar in thawed and with mouth propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

**Coyote** – Coyote pups have started to disperse and tend to respond well to calling this time of year. Coyotes are well distributed throughout the area. Calling in forested areas can be very effective as these coyotes experience less calling pressure than coyotes in open country.

**Black Bear-** Season opened August 1. Early season hunting over water holes can be effective. Bears occur primarily in the forested areas in the NW corner of the district and are less common than some other areas of the state. However the early opener provides the opportunity to combine some bear hunting with scouting for deer or elk. Hunters are reminded that hunter harvested bear **MUST** be checked in at an ODFW field office for sample collection and measurement. Check in is by appointment only. Please bring bear in thawed and with mouth propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

## **General Archery Season**

**Deer** – The Beulah Unit is the most popular of the local units for archery deer hunting. Deer densities are highest in the forested areas in the northwest portion but deer can be found anywhere in the unit. The eastern portion of the Beulah and the Owyhee and Whitehorse Units are have lower deer densities and are difficult to hunt.

**Elk** The Beulah Units is the most popular of the local units for archery elk hunting. Elk can be found in all areas of the Beulah Unit but most hunters choose the forested portion of the unit. Hunters are reminded that the East Beulah subunit is an elk de-

emphasis area with a rifle cow hunt overlapping the general archery season. The Owyhee unit has an increasing elk herd but they can be extremely difficult to hunt.

## **SOUTHEAST ZONE VIEWING**

### **Harney County**

Resident breeding waterfowl with broods are abundant around Malheur Lake.

Sandhill cranes can be found in agricultural fields throughout the Harney Basin.

Lesser yellow legs, killdeer, avocets, black-necked stilts, white-faced ibis, curlews, willets, pelicans, egrets and a variety of grebes species are a few of what can be seen. Forester's terns, black terns, franklins, ring-billed and California gulls can also be found.

A large number of breeding passerine species and woodpeckers can be found in National Forest land throughout the county. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is the summer home to some unique passerines and is an excellent place for birding.

Raptors continue to be found throughout the area. You should be able to view osprey around lakes and reservoirs, golden eagles, a few bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, prairie falcons and ferruginous hawks.

Bighorn sheep viewing will be very difficult at this time as sheep will be with lambs and will stay near steep rugged terrain. Viewers are urged not to disturb sheep during this sensitive time period. Mule deer, antelope and elk young can be seen traveling with mothers.

## **KLAMATH COUNTY**

### **Klamath Falls Area**

Check out any wetland areas, rivers, and lakes for duck brood activity. Waterfowl broods are now fully feathered and can be seen in large groups on many area wetlands.

Wood ducks can be found with broods now near Rocky Point, Shoalwater Bay, and Aspen Lake.

Canada geese are now flighted and can be found feeding in pastures and harvested grain fields near waterbodies.

Bald eagles remain in the area, though they are primarily concentrated around nest sites typically associated with water bodies and rivers. Traditional locations to view bald eagles include Upper Klamath Lake, Lake Ewauna, Yonna Valley, Sprague River Valley, and Langell Valley.

Owl species including great-horned, barn, screech and short-eared owls can be observed just after dark around agricultural and foothill areas as they start hunting

for rodents, snakes, and other small prey. Great gray owls are found at higher elevation forested areas usually adjacent to meadows and small forest openings.

Another close viewing opportunity is the Link River Trail where viewers will see many species of passerines as well as a few mammals including deer, gray fox and mink. 8/13/13.

### **Klamath Wildlife Area**

Effective Jan.1, 2013, a Wildlife Area Parking Permit is required to park on the Wildlife Area. Cost is \$7 daily or \$22 annually. Free with purchase of hunting license. Buy [online](#) or at an [ODFW office that sells licenses or at a license sales agent](#). [Learn more.](#)

#### *Waterfowl*

Great Basin Canada geese are evident with goslings in tow. Mallard, gadwall and teal can be seen with ducklings as well. White pelicans can be seen foraging for fish in many of the ponds and waterways.

Sandhill cranes have returned to the basin. They can be seen foraging in the open fields and are occasionally accompanied by their young (colts).

Klamath Basin waterfowl numbers are available on the US Fish and Wildlife website at <http://www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges/cenfindex.html>

Running and training of dogs is allowed only in the Dog Training Area by the boat ramp on Klamath River until August 1, 2013.

Overnight camping is not allowed on the Miller Island Unit. Discharge of firearms is prohibited except by permit. If you have any questions, please contact Klamath Wildlife Area at (541) 883-5734 or [lanny.a.fujishin@state.or.us](mailto:lanny.a.fujishin@state.or.us). 5/14/13.

### **LAKE COUNTY**

The fall shore bird migration has started. Thousands of phalaropes are currently using Lake Abert and numerous other shorebird species are also present. High alkalinity due to low lake levels will cause these birds to move out of the area before the end of August. Goose Lake is almost dry but the Warner Valley Lakes still have water levels adequate to attract shore birds and water birds. The Warner Wetlands have good water and provide good birding opportunities for numerous species.

Young of the year mammals are large enough to start travelling with their parent. A few individuals born late in the summer are still in the hiding stage and if found should be left alone. 8/6/13.

### **SUMMER LAKE WILDLIFE AREA**

*This section was updated on August 12, 2013*

***Summer Lake Wildlife Area requires a \$7 daily parking permit or a \$22 annual parking permit. Parking permits can be purchased at any ODFW***

***license agent or through the ODFW website. Locally, parking permits can be purchased at the Summer Lake Store, 1.3 miles north of Headquarters.***

Vehicle access to the Wildlife Viewing Loop is open. The Wildlife Viewing Loop will remain open until early fall. Major dike roads (Bullgate, Gold and Windbreak dikes and the Work Road) will be open to motor vehicles on August 15.

All secondary roads and dikes will continue to remain closed and cross-country travel is prohibited. Non-motorized travel is permitted.

**Breeding season is winding down and brood rearing continues for all nesting species. Viewers are reminded that running or training of dogs is prohibited. Please keep dogs on leash and/or under very close control during this critical time of the year. Vegetation adjacent to campgrounds attracts a wide variety of ground nesting birds and some shorebirds (Am. avocets, killdeer and willet) nest in open areas, especially along roads. Flightless broods and molting adult ducks are very vulnerable at this critical time of the year.**

### ***Waterfowl***

Duck nesting is nearly over. Only a few late breeders and re-nesting hens continue to incubate. Broods remain very apparent at this time. Unsuccessful hens, groups of drakes and fledged young are beginning to flock together and many are undergoing their annual molt into the dull eclipse plumage. A simultaneous wing molt results in ducks becoming flightless for about one month. This is a very energetically demanding time of their life cycle and disturbance should be minimized. If broods or flightless adults are encountered, viewers are urged to move away to lessen impacts.

Canada goose nesting is over and the molting period is nearly over. Most birds have attained flight and family groups are forming flocks. Canada geese are widely scattered across the entire wildlife area. Viewers are urged to minimize disturbance and move away quickly if broods are encountered.

A few non-breeding trumpeters, part of restoration efforts can be found scattered across the wildlife area. All of the restoration birds will be neck-banded with green collars and white alphanumeric symbols. Viewers are encouraged to "read" the collars and report them to wildlife area personnel. Collars will have the Greek letter Theta ( $\theta$ ) and two side-ways laying numerals that are read from the body toward the head.

### ***Shorebirds, waders and other waterbirds***

Shorebird nesting is nearly over and many fledged chicks are present at this time. Early breeding species such as long-billed curlew and willets are hard to observe at this time, many have already departed the wildlife area. Fall migration is well underway; large flocks of northerly nesting species are arriving. Greater and lesser yellowlegs, least and western sandpiper, red-necked and Wilson's phalarope, long-billed dowitchers and semi-palmated plovers are especially numerous at this time. Now is the time to look for rare or vagrant species moving through the area.

The recent restoration work in The Dikes area is very attractive to brood rearing American avocet, black-necked stilts and several other species. Snowy plovers have been observed regularly in the E. Link Unit and along Deepwater Canal.

American coot numbers remain good and single birds rearing chicks are found scattered across open water areas over the entire wildlife area. Large flocks are beginning to form.

Sandhill crane pairs are well dispersed in their traditional breeding territories. About 20 pairs can be found scattered across the wildlife area. Non-breeders can be found in small groups along the north shore of Summer Lake and large numbers are beginning to stage in the Foster Place.

Grebe (eared, pied-billed, Western and Clark's) numbers remain good, and nesting continues for many species. Broods of eared, pied-billed and western grebes have been observed recently.

American bittern, black-crowned night-heron and great egrets are fairly numerous now. A substantial number of white-faced ibis are present and a sizeable nesting colony (estimated to be 700-800 pairs) was active for the first time in several years. Black-crowned night-herons and great egrets nested within the large ibis colony. Fledged chicks are dispersing across the entire wildlife area. Great blue herons are present in low numbers and are widely scattered across the entire wildlife area. Snowy egrets have been observed recently.

American white pelican and double-crested cormorant numbers are fairly good at present. Cormorants are rearing chicks at this time, but pelicans did not nest.

California and ring-billed gulls nested in good numbers in the E. Link Unit this year, but have dispersed at this time. Very few can be found on the wildlife area now. Franklin's gulls have nested on the wildlife area again this year and observations are frequent, fledged chicks were observed over the past week.

Forster's terns are scattered widely across the entire area and nesting underway. Black terns have been observed consistently over the past several weeks.

### ***Raptors and Others***

Resident raptors, especially red-tailed hawks are scattered throughout the Wildlife Area as well as on private lands along Hwy. 31. Swainson's hawks are sometimes observed.

Northern harriers are commonly observed over marsh and hay meadows but in low numbers indicating females are rearing chicks at this time.

Ospreys continue to occupy the nest platforms at Ana Reservoir and Turner Place. Fledged chicks were observed at all three nests this past week.

Bald and golden eagles are occasionally observed on the wildlife area. A pair of bald eagles nested nearby on Winter Ridge and adults can be found foraging over the wildlife area's wetlands on a near daily basis.

Prairie falcons are fairly common residents of the area and are frequently seen during this time of the year. A peregrine falcon was observed last week.

Great horned owls and the occasional common-barn and short-eared owl can be found scattered across the entire wildlife area, especially in the trees at campgrounds. Great horned owl chicks have fledged.

### ***Upland game birds***

California quail and ring-necked pheasants are widely scattered across the north end of the wildlife area. Both pheasant and quail broods have been observed recently especially at the north end of the area.

### ***Passerines***

Barn, cliff and tree swallow have completed nesting, brood rearing continues, but appears to be winding down. Several species of swallows are forming into large flocks at this time in preparation for migration. Bank and northern rough-winged swallows continue to be observed.

Eurasian collared doves remain very numerous at Headquarters Complex; more than 25 are present. Mourning doves can be found scattered throughout the area, a large number can be found in the Church, Dutchy and Swanie Field areas. American and lesser goldfinches are seen on a regular basis, especially at Headquarters.

Occasionally, black-headed and evening grosbeaks, house finches and cedar waxwings can be observed. Migrant flycatchers and western tanagers were observed during the past week.

Brewer's, red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds can be found scattered across wetland areas and homestead sites. Large numbers are appearing at the Headquarters feeder. Brown-headed cowbirds remain very numerous and widely spread across the wildlife area.

Hummingbirds (Anna's, black-chinned, calliope and rufous) are especially numerous and northern orioles are occasionally utilizing feeders at Headquarters.

### ***Facilities and Access***

*As of Jan. 1, 2012, Summer Lake Wildlife Area requires a \$7 daily parking permit or a \$22 annual parking permit. Parking permits can be purchased at any Point of Sale Agent or through the ODFW website. Please remember: **Calendar year 2013 parking permits are required!***

*Locally, parking permits can be purchased at the Summer Lake Store, 1.3 miles north of Headquarters.*

The Wildlife Viewing Loop is open and provides excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography. It will remain open until early fall. The major dike roads (Bullgate, Windbreak and Work Road) will be open to motor vehicle traffic on Thursday August 15. All secondary roads and dikes continue to remain closed and cross-country travel is prohibited. Non-motorized travel is permitted.

Camping is permitted at four sites on the Wildlife Area. Campgrounds are primitive but each has vault toilets, trash barrels and a few picnic tables.

### ***Habitat***

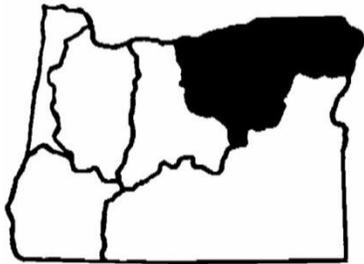
Nearly all wetland units continue to recede at this time due to irrigation season withdrawals and increased evaporation. A few units will see increases in water delivery due to drying of meadows for haying. Once haying is completed, meadows will be flooded and provide foraging areas for many waterbird species. Bullgate Refuge is being held dry in preparation for wetland restoration later this summer and into fall.

Emergent wetland vegetation is vigorously growing across the entire area at this time. Submerged aquatic plants have filled the water column in nearly all ponds and canals.

Upland habitat remains in excellent condition with considerable residual vegetation and extensive new growth that is providing high quality food and cover for many wildlife species.

Planted tree and shrub plots are providing excellent sheltered sites for many wildlife species. Nearly all trees and shrub species have set berries or fruit at this time.

Please contact Summer Lake Wildlife Area at (541) 943-3152 or e-mail [martin.j.stlouis@state.or.us](mailto:martin.j.stlouis@state.or.us) for additional information.



## NORTHEAST ZONE

### FISHING

#### Weekend fishing opportunities

- Bass fishing has been fair on the Grande Ronde and John Day rivers although flows are very low.
- The upper Umatilla River should provide good catch-and-release angling for rainbow trout.
- Trout fishing continues to be good on the Twin and Umatilla Forest ponds.

#### Warm water temperatures increase stress to fish

With the advent of warm summer water temperatures (70 degrees and more), anglers can reduce the stress to fish by taking the following precautions when catching and releasing fish:

- Fish during the cooler times of the day, usually mornings and evenings
- Use barbless hooks, play and land the fish quickly
- When releasing wild fish, keep them in the water as much as possible
- Shift your fishing efforts to higher elevation mountain lakes and streams where water temperatures often remain cool.

#### Check out the new trout stocking map

Find the location and details about the many lakes ponds and streams that receive hatchery trout from ODFW's fish hatcheries on the new [Google-based stocking map](#).

#### Send us your fishing report

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#) -- the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

#### **ALDRICH PONDS:** rainbow trout

Fishing is good for rainbows up to 15-inches on bait, lures and flies. The bag limit is two fish per day. It is a 1.5 mile hike into the ponds. Weed growth is inhibiting fishing access at the lower pond but fish to 18-inches can be caught, especially from a float tube or raft. The upper pond has fewer weeds and is better suited to bank fishing. Fingerling rainbow stocked last year at the upper pond are now 12 to 15-inches.

#### **BULL PRAIRIE RESERVOIR:** rainbow and brook trout

Fishing is fair right now. A campground and a boat launch are available. Bait, lures and flies are all producing. Rainbow stocked last year are 10 to 12-inches. Brook trout average 8 to 10-inches.

**GRANDE RONDE RIVER:** trout, whitefish, bass

The Grande Ronde River is open for trout, whitefish and bass. Anglers are finding success on the lower river fishing for smallmouth. Traditional bass gear will do the trick and for fly anglers, large streamers and poppers work well. As temperatures rise trout fishing will become more difficult. Try fishing early in the day when water temperatures are still cool and late when the sun is off the water. Remember only adipose fin clipped trout can be retained, and bull trout are present and should be immediately released unharmed.

Steelhead may start entering the river soon and anglers are reminded that steelhead season opens September 1. Any rainbow trout over 20 inches is considered a steelhead. Floating the stretch from Minam to Troy may be difficult under current flows.

[Check river flows](#)

**HOLLIDAY PARK POND:** trout

Fishing is restricted by warm temperatures and aquatic weed growth.

**HUNTER POND:** trout

The pond was stocked in May with legal-sized rainbow trout. Hunter Pond is located about 3 miles south of Hwy 244 off of USFS Rd 5160. The pond is located on the 710 spur just west of 5160.

**IMNAHA RIVER:** trout, whitefish, bass

Trout anglers have found recent success on the Imnaha. Lures, bait and flies have all been successful. Whitefish are abundant in the upper river and can provide a great opportunity for young anglers and can save a day when the trout fishing is slow. Target whitefish in deep runs with small spinners or dead drifted nymphs. Bull trout are also moving up through the system and can be caught on large fish imitations and streamers. Remember, bull trout must be released unharmed. In the lower reaches, anglers are finding some success catching smallmouth bass.

Spring chinook jack fishing on the Imnaha River is closed as of July 19. On the upper river anglers may see spawning chinook. Please do not harass these fish and allow them to spawn and produce the next generation.

[Check Imnaha River flows.](#)

**JOHN DAY RIVER:** resident rainbow trout, smallmouth bass

River flow levels are very low and water temperatures are limiting trout activity. Fishing is recommended only in the higher elevation tributaries of the John Day River.

The North and Middle forks above Hwy 395 are presently closed to fishing with spinning lures and hooks with a gap larger than ¼ inch. This will lessen the chance of hooking spring chinook salmon which cannot be fished for.

Bass fishing is good on the river below Kimberly and on the North Fork up to Monument. Most bass are 8 to 10-inches with a few up to 15-inches. River flows have now dropped to 70 cfs making boat travel impossible. Channel catfish are now being caught in the John Day River up to Spray.

[Check John Day River flows.](#)

**JUBILEE LAKE:** rainbow trout

The campground is open and the lake has been stocked. Angling has been good for rainbow trout.

**LONG CREEK POND, CAVENDER POND:** trout

Fishing is restricted by warm temperatures and aquatic weed growth.

**LUGER POND:** trout

The pond was stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout in late April. Anglers are reminded this is a handicap accessible site in a beautiful forest setting.

**MAGONE LAKE:** rainbow and brook trout

Magone campground was evacuated due to a fire last week but re-opened Aug.12. Fishing for rainbow and brook trout is only fair. Fish have moved into deep water for the summer. Fishing at 30 foot depths with a boat or float tube is recommended.

**McKAY RESERVOIR:** crappie, yellow perch, bass

Fishing for crappie has been good with the best catches coming at dusk. Yellow perch fishing has been good, but the fish are small. Bass fishing is good. Anglers are reminded of the new bass regulation; 5 bass per day, with only 1 over 15 inches and only 1 may be a largemouth bass.

**MORGAN LAKE:** trout, bullheads, bass

No recent reports.

**OLIVE LAKE:** rainbow, kokanee

Fishing for 10- to 12-inch kokanee is fair in the deeper portions of the lake. Fishing for rainbows is fair along the southern weed beds. Fishing with a boat or float tube is recommended.

**PEACH POND (Ladd Marsh):** rainbow trout

The pond has been stocked with both legal-sized and larger one-pound rainbow trout. Fishing has slowed with the warmer weather.

**ROULET POND:** rainbow trout

The pond has been stocked with both legal-sized and larger one-pound rainbow trout. Fishing has slowed with the warmer weather.

**ROWE CREEK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

The water level is low. Fishing is restricted by warm temperatures and aquatic weed growth.

**SCHNEIDER WILDLIFE AREA PONDS:** rainbow trout

Wiley pond is open for those willing to walk the 2 miles. Twelve-inch rainbow are being caught. Aldrich Gulch Pond is also open and requires a 1 mile hike but thick cattail growth prevents bank fishing.

**TAYLOR GREEN POND:** rainbow trout

This is a new stocking site in 2013 and was stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout in late May. The pond is located in a gravel pit just off USFS Rd. 7740, approximately ½ mile south of the Jct. with USFS Rd. 7700.

**TROUT FARM POND:** rainbow and brook trout

Fishing for rainbow and brook trout is only fair. Fishing is restricted by aquatic weed growth.

**TWIN PONDS:** trout

Fishing for rainbow trout should be good.

**UMATILLA FOREST PONDS:** trout

All of the Umatilla forest ponds have been stocked and are providing good fishing.

**UMATILLA RIVER:** trout

The upper Umatilla should provide good catch-and-release angling for rainbow trout.

Updated Threemile Dam fish counts can be accessed at [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/fish\\_counts/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/fish_counts/)

**WALLOWA LAKE:** rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout

Some anglers are catching limits of kokanee and report finding biters by jigging from 50-100ft. Kokanee are ranging from 6 to 12-inches, and are being caught on a mix of trolling and jigging gear. When angling is slow, try changing up your tactics and using different bait and fishing at different depths.

Remember, a temporary rule is in place until Nov. 19 that allows harvest of 20 kokanee per day, no more than 5 over 12-inches.

Fishing for recently stocked and holdover rainbow trout has been good with a number of anglers catching limits regularly. The lake will be stocked this week with catchable and trophy rainbows. A few anglers are targeting lake trout and finding a fair number of fish. Recent reports indicate a few fish over 20lbs have been caught with one pushing the 30lb mark.

**WALLOWA RIVER:** trout, whitefish

The Willowa River is open for trout and whitefish. Fish generally ranged from 8 to 15-inches with a few rare fish pushing that 20 inch mark. The river is now at summer flows and wading has become much easier. Spinners, bait, and flies will be effective. Dry flies like humpies and stimulators will produce into the fall. A wooly bugger fished under an indicator has also been effective. Anglers often have 20-plus fish days and fishing is best in the late evening. Remember, below Rock Cr. only adipose fin-clipped trout may be harvested. Whitefish are abundant in the Willowa River and can provide a great opportunity for young anglers and can save a day when the trout fishing is slow. Target whitefish in deep runs with small spinners or dead drifted nymphs.

**WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR:** crappie, bass, brown bullhead

Angling for warm water species has been good. Anglers are reminded to consult the 2013 angling synopsis for special regulations in place at Willow Creek Reservoir.

A health advisory was issued June 18th due to high levels of blue-green algae in Willow Creek Reservoir. For local information contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Willow Creek Natural Resource Management office at 541-676-9009. For health information, contact the Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS) program at 971-673-0400. Also contact the Oregon Public Health Division toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767 or Morrow County Health Department at 541-676-5421.

**NORTHEAST ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN: COUGAR, COYOTE**

**Archery hunters – Errors in the regulations on Chesnimnus bag limit, traditional equipment only area**

The 2013 Oregon Big Game Regulations contain errors in the archery section. On page 51, the "Traditional Archery Equipment Only" restriction should not be for the Columbia Basin, Biggs, Hood and Maupin Units—that restriction is for the Canyon Creek Area only. On page 79, the Chesnimnus hunt bag limit of "one bull elk" (hunt #258R) should be "one elk." These errors were [corrected by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in June](#).

**Check fire restrictions before heading afield!**

Fire danger is at record levels according to the Oregon Dept of Forestry. Follow all fire restrictions while hunting and see ODF's webpage for the latest on restrictions (click Landowner/Corporate Closure Chart for private land closures) [http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest\\_Restrictions\\_&\\_Closures](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/fire/fire.aspx#Forest_Restrictions_&_Closures)

### **Mandatory Reporting**

Thanks to all hunters who reported their 2012 tags on time. Hunters who did not report 2012 deer and elk tags on time will pay a \$25 penalty fee when they purchase a 2014 hunting license. More information on reporting

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/reporting/index.asp>

### **Wolves in Northeast Oregon**

Wolves are protected by state law and it is unlawful to shoot them. Coyote hunters in northeastern Oregon need to take extra care to identify their target as [wolves](#) can look like coyotes, especially wolf pups in the mid-summer and fall. ODFW needs hunters' assistance to establish wolves' presence in Oregon; please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to La Grande office (541) 963-2138 or [online](#).

Use the [Oregon Hunting Map](#) to see where to hunt.

### **BAKER COUNTY**

**Bear:** Fall bear hunters should focus their efforts on areas with a good food source. Hawthorn, huckle berries and plums are favored by bears in the early fall. All successful hunters are required to check in the skull at an ODFW office. See page 36 in the synopsis for details.

**SQUIRRELS:** Ground squirrels are up and active throughout the valley. Hunters should find good numbers of squirrels when the weather cooperates; remember to ask permission before hunting on private property.

**Cougar** - Cougars can be found throughout Baker County but hunters should target areas with high concentrations of deer and elk. Setting up on a fresh kill or using distress calls can all be productive techniques. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, with skull and proof of sex attached.

**Coyote** - Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

### **GRANT COUNTY**

**Antelope** – Season starts August 10 and ends on August 18. Hunters should look for antelope near Bear and Logan valley as well as the Murderers Creek Wildlife Area. Remember to ask permission before hunting private lands.

**Bear** - Season starts August 1. With the warm dry conditions hunters should look for bears near areas with berries, in wetter areas with green grasses, and in areas with lots of rotten logs and stumps which bears can find ants and other insects in.

**Cougar** - Hunting remains open. Successful hunters should remember that check-in of the hide with skull and proof of sex attached is mandatory; see the regulations for details.

**Coyote** - Numbers are good in most of the district. Coyotes may respond to distress calls. Try calling in the early morning and late evening.

### **MORROW, GILLIAM and WHEELER COUNTIES**

**Cougar** - Hunting is open. Cougar are well distributed in our forested areas. Calling with distress calls or cougar vocalizations can be effective. Locating a fresh, naturally made kill has the best chance of success.

**Coyote** - The coyote population is healthy with good numbers of coyotes available for those who wish to pursue them. Watch wind direction to help prevent giving away your location. Calling with game distress calls can be very successful.

### **UMATILLA COUNTY**

**Cougar** - Cougar are well distributed in forested areas of the Walla Walla, Mt. Emily, and Ukiah units. Hunters will have best success by finding a fresh naturally made kill and sitting on it, or by using predator calls. Some success has come from following tracks until the cougar is located.

**Coyote** - Are numerous throughout the District and hunters should have good success calling. Remember to ask permission before hunting on private lands.

### **UNION COUNTY**

**Cougar** - Cougars are common in Union county. Focus on game rich areas with long ridgelines or saddles that cats typically travel. Setting up downwind of a deer or elk killed by a cougar can be productive. You need to be extremely patient and wear camo when calling cougars as they come in slowly and use every bit of cover as they approach. Using remote calls will focus the cat's attention away from your blind. Remote motion devices next to the remote call will increase your chances of harvest. Above all, DO NOT MOVE! - their eyesight is excellent. Nonresident hunters can include a cougar tag with others tags for only \$14.50. All cougars taken must be checked in within 10 days of harvest; call for an appointment before coming in.

**Coyote** - Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

### **LADD MARSH WILDLIFE AREA**

With the close of authorized hunting seasons on the area, Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area is closed to hunting and to all entry. This includes all portions of the wildlife area both west and east of Foothill Rd. The Glass Hill Unit will re-open April 1.

A parking permit is needed for Ladd Marsh. Hunters get the permit free with their purchase of an annual hunting license. Display on car dash. [More information](#)

### **WALLOWA COUNTY**

**Chesnimnus Error in 2013 Big Game Regulations:** On page 79, the Chesnimnus archery hunt bag limit of "one bull elk" (hunt #258R) should be "one elk." These errors were [corrected by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in June](#).

**BLACK BEAR:** A good density of black bear exists throughout the district. Hunters should focus efforts in cool timbered areas where bears will begin feeding on berries. Old fruit orchards will be good spots to find bears later in August.

**COYOTE:** Good numbers of coyotes can be found throughout Wallowa County. Calling coyotes with rabbit distress type calls has been effective for hunters. It is important to choose areas with abundant coyote sign and little human activity.

**COUGAR:** Cougar numbers are strong throughout Wallowa County. Most lions are taken incidental to other hunting; however, calling with fawn bleat, or locating a cougar kill and waiting for a cat to return are often successful techniques.

## **NORTHEAST ZONE VIEWING**

### **BAKER COUNTY**

Bighorn sheep and mule deer can be viewed along the Snake River road between Huntington and Richland. Keep your eyes open as Bald Eagles are also plentiful in the area. Bighorn sheep in the Burnt River are down low in the canyon along the riparian areas and can be viewed from the road.

### **GRANT COUNTY**

Bighorn sheep can be viewed along the South Fork of the John Day. Elk, deer, antelope, and sheep are having their young. It is important to remember to leave any wildlife where you found them. It usually won't be long before mom returns to check on them. Also view from a distance to prevent disturbing them. 6/3/13.

### **MORROW, GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES**

Summer is here, most of the young are leaving the nest. Fledglings can be seen in most yards. The long billed curlews have headed back to the wet areas with fledglings. Crows are starting to fledge as well.

Ferruginous hawks can be seen the northern portion of the District. Short-eared owl can be seen along the grasslands of the north end of the District. Swainson's hawks can be seen in the north end of the district on their nests. They are the last of our hawks to arrive and nest. Swainson's hawk also has the longest migration as they winter in Argentina. Also in the grasslands one can spot horned larks, savanna sparrows, white-crowned sparrows, and meadowlarks. In areas that have good bunch grass in the north end of the District persistent birds can spot grasshopper sparrows, although they are easier to identify by sound. Our year-round resident raptors, red-tailed hawks, Northern harriers, and American kestrels are all easily found. Sharp-shinned hawks can be seen along the riparian areas of the north half of the District. In the areas that have sagebrush one can spot loggerheaded shrieks.

In the yards of the district, one can find the common songbirds around the feeder. Dark-eyed juncos, song sparrows, house sparrows, white-crowned sparrows are all easily found. American gold finches and Rufus sided towhees can also be see in the Heppner area. Also be cautious in the gravel driveways and parking lots as killdeer are nesting and their nests are very hard to spot.

Waterfowl can be seen out with their young in the waterways of the area. It is easy to spot mallards, American widgeon, northern shovelers, coot, blue wing, green wing, and cinnamon teals, buffleheads, and common mergansers. One can also spot common and Pied-billed grebes along the Columbia. Great blue herons are found

along all of our streams that support fish. In the wetlands of the area one can spot American Avocets, black-necked stilts, yellow-headed blackbirds and red-wing blackbirds.

In the forests of the District one can see mountain and western bluebirds in most of the meadows. Deer and elk can be seen with their young, with the best chance to spot them at dawn and dusk. Snowshoe hares can be seen in the denser lodge-pole reprod. They are easily identified by their white feet.

## **UMATILLA COUNTY**

Breeding, nesting, and fledging are on all at once and bird viewing opportunities exist in many areas of the county. Breeding birds of many descriptions will be found in riparian, woodland, and shrub-steppe areas with many sightings of several species of warblers, sparrows, and wrens. Additionally, some of the more colorful species are making appearances such as Bullock's orioles in riparian zones, western tanagers in forested broadleaf areas, and Lazuli buntings in rose and shrub areas.

Loggerhead shrikes will be a treat for birders in desert areas with abundant sage habitats. Long billed curlews will also be seen in the more grassy areas of the desert habitats as well. Burrowing owls will also be seen standing beside burrows or sitting on fence posts in the more arid areas during this period.

Although the temperatures are up and the hills are dryer, bears, deer, and elk can be seen in the early morning and late evening throughout the forested regions, especially to the north of I-84 where wetter conditions are more common.

The river corridor areas will offer some viewing with white pelicans and waterfowl trading back and forth along the river corridors. Warm season brings the opportunity to see species of waterfowl such as cinnamon teal and gadwalls which are absent in the cooler period of the year. The Columbia River is a good place to see a number of gull species as well as both Caspian and Forster's terns.

## **UNION COUNTY**

### ***Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area***

**Note:** Wildlife viewers and anglers need a parking permit to park on the wildlife area. The \$7 daily or \$22 annual permit can be purchased [online](#) or at an [ODFW office that sells licenses or at a license sales agent](#). [Learn more about ODFW's Wildlife Area Parking Permit Program.](#)

The Tule Lake Public Access Area and Auto Route and the Glass Hill Unit are open. Visitors are advised to carefully read posted signs and consult game bird regulations before entering the wildlife area. Dogs are not permitted within the Wildlife Area, on or off leash except during authorized hunting seasons. There are numerous quality viewing opportunities from county roads that pass through the area. Binoculars or a spotting scope will help as many animals are best viewed from a distance. Do not approach nesting birds or birds with young as this may make the young more vulnerable to predation.

Most of this year's Canada Goose young are flying and hard to distinguish from the adults. Duck broods seem to be late this year but more are being seen every day.

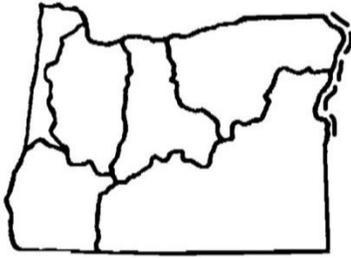
Every expected species of duck is present including Northern Pintail, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck and Northern Shoveler. Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets can be seen in the wetlands and in flight around the area. Heron and Egret young have fledged and several birds may be seen in a single pond or wetland.

The area's wetlands are drying fast. This should create mudflats for shorebirds but it may also make those flats more difficult to see as they retreat farther from roads and dikes. Shorebirds are moving south including Long-billed Dowitcher, Western, Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper and others.

Passerines on the area include Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Tree, Violet-Green, Cliff, Barn and Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat in addition to both Eastern and Western Kingbirds. Red-winged, Brewer's and Yellow-headed Blackbirds are present in large numbers. Western Meadowlarks can be found along roads that pass through grain or grass fields.

Sandhill Cranes have begun to gather in small groups to feed and roost. Please report any sandhill cranes wearing leg bands to the Ladd Marsh staff (541-963-4954). If possible, note the color and order of bands on each of the bird's legs (e.g., pink above white on left leg; silver above black on right leg). The specific combination and order can identify individual birds.

For more information on access rules for Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, please consult the Oregon Game Bird Regulations or call the wildlife area (541) 963-4954. 8/6/13.



## SNAKE RIVER ZONE

### SNAKE FISHING

#### Send us your fishing report

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#) -- the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

**BROWNLEE RESERVOIR:** crappie, bass, perch, catfish, bluegill, trout

Anglers are doing very well on crappie right above Brownlee Dam, but slow elsewhere. Catfishers are doing very well in the Powder River arm for channel cats, using bobbers in shallow water. Bluegill up to 8-inches are also being caught in the arm. Fishing for other warmwater species is good, but the larger bass have now moved into deeper water. Call the [Idaho Power Company's](#) recording at 1-800-422-3143 to get information on access at recreational sites or visit their website <http://www.idahopower.com/OurEnvironment/WaterInformation/Reservoir/>

[Reservoir level information](#)

**OXBOW RESERVOIR:** trout, crappie, bass, catfish

Fishing is good for warmwater species, except crappie.

**HELLS CANYON RESERVOIR:** trout, crappie, bass, catfish

Fishing is good for warmwater species, except crappie.

**SNAKE RIVER below HELLS CANYON RESERVOIR:** trout, sturgeon, bass

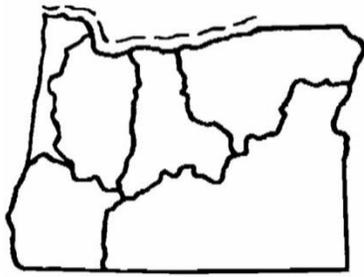
The spring chinook fishery closed on July 21.

Some anglers have found success on smallmouth. Traditional methods for bass are the best bet. Try changing tactics if the fish aren't biting. Sturgeon angling is open for catch and release only. Remember, barbless hooks are required and sturgeon may not be removed from the water. Trout anglers will find success using a variety of methods. Look for trout on seams and foam lines where insects often collect. Only adipose clipped trout may be kept.

[Get updated information on flow levels.](#)

**SNAKE RIVER (above Brownlee Reservoir):** channel catfish, flathead catfish, smallmouth bass

Catfish and bass fishing on the Snake River has been fair to good, but is likely declining with the recent hot weather and spike in water temperatures. Flows at the Nyssa gauge have remained fairly constant since late July; 8,100 cfs on Aug. 13. Flows at the Weiser gauge were 9,010 cfs the week of Aug. 13. Over the last week water temperature at the Nyssa and Weiser gauges ranged from 74°F to 78°F. Boaters should use caution on the Snake River — water levels are extremely low and debris remains in the river.



## COLUMBIA RIVER ZONE

### COLUMBIA FISHING

#### Weekend fishing opportunities:

- Summer steelhead fishing is fair to good in the lower Columbia River.
- Fall chinook season is open from Buoy 10 upstream to the Oregon/Washington Border above McNary Dam. Fall chinook fishing is good at Buoy 10, and catches in the mainstem below Bonneville should improve over the next two weeks.
- Sturgeon retention is open from The Dalles Dam upstream to the John Day Dam.
- Walleye fishing is good in Troutdale.

**Current Columbia River regulations for salmon, steelhead, shad and sturgeon can be found at the [Sport Fishing Regulation Update](#) page.**

#### **SALMON, STEELHEAD AND SHAD:**

On the lower Columbia this past weekend there were 534 salmonid boats and 135 Oregon bank anglers counted from Bonneville Dam downstream to Tongue Point on Saturday's (8/10) flight; and 636 Oregon boats at Buoy 10. Anglers had the best success at Buoy 10 where anglers averaged 1.77 chinook and 0.05 coho caught per boat. In the Portland to Longview area, boat anglers averaged 0.22 fall chinook and 0.23 steelhead caught per boat, while anglers fishing in the gorge averaged 0.14 chinook and 0.71 steelhead caught per boat. In Troutdale boat anglers averaged 0.08 chinook and 0.06 steelhead caught per boat. Bank anglers fishing in the gorge averaged 0.34 steelhead caught per boat, while anglers fishing in the estuary averaged 0.06 chinook caught per angler.

#### **Gorge Bank:**

Weekend checking showed 15 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 15 unclipped steelhead released for 89 bank anglers.

#### **Gorge Boats:**

Weekend checking showed one adult fall chinook and four adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped steelhead released for seven boats (16 anglers).

#### **Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed six adult fall chinook and one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus four unclipped steelhead released for 80 boats (160 anglers).

**Portland to Westport Bank:**

Weekend checking showed no catch for 28 bank anglers.

**Portland to Westport Boats:**

Weekend checking showed 22 adult fall chinook, one jack chinook and 14 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one adult fall chinook and 10 unclipped steelhead released for 103 boats (250 anglers).

**Estuary Bank (Jones Beach to Clatsop Spit):**

Weekend checking showed one adult fall chinook kept for 18 bank anglers.

**Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Buoy 10):**

Weekend checking showed 823 adult fall chinook and 25 adipose fin-clipped coho kept, plus 304 adult fall chinook and six unclipped coho released for 636 boats (1,928 anglers).

**Bonneville Pool:**

No report.

**The Dalles Pool:**

Weekly checking showed three unclipped steelhead released for 22 bank anglers; and two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 10 unclipped steelhead released for 17 boats (37 anglers).

**John Day Pool:**

No report.

**STURGEON:****Gorge (below Marker 82) downstream to Buoy 10:**

Closed to retention, catch and release only. Weekend checking showed one sublegal sturgeon released for one boat (two anglers).

**The Dalles Pool:**

Weekly checking showed two legal white sturgeon kept, plus three legal, one oversize and 39 sublegal sturgeon released for 17 bank anglers; and two legal white sturgeon kept, plus 39 sublegal sturgeon released for four boats (14 anglers).

Sturgeon creel sampling summaries and catch estimates for Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools can be found at the following link:

[WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary](#)

**WALLEYE:****Gorge:**

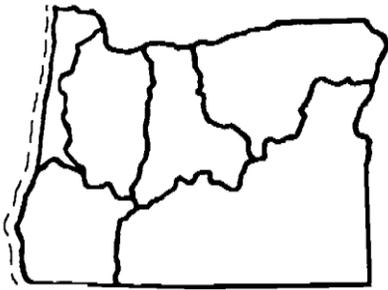
Weekend checking showed no catch for one boat (two anglers).

**Troutdale:**

Weekend checking showed six walleye kept for six boats (10 anglers).

**The Dalles Pool:**

Weekly checking showed one walleye kept for four boats (10 anglers).



## MARINE ZONE

### MARINE FISHING

#### **Saltwater News Bulletins**

You can subscribe to receive e-mails and text message alerts for marine topics you are interested in. To sign up go to <http://dfw.state.or.us/MRP/bulletins/index.asp> and enter your phone for text alerts and e-mail information to subscribe to email updates. It's easy to unsubscribe at any time. Your phone and e-mail information will remain confidential. Six different lists of interest to ocean enthusiasts are available: Bottomfish (recreational), Halibut (recreational), Ocean Salmon (recreational), Ocean Salmon (commercial troll), Commercial Nearshore Groundfish, and Marine Reserves.

#### **Send us your fishing report**

We'd love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your own fishing report through [ODFW Fishing Reports](#) -- the information will be forwarded to the local biologist who may use it to update various ODFW resources such as the Weekly Recreation Report.

#### **Marine Reserves**

Prohibitions at Oregon's marine reserves at Redfish Rocks and Otter Rock are in effect. 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. See complete details and a map of the boundaries of the reserves:

- [Otter Rock Marine Reserve](#)
- [Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Area](#)

### TUNA

Ports from Astoria to Charleston reported catches of two tuna per angler last week. The tuna are still about 30 miles out seem to be feeding deep. Not much action on the surface of the ocean.

### BOTTOM FISHING

The hot ports last week were Brookings and Charleston with most bottom fishers getting between five and six rockfish. Most other ports reported catches of between three and four rockfish.

Fishing for groundfish is closed offshore of the 30-fathom line defined by latitude and longitude.

Cabezon retention is allowed July 1 through Sept. 30. Under the federal cabezon quota, there is only enough cabezon to be open for two to three months during the busy summer period. When ODFW asked for public input in the fall, many people said they preferred a later season (July-September) over an earlier season. The daily bag and size limits remain the same (one-fish sublimit, 16-inch minimum length).

The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish (of which no more than one may be a cabezon during the cabezon season). There are separate daily limits for lingcod (two) and flatfish other than Pacific halibut (25).

Remember: yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish may not be retained.

The Stonewall Bank Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, approximately 15 miles west of Newport, is closed to the harvest of rockfish, lingcod, flatfish and other species in the groundfish group.

## **OCEAN SALMON**

Bandon, Charleston and Winchester Bay reported good catches of chinook, but no coho. Astoria continued to be the hot spot for salmon fishing last week with most anglers returning with a coho or a chinook. Very few salmon catches were reported in other ports.

Anglers fishing in ocean waters adjacent to Tillamook Bay between Twin Rocks and Pyramid Rock and within the 15-fathom depth contour are reminded that only adipose fin clipped chinook salmon may be retained.

Fishing for chinook salmon from Humbug Mountain to the Oregon/California border is open through Sept. 8.

Retained chinook salmon statewide must be 24 inches or larger.

## **PACIFIC HALIBUT**

### **Columbia River Subarea**

Effort was low out of Astoria, but about half the anglers fishing for halibut got one. So far anglers landed 4,725 pounds of halibut. This leaves 4,791 pounds (50 percent) of the spring quota remaining. Any quota remaining from the spring fishery will be rolled into the summer fishery. The spring and summer fisheries are both open every Friday-Sunday. Average weight so far this season is 15 pounds.

### **Central Oregon Coast Subarea**

Both the all-depth season and the nearshore season have met their quotas and are closed.

### **South of Humbug Mountain**

Open through Oct. 31, seven days per week.

For the most up-to-date Pacific halibut information visit:  
<http://dfw.state.or.us/mrp/finfish/halibut/index.asp>

## **SHELLFISH**

### **New for 2012**

#### **Limits double on purple varnish calms**

Clam diggers may harvest twice as many purple varnish clams in 2013 than they did in previous years. In response to a public proposal, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission increased the daily catch limit for purple varnish clams from 36 per day to 72 per day. Purple Varnish Clams are a non-native species that has become established in several Oregon bays and estuaries over the past decade.

#### **Scallops require report card**

Also starting in 2013, divers who harvest rock scallops will be required to report their catch to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife using a free harvest card. Divers will provide important information about this resource to ODFW biologists that will enable them to better manage the resource. Since 1996, ODFW has required similar reporting by all recreational abalone harvesters who complete an annual harvest card. This program helps ODFW biologists understand and monitor the abalone fishery. This same card now includes space for rock scallop harvesters to report their catch. Anyone recreationally harvesting abalone or rock scallops will need to obtain the free abalone and scallop harvest card in addition to an Oregon Shellfish License. The harvest card is easy to get and simple to complete. Limits for abalone and rock scallops remain the same: one per day and five per year for abalone and 24 rock scallops per day.

Divers can get abalone/scallop permits by contacting ODFW Marine Resources Program in Newport 541-867-4741, Charleston 541-888-5515 or Astoria 503-325-2462. For more information visit the [ODFW website](#).

#### **Razor clams**

Razor clamming is closed on the Clatsop beaches for the annual conservation closure to protect newly-set young clams. Since 1967 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has closed the 18 miles of beaches in Clatsop County to razor clam digging, while young clams establish themselves on the beach during the summer. By not disturbing the young razor clams it increases the chance of good recruitment. The Clatsop beaches will reopen to razor clamming on Sept. 31.

Digging for razor clams continues to be open on other state beaches south of Tillamook Head. For best results, clammers should pay close attention to surf forecasts and be on the beach one to two hours before low tide. If the forecast calls for combined seas over 8 or 10 feet, razor clam harvesting can be difficult because the clams tend to show much less in those conditions. When referencing tide tables, Clatsop beach razor clam harvesters should use the tide gauge at the Columbia River entrance.

#### **Recreational shellfish safety status as of Aug. 13:**

- Mussel harvesting is closed from Cape Argo to the California border.
- All other shellfish harvesting is open along the entire Oregon coast.
- The consumption of whole recreationally harvested scallops is not recommended, however. Coastal scallops are not affected by toxin closures when only the adductor muscle is eaten.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's shellfish safety hotline is toll free and provides the most current information regarding shellfish safety closures. **Please call the hotline before harvesting: 1-800-448-2474.**

Check out the recreational shellfish pages on the ODFW website. The pages contain everything you need to know for identifying and harvesting Oregon's clams, including maps of individual estuaries that show where to crab and clam.

## **Crabs**

Bay crabbing is picking up, with more legal-sized male Dungeness crab entering the fishery after successfully molting. Bay crabbing success should continue to improve over the next few months. Newly-molted crabs are lighter in weight and have softer shells.

Ocean crabbing has been good. Recreational crabbing in the ocean is open along the entire Oregon coast.

The ODFW crabbing report shows average number of legal-sized Dungeness crab per person in various bays by month over the past year: check it out.

Some sport crabbers have difficulty correctly measuring the minimum size for Dungeness crab, which is 5 3/4 inches measured in a straight line across the back immediately in front of, but not including, the points. See an illustration showing the correct measurement.

## **MARINE VIEWING**

### **Brown Pelicans**

Summer is prime viewing for brown pelicans. They show up along the Oregon coast in the early spring and usually leave in October or November. Some birds occasionally over winter in Oregon, but they usually don't do very well. A few winters ago some pelicans actually starved to death.

Brown pelicans breed during the winter in the Sea of Cortez. The brown pelican is a permanent resident of the coastal marine environment from central North America southward to northern South America.

They are superb fishers noted for their spectacular head-first dives to trap unsuspecting fish in their expandable pouches. Of the world's pelican species, only the brown pelican feeds by this plunge-diving method, which makes them fun to watch. Despite being a superb fisher, the brown pelican isn't above panhandling on local docks for scraps, however experts say that the majority of their food is caught rather than scavenged.

Their diet consists of fish and some marine invertebrates.

Brown pelicans are highly social year-round and breed in colonies of up to several thousand pairs – typically on offshore islands. Pairs build nests on the ground or in trees, depending on what's available; they incubate eggs under their foot webs, and they feed their young regurgitated and predigested fish. When the young reach 3 to

4 weeks of age, they can swallow whole fish, which they obtain by thrusting their bills into their parents' throats, forcing them to regurgitate.

The longest lived brown pelican on record died at 43 years of age.

So get out there and do a little pelican watching. They are pretty easy to find up and down the coast this time of year.

### **Great blue herons and great egrets**

Coastal estuaries are host to two impressive birds this time of year, great egrets and great blue herons. Both herons and egrets are wading birds that prowl the shallows looking for fish, crustaceans and amphibians.

Great blue herons are the largest members of their family in North America with a wing span of more than six feet and standing as tall as 54 inches. Their grey, black and white plumage gives them a formal appearance, like they are wearing morning coats.

Also elegant in appearance is the all-white feathered great egret. With a yellow bill and black legs, it stands as much as 40 inches tall. The bird is the symbol of the National Audubon Society, which was formed in part to prevent the killing of birds for their feathers.

# #