Free fishing weekend June 6-7

Residents and visitors can fish for free next weekend! So take a friend fishing with you or bring them to one of our free fishing events.

Annual Fishing Guide now posted

Prepared by ODFW’s local biologists, this is our most comprehensive list of places to fish in Oregon. It describes access, regulation updates, best times of year to fish, and tips and techniques for rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs throughout the state.

Accessible fishing

The Oregon Angler with Disabilities Site Map highlights 133 sites across Oregon that may be suitable for anglers with physical disabilities.

Spring turkey and bear hunting close May 31

See ODFW’s Facebook page for tips on hunting turkey later in the season.
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.

Very low water levels in coastal streams will present some challenging fishing conditions. Scale down your gear, using smaller weights and baits, and lighter leaders. Look for fish, especially steelhead, to hold in different parts of the river than they normally would.

Most rivers and streams re-opened to trout on May 23, 2015.

NORTH COAST LAKES

Coffenbury, Lost, Cape Meares, Hebo, and Town lakes are scheduled to be stocked the first week of June prior to Free Fishing Weekend. Trout fishing should be fair to good. Due to low water availability at Nehalem Hatchery, the scheduled September stocking of trophy trout has been canceled. Those fish will be released prior to free fishing weekend in the same locations as they would have been released later. Although not trophy size, the fish will still be larger than the typical legal size fish. Warming water temperatures will get warmwater fish more active. Coffenbury, Cullaby, Sunset, Lytle, Cape Meares, and Town lakes, and Vernonia Pond all offer opportunity for largemouth bass.

The latest trout stocking schedule

MID COAST LAKES

Fishing for the various warm water fish species can be productive during the spring as lake temperatures start to rise and fish begin spawning. Anglers will start finding more fish up in the shallows this time of year.

Trout stocking continues

The rainbow trout stocking program is in full swing and most water bodies have been stocked recently or will be soon again. Most areas will be stocked multiple times until early June. Be sure to check out the 2015 trout stocking schedule for the most up to date information.
**ALSEA RIVER:** cutthroat trout

The cutthroat trout season is now open for the season and anglers should have fair to good results in most of the larger tributaries and mainstem. Small spinners are typically productive as wells as small spoons or fly fishing with nymphs or streamers.

**KILCHIS RIVER:** cutthroat

Cutthroat fishing should be fair in the early season.

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

Fishing is mostly fair for spring Chinook. Fish are available through tidewater and into the lower river, including Three Rivers. Special gear restrictions went into effect in Three Rivers beginning May 1. Steelhead angling is slow. Fishing for cutthroat trout should be fair to good.

**SALMON RIVER:** cutthroat trout

Cutthroat trout are now open to harvest. Typically good fishing can be had during the early part of the season. Using small lures like spinners, spoons or various flies can be productive.

**SILETZ RIVER:** steelhead, cutthroat trout

Summer steelhead fishing is slowly starting to pick up. New fish will continually be moving into the river over the next few months with the peak numbers typically in July. River flows are much lower than normal for this time of year so think small and subtle presentations. Typical steelhead tactics apply such as bobber and jig / bait, or casting spoons or spinners. Cutthroat trout are now also open to harvest and can be found throughout the main stem river and many large tributaries.

**SIUSLAW RIVER:** cutthroat trout

The cutthroat trout season is now open for the season. The main stem of the Siuslaw and Lake Creek can be good fishing as well as the larger tributaries entering these systems. Bait is not allowed above the head of tide but small spinners, spoons and fly fishing can be very productive.

**TILLAMOOK BAY:** sturgeon, Chinook

Spring Chinook fishing is fair overall, but some good bites are being reported at times. Fish the lower bay on softer tide series, and the upper bay on the bigger swings. Trolling herring or large bladed spinners are the two most popular techniques. Catch-and-release fishing for sturgeon should be fair.

**TRASK RIVER:** steelhead, Chinook, cutthroat

Spring Chinook fishing is fair but steady with some days better than others. Fish are being caught from tidewater up to the hatchery area. Gear restrictions are now in effect from the Cedar Creek boat slide down to the Lorens Drift wooden boat slide. An occasional summer steelhead is being caught. Fishing for cutthroat trout opened May 23, including in the north, south, and east forks.
Anglers who catch a steelhead or salmon with numbered tag(s) are encouraged to report catch information via the internet 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, Chinook, cutthroat

Spring Chinook fishing is fair but steady with some days better than others. Fish are being caught from tidewater up to the hatchery area. Gear restrictions are now in effect from the Cedar Creek boat slide down to the Lorens Drift wooden boat slide. An occasional summer steelhead is being caught. Fishing for cutthroat trout opened May 23, including in the north, south, and east forks.

**YAQUINA RIVER:** cutthroat trout

The cutthroat trout season opened on May 23rd and anglers can expect to have fair to good fishing. The mainstem Yaquina and Big Elk Creek are good places to try casting small spinners or spoons as well as bait fishing near the head of tide.

**NORTH COAST HUNTING**

**OPEN: COUGAR, SPRING BEAR, SPRING TURKEY**

Spring bear and turkey hunting close May 31.

Use the [Oregon Hunting Map](https://www.oregon.gov) to see where to hunt.

See the [turkey hunting forecast](https://www.oregon.gov).

**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.

**Spring bears** should be active this spring due to the exceptionally mild winter and spring so far. Look for signs of recent bear activity in the forest, such as torn up old logs and young conifer trees with bark peeling near the base. Predator calling is generally your best bet, especially during the day when bears are not very active in forest openings. The season ends May 31.

**NORTH COAST WILDLIFE VIEWING**

It’s spring and songbirds are starting to nest. Year-round residents, such as the winter wren and white-crowned sparrow, are already nesting and their vocalizations can be heard often when walking through north coast forests. Just recently, neo-tropical migrants like the Swainson’s thrush have shown up, and the forest is starting to be filled with the songs of male birds declaring their nesting territories.
TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Steller sea lions are common on the smaller nearshore rocks on the eastern edge of the Three Arch Rocks NWR, located just west of Oceanside. Both adults and pups are present and can be distinguished by size and coloration. The refuge is home to these marine mammals nearly year-round except in the fall when they take a brief hiatus. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope for best viewing.

May is still a good month to view migrating shorebirds along ocean beaches as they make their way to nesting areas in the Arctic and other far-north regions. In Tillamook County, the whimbrel is a usual and conspicuous visitor each May. It’s a large brownish bird with a downturned bill that can be seen flying over and on farm pastures as well as the ocean beaches.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area

Visitors should take caution around the main viewing area over the next few months. Several construction projects including paving and restroom remodel will impact public use. The main view area may be closed intermittently to traffic during the paving portion of the project scheduled for late April and early May. The public restrooms will be closed in June for remodeling. Portable restrooms will be available.

Elk viewing continues to be good. Best viewing times are mornings and evenings, but elk may be visible throughout the day depending on weather. As spring progresses and temperatures start to warm, elk will use the timbered areas more during the middle of the day.

Most bulls have shed their antlers and new growth is already visible. Band-tailed pigeons have been seen near area bird feeders and along gravel roadways. Swallows have arrived and are visible gliding over meadow areas and checking out nest boxes along view area fences. Other wildlife to watch for include: coyotes in the fields, bald eagles perched in tall trees near creeks or soaring overhead, and songbirds near the viewing areas.

Visitors are reminded that areas posted as Wildlife Refuge are closed to public access. Posted portions of the Beneke Tract are open to the public starting March 16 and will remain open until August 1.

Wildlife Area Parking Permits are required on the wildlife area.

Ft. Steven’s State Park

The viewing bunker at Trestle Bay within the Ft. Steven’s State Park is a great place to view waterfowl and shorebirds, especially at lower tides. The bunker provides good shelter from rain, wind and storms, and viewing optics, such as binoculars or a spotting scope are highly recommended for best viewing.
**FISHING**

**Weekend fishing opportunities**

- Spring Chinook fishing on the Mainstem Umpqua has slowed but Spring Chinook are being caught on the North Umpqua mostly around Rock Creek.
- Trout stocking beings this week on the Rogue River above Lost Creek Reservoir. Plentiful fish, easy access and a beautiful setting make this a premiere trout fishing destination.
- With warmer weather and fish moving into the shallows, crappie, largemouth bass and other warmwater fishing is improving in several area water bodies, including Agate Lake and Galesville and Lost Creek Reservoirs.
- You have heard the news about low water levels at Howard Prairie, but did you know that trout fishing is very good for boat anglers? Small boats can still launch right now, and trollers caught limits over the weekend. Good numbers of 11-12 inch trout are available, along with trout to 18”.
- Releases of large trout from Cole Rivers and Klamath hatcheries are spicing up the catch at several Rogue waterbodies. Willow Lake, Fish Lake, Lost Creek Reservoir and Applegate Reservoir all offer great opportunities for trout.

**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:** largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie

Fishing for warmwater gamefish has been good. Largemouth bass, crappie, and other warmwater species can be found around structure along the shore. Bass are hitting a variety of lures. Bluegill and crappie can be caught with small jigs or bait. Agate Lake is 100 percent full.

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

Applegate Reservoir is fully stocked with legal and-larger sized rainbow trout. Fishing should be fair to good for these stocked trout. Fishing for smallmouth bass should be improving as the fish move into shallow water along the shore. Applegate Reservoir is 60 percent full. The Hart Tish Park, French Gulch and Copper boat ramps are open. The campground at Hart Tish Park is now open as well.
The Oregon Health Authority issued an advisory recommending that people limit their consumption of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, and crappie taken from Applegate Reservoir due to elevated levels of mercury. Trout are not included in the advisory and remain a healthy choice for those wanting to retain fish for the table.

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

The Applegate River is open for trout fishing. Anglers may keep two adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout per day. Nonadipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be immediately released unharmed. The river will remain closed to salmon and steelhead angling.

**ARIZONA POND:** rainbow trout

Good numbers of trout, but weeds are starting to make it tougher to fish. The best time to fish is on cloudy days or when the sun is off the water. The pond is managed by Oregon State Parks as youth only fishing and is located at Arizona Beach State Recreation Area; approximately halfway between Gold Beach and Port Orford.

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

The reservoir has been stocked according to schedule (pdf) with 4,000 rainbow trout. Continue to check the website for the next release date. Warmwater fishing for bass and crappie is improving with the recent increase in water temperature.

**BURMA POND:** rainbow trout

Burma Pond, located on BLM land east of the town of Wolf Creek, is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

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

Cooper Creek has been stocked with 7,000 rainbow trout since March and will continue to be stocked according to the schedule. Catches of largemouth bass, bluegill, and yellow perch should improve as water temperatures increase. Last year, some of the trout had 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.

**COOS COUNTY LAKES/PONDS:** trout,

Powers Pond will be stocked this week with legal and trophy size rainbows. There is a kids fishing derby in the morning at Powers Pond Saturday, May 30. Bradley Lake, Saunders Lake, Bluebill Lake, Tenmile Lakes, and Butterfield Lake were all stocked earlier this month with legal-size trout. Trout are biting on bait fished near the bottom or lures like spinners or spoons.

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

Streams in the Coos Basin are open for trout fishing as of Saturday, May 23. Angling is restricted to artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater. Anglers should have good success catching trout in the deeper pools and riffles using spinners or flies.
Anglers are still catching a few rockfish inside lower Coos Bay around the jetties. The best fishing has been around the slack tides. The marine fish daily bag limit (which includes fishing in estuaries) is 7 fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two). Anglers will be able to keep only 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback or copper rockfish.

To help anglers identify common species and comply with the regulations, ODFW has produced several sheets of ID Tips for blue vs. black rockfish and for China, copper and quillback rockfish, as well as a handout titled “What Can I Keep, and How Many?”

Crabbing has been decent in the lower bay with crabbers catching a mixture of hard and soft crabs. The best crabbing will be near the jetties and close to high tide. 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. Recreational harvest of razor clams is closed for the entire Oregon coastline from the Columbia River to the California border due to elevated levels of domoic acid. This includes all beaches and all bays. Before any shellfish harvest trip, make sure to check the Oregon Department of Agriculture website for any updates.

**COQUILLE RIVER BASIN:** trout

Streams in the Coquille Basin are open for trout fishing as of Saturday, May 23. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater. Anglers should have good success catching trout in the deeper pools and riffles using spinners or flies.

Smallmouth bass fishing has been good in the Coquille Basin. The best fishing is in the South Fork and mainstem Coquille rivers. Anglers are catching smallmouth bass on jigs, crankbaits, spinner, and worms (bait is legal in tidewater). There is no size limit or bag limit on smallmouth bass in the rivers of the Coquille Basin.

**DIAMOND LAKE:** trout

Anglers have been catching fish in the 12 to 17-inch range mostly by trolling lures and using a combination of PowerBait and lures on anchor. ODFW will stock Diamond Lake with approximately 300,000 rainbow trout during Memorial Day week. The Forest Service has opened some campgrounds or parts thereof. Check with the Forest Service to determine which ones have been opened. Anglers can check fishing conditions at Diamond Lake on the Diamond Lake Resort website, or call their toll free number at 1-800-733-7593, ext. 5 for updates. The Marina is open and has boats and charter trips available.

**DUTCH HERMAN POND:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass

Dutch Herman Pond, located on BLM land east of the town of Wolf Creek, is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

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

Emigrant has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. The water is still turbid, so fishing with bait or using lures that will put off vibrations in the water will be most effective. Angling for bass and other warmwater fish has been fair. With the dirty
water, bass anglers are having best success with crank baits. The water level in the reservoir is at 82 percent of capacity. The campgrounds and boat ramps are open.

**EXPO POND:** trout

Expo Pond has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. Still fishing with PowerBait or worms will likely provide the best success. Fishing for bass, crappie, and other warmwater fish has been good. Expo Pond is located directly adjacent to the access road at gate 5.

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

Fish Lake is well stocked with legal-sized and larger trout, and fishing should be good. Chinook salmon and brook trout are also available. In addition, tiger trout have been stocked into the lake, but must be released unharmed if caught.

Fish Lake is 62 percent full. The Forest Service boat ramp and campground are open. The Fish Lake Resort restaurant, boat launch, and campground are open as well.

Anglers are encouraged to report catches of larger spring Chinook or tiger trout to the local ODFW district office at 541-826-8774.

**FLORAS LAKE:** rainbow, cutthroat trout

Warmer water and increased weed growth has slowed fishing. Anglers fishing early or late evening are faring the best. Always check the weather before heading out out, as it can be windy. The best method for catching trout is slow trolling flies or wedding ring spinners from a boat. Bank access is limited. Anglers can launch at an improved boat ramp at Boice Cope County Park.

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 RESERVOR:** rainbow trout, bass

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, and please remember to release the ones less than 8-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. Galesville has been stocked with approximately 8,000 rainbow trout since March.

Bass fishing should improve as water temperatures increase. 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, cutthroat

Weed growth is starting to pick up which is making it tougher fishing for bank anglers. This time of year boat anglers tend to do best fishing the deeper weed lines.
Access for bank anglers is best at the 12th Street boat ramp, Arizona Street, or along the foredune accessed through Tseriadun State Park. Garrison Lake is located in the middle of Port Orford.

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.

HEMLOCK LAKE & LAKE IN THE WOODS & Umpqua High Lakes: trout

Anglers fishing the high lakes in the Umpqua District are encouraged to e-mail fishing reports. Most of the Umpqua’s high lakes are off of roads that are not plowed during the winter, but the lack of snowfall may allow access earlier than normal. Contact the Forest Service at 541-496-3532 for road conditions. Hemlock Lake has been stocked with approximately 6,000 rainbow trout in 2015, and Lake in the Woods has been stocked with approximately 1,000 rainbow trout in 2015.

HOWARD PRAIRIE RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass

Trout fishing was good to very good for anglers in boats at Howard Prairie over the weekend. Several boats reported limits. Most of the trout averaged 11-12 inches, but trout to 18 inches were caught. Fish were being caught well into the afternoon around the dam and south of Buck Island on Monday.

Water clarity was a cloudy green color and visibility was low. Boaters trolling flashers appeared to have the best success. One angler trolled a red wedding ring behind a dodger and oval sinker, with a bit of nightcrawler, and caught a limit that included an 18 inch trout. Another angler caught a limit still fishing with powerbait. Bank anglers were catching trout with powerbait but in lower numbers than the boat anglers. Bass anglers also reported good success.

The resort boat ramp has just under 2 feet of water depth on the concrete. Once launched, there are shallow spots until boats get around the corner get out towards the tip of the marina jetty. While smaller boats can still do ok at the resort, larger boats are not advisable.

Anglers need to remember that even when the resort boat ramp is dry there is an old rocked road near the resort that will continue to provide access for small boats.

The Howard Prairie Resort and several campgrounds are open. The reservoir is only 37 percent full and water level is dropping. The marina area is dry, and boat rentals are not available.

HYATT LAKE: rainbow trout, largemouth bass

Hyatt Lake has been stocked with 5,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. Fishing has been fair for good-sized trout. Fishing for largemouth bass should be improving.

The lake is only 41 percent full and just a few inches lower than last week. The Mountain View Boat Ramp, on the southeast corner of the lake still extends into the water; however, the water at the toe of the ramp is very shallow, so it is not suitable for launching larger boats. The gravel ramp at Wildcat Campground is usable. Anglers fishing from the shore or wanting to launch small watercraft will find
adequate opportunities. The Bureau of Land Management campgrounds are now open for the season.

**ILLINOIS RIVER:** trout, steelhead

The Illinois River is open for trout fishing. Anglers will be able keep five adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout per day. Nonadipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be immediately released unharmed. The river is not stocked and very few steelhead will be present, so the river will primarily offer anglers the opportunity to catch and release cutthroat trout.

**Illinois River flows at Kerby**

**LAKE MARIE:** rainbow trout

The lake has been stocked with roughly 5,000 rainbow trout in 2015. Most anglers use PowerBait or worms.

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

Lake Selmac is stocked with trout and fishing should be good

Fishing for bass and other warmwater fish has been good. Look for fish in the shallow areas along the shore. Largemouth bass can be caught on a variety of lures. Many of the other species of warmwater fish can be caught by fishing with a worm under a bobber or by casting and retrieving small jigs.

**LEMOLO RESERVOIR:** brown trout, rainbow trout

Brown trout may be harvested as of April 25th. So far in 2015 the reservoir has been stocked with 5,000 rainbow trout. The Forest Service has opened Poole Creek Campground. Contact Lemolo Lake Resort at 541-957-8354 for conditions and additional information.

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

Loon Lake has been stocked with 7,500 trout in 2015. The lake also has good fishing for crappie, bluegill and bass during warmer months. Visit the BLM and Loon Lake Resort websites for information on opening dates and camping this summer.

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

Trout fishing is very good at Lost Creek Reservoir and fish remain spread out around the lake as of late May. Legal-sized trout are plentiful, but trout 15-18 trout are being caught as well. Some of these fish are holdovers, and some come from recent releases from Cole Rivers and Klamath hatcheries.

Bank anglers may want to try fishing bait or casting lures along the shoreline near the Takelma parking area. Boat anglers should do well trolling lures or attractors and bait. Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass should be improving as the fish move into shallower water. The reservoir is 90 percent full, and the surface temperature has jumped to 64° F.
**MEDCO POND:** rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill

Medco Pond is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. Trout fishing has been very good. Anglers are asked to check their trout this year for adipose fin clips, and report Medco trout catches back to ODFW at 541-826-8774. Fishing for largemouth bass and bluegill has been good as well.

**PACIFIC OCEAN AND BEACHES:** bottomfish, salmon, Dungeness crab, surf perch

The ocean is open for harvest of Dungeness crab.

Anglers continue to catch surf perch from the beaches near Winchester, Bandon and Coos Bay. The best fishing is usually on the incoming tide. Sand shrimp is one of the best baits to use when fishing for surf perch.

Recreational ocean salmon season from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. opened on March 15. The season is open for all salmon except coho salmon, with a bag limit of two salmon per day, and a minimum size for Chinook salmon at 24 inches or larger. Fishing has been difficult due to rough seas and there are few reports of fish being caught, but fishing should improve with conditions.

The next all-depth halibut open days will be May 28-30, June 11-13, and June 25-27. Halibut anglers this past weekend had great success with some fish weighing up to 70 pounds. The nearshore halibut season does not open until July 1.

Starting on April 1, fishing for bottom fish is restricted to inside the 30 fathom curve. Fishing for black rockfish has been good from Charleston to Bandon. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two). Anglers can only keep 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish. Retention of cabezon is not allowed Jan. 1 – June 30.

To help anglers identify common species and comply with the regulations, ODFW has produced several sheets of ID Tips for blue vs. black rockfish and for China, copper and quillback rockfish, as well as a handout titled “What Can I Keep, and How Many?”

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

In addition to trout fishing, the lake also has good bass fishing. Bass can be harvested from March 1 to Oct. 31 and are catch-and-release only from Nov. 1-Feb. 29. The reservoir has received about 4,500 trout since the beginning of March.

Some of the trout have had 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.

**REINHART POND:** trout, largemouth bass, bluegill

Reinhart Pond has been stocked with legal and larger-sized rainbow trout. Fishing for trout, bass, and bluegill has been very good.
**ROGUE RIVER**

**Rogue River, lower:** spring Chinook

Increased water temperatures this week will slow spring Chinook fishing.

**Rogue River, middle:** Chinook salmon, steelhead, trout

Spring Chinook are available, and last week’s freshets should bring more fish upstream. Only hatchery Chinook with clipped adipose fins may be retained at this time. In addition the river is open for trout fishing. Anglers can keep five adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout per day. Nonadipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be immediately released unharmed.

As of Monday, the flow at Grants Pass was 2,350 cfs and the water temperature was peaking at 62°F. Releases from Lost Creek are increasing by 200 cfs on Tuesday, and will likely increase again with some warmer weather forecast for later in the week. For those interested in checking conditions before getting on the river, the City of Grants Pass Water Division’s website offers information on NTU’s at Grants Pass as well as a link to a river camera.

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

Bank anglers are having success drifting bait or drift-bobbers. Boaters are catching fish by back-bouncing bait or back-trolling plugs. Anglers are reminded that only hatchery Chinook with clipped adipose fins may be retained. In addition the river is open for trout fishing, and fishing can be very good for trout on the upper river. Anglers can keep five adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout per day. Nonadipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and all cutthroat trout must be immediately released unharmed.

The flow at Gold Ray was 2,590 cfs and the water temperature was peaking at 62°F on Monday. The outflow from Lost Creek Reservoir was 2,000 cfs at 51°F. Releases from Lost Creek are increasing by 200 cfs on Tuesday, and will likely increase again with some warmer weather forecast for later in the week. As of May 20, a total 1,868 spring Chinook have been collected at Cole Rivers Hatchery, with 563 new Chinook collected last week.

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

Weekly trout releases in the mainstem of the Rogue above Lost Creek Reservoir are underway. Fishing should be very good. Anglers should note that two stocking sites have been dropped for this year: Foster Creek and Woodruff Creek at Abbott Campground. Hamaker Campground will not be stocked directly but will receive trout from a release upstream at Minnehaha Creek.

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

As of May 23rd, retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead is allowed in the Smith River mainstem from the mouth upstream to Spencer Creek and in the North Fork of the Smith River from the mouth upstream to Johnson Creek. The use of bait is allowed in tidewaters. Trout fishing on the Smith River and tributaries also opened on May 23rd, and anglers should pay close attention to catch and release, harvest,
and artificial fly use deadlines outlined in the regulation manual. Striped bass fishing will pick up as spring progresses. Sturgeon fishing is catch-and-release only.

**SODA SPRINGS RESERVOIR:** Closed to fishing.

**SPALDING POND:** rainbow trout

Spalding Pond is stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

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

Streams in the Tenmile Basin are open for trout fishing as of Saturday, May 23. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater. Anglers should have good success catching trout in the deeper pools and riffles using spinners or flies.

Tenmile Lakes is open all year for trout and anglers have been catching trout trolling wedding ring spinners tipped with a worm in the main part of Tenmile Lakes. Trolling for trout in the upper arms of the lakes has been a little slower.

Bass anglers have been catching several largemouth bass in Tenmile Lakes. Bass can be found this time of the year in shallow water near structure like logs or weed lines.

A few anglers have been catching yellow perch from the fishing dock at the County Boat Ramp. A worm or piece of cut bait fished near the bottom works well for catching yellow perch.

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

Fishing is open in Toketee year-round. The boat ramp is currently open but water levels remain low making it difficult to launch boats. For more information call the U.S. Forest Service at 541-498-2531.

**UMPQUA HIGH LAKES AND FOREBAYS:** trout

Access should be good with the limited snow received over the winter. Contact the Forest Service at 541-957-3200 for road and trail conditions. Clearwater Forebay 2 has been stocked with approximately 3,000 rainbow trout in 2015. Anglers fishing the high lakes in the Umpqua District are encouraged to e-mail fishing reports.

**UMPQUA RIVER, MAINSTEM:** steelhead, spring Chinook

The mainstem Umpqua is closed to wild steelhead harvest, but remains open year-round for adipose fin-clipped steelhead. This fishery is primarily catch-and-release since the number of hatchery fish is relatively low compared to the number of wild fish. Plunkers should have some success throughout the season following rain events that cause the steelhead to hug the shoreline. Spring Chinook fishing has slowed with the low water conditions making some boating access difficult. Catch and release trout fishing on the mainstem Umpqua opened May 23. Trout fishing in Umpqua tributaries also opened on May 23rd, with fishing restricted to the use of artificial flies and lures except for in tidewater areas where bait is allowed.
Please note the changes in regulations this year on page 40 of the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet. On the Main, anglers can harvest 2 wild spring Chinook per day and up to 5 wild springers from Feb. 1 – July 31. From Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, you can harvest 2 wild Chinook per day, and in combination with the other salmon/steelhead recorded on your salmon tag, up to 20 fish total. Fin-clipped hatchery fish can be recorded on a separate hatchery harvest tag that is available. There is no limit on the number of hatchery tags that can be purchased. Daily limits still apply.

Now that the water is warming up the opportunities for catching good numbers of shad and smallmouth bass are increasing. Shad fishing is usually productive through Father’s Day and smallmouth bass fishing using a variety of lures such as twister-tails and worms should be good throughout the summer months.

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, NORTH:** steelhead, spring Chinook

Summer steelhead should begin to return to the North Umpqua in the coming weeks. Most of the fish returning to the North are wild so the fishing is mostly catch-and-release. Remember all wild steelhead must be released unharmed. Trout fishing on portions of the mainstem North Umpqua and tributaries opened on May 23, and anglers should pay close attention to which sections and streams are open to catch and release, harvest, and artificial fly use outlined in the regulation manual.

Spring Chinook fishing has been spotty with some fish being caught around Rock Creek. Fishing should continue to improve especially with recent precipitation.

Note that from Oct. 1 through June 30, fishing in the fly water area is restricted to a single barbless artificial fly which can be dressed with conventional fly tying material. Per the new regulation on page 40 of the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet, from Feb. 1 – July 31, 2 wild Chinook per day can be harvested and up to 10 wild Chinook during this time frame in combination with wild Chinook harvested in the Main. Remember that from March 1 through July 31 the anti-snagging gear restrictions apply on the North from the Lone Rock boat ramp upstream to the fly area boundary above Rock Creek. The Mainstem from Soda Springs Dam, including Soda Springs Reservoir, up to Slide Creek Dam is closed year-round to fishing.

Rock Creek Hatchery and new RockEd facility will be closed to visitors from March 16 through June.

**North Umpqua River water levels at Winchester Dam**

**UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH:** steelhead

The mainstem South Umpqua upstream to Jackson Creek Bridge opened to fishing on May 23, with trout fishing being strictly catch and release. Catch and release trout fishing in South Umpqua tributaries below Jackson Creek Bridge also opened on May 23, with fishing restricted to the use of artificial flies and lures. Smallmouth bass fishing should be productive with warming water temperatures.
**WILLOW LAKE**: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, black crappie, brown bullhead

In addition to being well stocked with legal-sized trout, Willow Lake received 1,500 larger trout averaging one pound each last week from Cole Rivers Hatchery. Anglers can enjoy very good trout fishing right now with a catch that includes some very nice fish. Bank anglers should do well fishing bait, while boat anglers should catch fish by trolling with bait or lures or by still fishing with bait.

Fishing for bass and other warmwater species has been fair and should improve as the fish move into shallow water. Willow Lake is full. The campground and boat ramp are open.

**WINCHESTER BAY**: bottomfish, perch

Fishing for bottomfish in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful. Perch fishing has been productive in the bay, and it was reported that good size striped perch were being caught along the jetty. Crabbing has picking up with some limits reported.

**SOUTHWEST ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN: COUGAR, SPRING BEAR, SPRING TURKEY**

Spring bear and turkey hunting close May 31.

See the [turkey hunting forecast](#).

**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. 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** – The black bear population in Coos County is healthy. In general terms, the population is denser toward the coast. This does not mean the only good hunting is closer to the coast, though.

Hunters should look for forest openings that will attract bears such as clear cuts and slides where grass is growing. As bears become active in the spring they are most interested in eating green, vigorously growing grass. They are generally most active in early morning or late afternoon. Hunters will have the best success if they take their time glassing these areas meticulously. Once a bear is located spend time to verify it is not a sow with cubs before attempting to harvest the bear.

As the season progresses bear activity appears to be picking up. This is likely due to the fact that as the hunting season progresses the breeding season for bears gets closer and bears, especially male bears, become active. Hunters need to be
careful in deciding to harvest a bear and make sure that the bear they choose to take is not a sow with cubs.

**Turkey** season closes May 31. Late season turkey hunting can be productive. Many of the hens are incubating eggs on nests and toms will often quickly respond to calls from a hen that they think is still receptive. Most turkeys in Coos County are found near agricultural lands. Lands in the Coquille Valley near Myrtle Point, Coquille and Fairview are good places to look for turkeys.

**Coyote** – Numbers are strong throughout Coos County. Using predator calls to lure them in can be an effective method for harvesting coyotes. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Be sure to ask permission before hunting on private land.

**Cougar** hunting is 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.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

**GAME:**

**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** – Spring bear season ends on May 31st.

**Turkey** – Turkey season ends on May 31st.

**Coyote** - Numbers are strong throughout Douglas County. Using predator calls to lure them in can be an effective method for harvesting coyotes. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Be sure to ask permission before hunting on private land.

**JACKSON, JOSEPHINE, CURRY COUNTIES**

**TURKEY** - Season closes May 31. Hunters are finding plenty of young toms this year. After last year’s successful nesting season, we have an increase in turkey numbers allowing this season to be better than those of the past few years. Turkey flocks continue to be found in a wide variety of places in our counties. Plenty of public lands have turkey, often found in grassy/oak savannas on BLM lands and lower elevation timber/meadow lands of the Rogue National Forest, although most will be found on private land where permission will needed to be acquired before hunting. Turkeys will be feeding on green grasses and insects. Use locator calls before light or after dark to locate roosting trees; then set up in an area of their travel and begin calling as light approaches.

**BEAR** season is open and continues thru May 31. All spring bear tags are sold out. Typically spring bear hunting improves as the season goes along. Boars are usually first to show and sows show later. This is what usually occurs when we have a normal winter season. This year may be a bit different with very little winter and
warm sunny days. Bear activity may occur earlier. Bear number continue to be high. When bears are out they will be feeding in grassy openings. Focus on south facing hillsides in the early mornings and evenings. Good spots to check are skid roads and side roads that are untraveled with lots of grassy margins and bear sign.

Remember successful bear hunters need to checking in an unfrozen skull; otherwise tooth collection, measurement and tagging is difficult. Biologists recommend propping the bear’s mouth open with a stick after harvest; it makes for easier tooth collection and measuring. **Weyco permits for bear hunting information**

**Denman Wildlife Area:** Remember to [get your parking permit](#). Hunters get the permit free with their purchase of an annual hunting license. Display on car dash.

**Cougar** season is open statewide year-round or until zone quotas are met. Most cougar hunters’ success comes from predator calls.

**Western Gray Squirrel** is currently open for the part of the Rogue Unit south of Rogue River and S. Fork Rogue River and North of Hwy 140 where the season remains open year round with no bag limit. 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. Hunter can find coyotes around meadows and brush piles where mice and rabbits are found. Predator calls are very useful when used in conjunction to known prey base.

**SOUTHWEST ZONE WILDLIFE VIEWING**

**COOS COUNTY**

**Elk**

Due to green up of grass in Coos County elk are very visible right now. These animals move in to clear cuts and other forest openings to feed on the grass there. Those interested in seeing these animals should concentrate their search on south slopes.

Many bulls have shed their antlers. Now, they will start the process of regrowing antlers. By July, some will have a significant amount of their antlers visible. By mid-August most will have the majority of their antlers regrown.

**Marine Mammals**

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

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

Shorebirds found along the coast now are here for winter. In places fairly large numbers can be seen. Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge is probably the best place in Coos County to see these birds. The Bandon Marsh Unit is located immediately north of Bandon and is probably the best part of the refuge to visit for shore bird observation. Otherwise mud flats in Coos Bay, Winchester Bay (Douglas County) and the Coquille Bay are great places to check. Recently large flocks of shore birds have been seen on the Coos Bay North Spit beaches and other beaches in the area.

Waterfowl

Waterfowl abundance is high presently in Coos County. The birds in Coos County now are primarily here to spend the winter. The Coquille Valley is a great place to see dabbling ducks in large numbers. As many as 95% of the Pacific coast dabblers stopover in the Coquille Valley during the migration. A large number of them spend the winter there. For those interested in seeing large numbers of diving ducks Coos Bay in the vicinity of Cape Arago Hwy. and Clam Island, on the Coos Bay North Spit, are good places to look. Also, sea ducks like surf scoters are easy to find right now in all the coastal bays. 3/31/15

CURRY, JACKSON, JOSEPHINE COUNTIES

Curry County

For a great birding trail along the southern coast, visit Oregon Birding Trails

WHALE WATCHING is occurring along the coast through end of May with one migration heading south until February. This migration is occurring two miles off shore. March through May is their northern migration when they will be cruising closer to shore. Viewing points within Curry County from north to south are Battle Rock, Cape Sebastian, Cape Ferrelo, and Harris Beach State Park.

While in Curry County be on the lookout for seals along the port in Gold Beach, Osprey nesting all along the lower river (look for stick nests), and Osprey and occasional brown pelican fishing in the bay at Gold Beach.

Jackson and Josephine Counties

Check out Roxy Ann Peak trail as an area to view the Rogue Valley and the various wildlife found along the way. Roxy Ann Peak

LAKE SELMAC is a great place to see waterfowl, eagles, osprey and other lake shore birds. Directions from Grants Pass, take Hwy 199 west about 12 miles to lake turn off sign at Lakeshore Drive. Turn left, follow to lake.

LOST CREEK LAKE provides 30 miles of trails which includes portions of the Rogue River National Recreation Trail. Along the lake and riverbanks, a wide variety of wildlife and wild flowers can be observed. Deer may be seen early in the morning and late evenings along waterways. A brochure of the trail system can be picked up at federal land agency and visitor centers in the area.
**Killdeer**

A bird known by its shape and behavior as plover. They have a distinct double black band on their breast and a loud piercing call: *kill-dee* or *dee-dee-dee*. They are found in low to no vegetation areas such as lawns, golf courses, driveways, parking lots, and gravel-covered roofs, as well as pastures, fields, sandbars and mudflats.

They protect their nest by leading predators away by acting like they have a broken wing. Be aware of their nest which are often found in gravel driveways. Found throughout Oregon.

**Denman Wildlife Area**

Swallows have returned to Denman Wildlife Area to inhabit our song bird boxes, come watch them soar around and begin staking out their new home.

Many people are visiting the area for fishing opportunities where bass, blue gills and bull head cat fish are caught. School and scout groups are scheduling appointments where Area staff has provided presentations and tours of the area.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

**Bullock’s Oriole**

The Bullock’s (Northern) oriole has now arrived, and is commonly seen and heard around the Umpqua Valley. Look for their colorful orange and black bodies that are 8” long. The Bullock’s oriole is our only oriole in Western Oregon found nesting in woodlands, orchards, riparian areas and farmland in tall shade trees like cottonwood. Their diet is insects (spiders), snails and nectar. Remember if you have an oriole feeder that you can make your own oriole food, similar to hummingbirds, 4 parts water to 1 part sugar ratio but always make sure the sugar goes completely into solution before hanging up for use.

**Fish Passage**

Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook migrating upstream passing through Winchester dam fish ladder on the N. Umpqua River which is free and open to the public. To view the migrating Steelhead go to exit 129 on I-5, proceed southeast on 99 to the fish ladder on the north side of the river.

**Killdeer**

Most of the local shorebirds are nesting at this time. Shorebirds include oystercatchers, plovers, turnstones, sandpipers and phalaropes. One of the most common shorebirds and plovers in our area is the killdeer. The killdeer is a brown, white and black medium sized shore bird 10.5 inch long with two black neck bands and orange on the upper tail and lower back plus a long tail.

Killdeer are commonly seen in pastures, fields, meadows, airports and soccer fields often far from water emitting a *killdeer* call when startled. This migratory bird has variable nests but commonly makes an unlined depression nest in the gravel. Killdeer are famous for feigning injury near its nest to distract intruders.
Common Nighthawk

The first nighthawk’s have arrived from their wintering areas in South America. The nighthawk is a darkish colored bird 9.5 inch long with long pointed wings and white wing patches. Nighthawks are commonly observed flying high in the evening sky catching insects on the wing emitting a nasal peent call. This migratory bird is one of the last birds to migrate to North America for nesting. It can be seen and heard in Western Oregon from cities and towns to woodlands and forests.

Turtles and other reptiles

Western Pond Turtles can be seen on warm sunny days and afternoons at all local reservoirs plus Stewart Park Pond in Roseburg. Springtime is a good time to run across snakes and lizards since they are coming out of hibernation as the temperature warms up. Most all snakes are in Western Oregon are non-venomous with the only venomous snake being the Western Rattlesnake. Some common snakes in our area are Sharptail, Ringneck, Common King, Gopher and Garter (four species). The most common lizards in our area are Alligator Lizard (two species), Western Fence and Western Skink.

Stewart Park Wildlife Trail

The Stewart Park ponds and nature trail system next to Fred Meyer in Roseburg is a great place to enjoy numerous wildlife species. Ducks, geese, turtles, herons, pigeons, nutria, swallows, sparrows and swifts are some of the common wildlife seen in the area. The nature trail has many interpretative signs to read along the way besides great viewing opportunities in this unique wildlife mitigation area.

Deer

Fawns are being seen in our area so keep in mind that almost all fawns are not abandoned. Please do not pick up or move the fawns since the doe is probably foraging in the vicinity. Contact the local ODFW office or reference the ODFW website if you have fawn questions.
FISHING

Weekend fishing opportunities:

- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host a family fishing event at Mt. Hood on Saturday, May 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fishing gear and instruction will be provided by ODFW staff and volunteers.
- Youth Outdoor Day will be at EE Wilson Pond on Saturday May 30. While the fishing pond will be open to the public, hundreds of youth and their parents will be at the event and many will be at the pond.
- On May 30 there will be a fishing event for the local Boy Scouts at Timber Linn Pond. While the pond will be open to the public, there will be dozens of youth fishing in the pond between 8 a.m. and noon.
- As water becomes unseasonably warm in mid-Willamette Valley, trout stocking maybe canceled for some lakes and ponds in the district. Be sure to check the reports on individual lakes, ponds, and rivers for the latest stocking information.
- Chinook salmon have begun moving into the Clackamas River and Santiam rivers.
- Trout season opens at many western Oregon locations this weekend, including North Fork Reservoir, Estacada Lake, South Fork Yamhill and North Fork Santiam.
- Fishing for spring Chinook continues on the lower Willamette River.
- The following Willamette Valley ponds and lakes are scheduled to receive rainbow trout this week: Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, St. Louis Pond, Mt. Hood Pond, Breitenbush River, EE Wilson Pond, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River below Leaburh Dam, North Fork Santiam River.
- Catch-and-release sturgeon fishery continues to provide some steady action in the Willamette River, with the St. Johns area and Milwaukie offering the best chance for success.
- Anglers curious as to whether their favorite boat ramp is accessible in Willamette Basin Corps Reservoirs should consult the Army Corps Reservoir and river level information webpage.

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.
2015 trout stocking

The 2015 trout stocking schedules for the North Willamette Watershed (pdf) District and the South Willamette Watershed (pdf) District are now posted on the ODFW trout stocking page.

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 was recently stocked with 965 fish, including 150 larger trout. Fish are released at multiple locations along the length of the Canal, which will be stocked approximately every other week through May, at which time it will be stocked more frequently. The canal is located within Alton Baker Park and can be accessed off of Club Road in Eugene. 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. The Canal is open to angling all year.

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

Stocked recently 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.

BLUE LAKE: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, brown bullhead, black crappie, bluegill

Stocked the week of May 4 with 1,500 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 64-acre lake located in Blue Lake Park 3 miles west of Troutdale. This family-friendly park as picnic areas, restrooms, walking trail, and ramp for small boats. Park is maintained by Multnomah County.

BLUE RIVER: trout, steelhead

Blue River is located east of Eugene near the town of Blue River, north of Highway 126. Blue River upstream of the reservoir was recently stocked. Only the river upstream of the reservoir is stocked with trout during trout season. Wild and hatchery trout are available for harvest upstream of the Reservoir. All wild trout caught in Blue River downstream of the reservoir must be released unharmed.

BLUE RIVER RESERVOIR: trout, warmwater species

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. The reservoir was recently stocked. Only Saddle Dam boat ramp is accessible at current reservoir levels.

BREITENBUSH RIVER: trout

This fishery is currently open for trout. Trout are scheduled to be stocked (1800) the week of May 26. Holdover and resident trout can be found throughout the river. Anglers may keep up to 5 trout per day. Closed to salmon fishing.
CARMEN RESERVOIR: trout

Carmen Reservoir is accessed via FS Road 750 off Hwy 126, about 2 miles south of Clear Lake, and is open to fishing all year. Motor boats are prohibited on Carmen Reservoir. Carmen Reservoir was recently stocked with 3,000 rainbow trout.

CLACKAMAS RIVER: summer steelhead, spring Chinook

It should come as no surprise that Clackamas River flows remain low, making travel by sled tough, limiting anglers to drift boats or bank fishing. Fishing conditions are challenging and will hold this way for a few more days. Try fishing early or late in the day when the sun is off the water for increased chances of success. The low, clear water has led anglers to put little effort into fishing, however for those that do go fishing, catch has been slow to fair. A few summer steelhead are around while anglers are finding an occasional springer in the lower river. If you’re interested in catching steelhead concentrate below Barton Park. If spring Chinook are your target species concentrate your effort below Carver Park. Fish are acclimated near these locations. Of note is the hatchery at McIver Park has already seen about 300 spring Chinook show up in their trap, much earlier than normal.

Good bank access for can be found in many locations along the river from Gladstone, Cross Park, Riverside Park, along Clackamas River Road, Carver, Barton, and McIver parks. Clackamas River Drive closely follows the river below Carver Park, but be sure to not trespass on landowners properties. If you have a boat you can put in at Riverside Park, Carver Park, Barton Park, Feldheimer’s off Springwater Road, and at both lower and upper McIver Park ramps.

Tuesday, May 26 hydrological data shows river flows at 1,160 cfs, a gauge reading of 11.21 feet and the water temperature near 54°. All of the readings come from the Estacada gauge near McIver Park.

CLEAR LAKE: trout

Clear Lake is open to fishing all year and was recently stocked with 3,635 rainbow trout. In addition to seasonally stocked hatchery rainbow trout, naturally reproducing brook trout are also available. 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 Willamette River was last stocked for the season in mid-May. Fish are released from approximately Harrison Avenue Bridge to Bennett Creek Road. Both native and hatchery trout are available for harvest from April 25 through Oct. 31. Bait use is allowed during the same period.

COMMONWEALTH LAKE: trout, bass, bluegill, crappie

Stocked the week of May 11 with 3,000 legal-sized rainbow trout.
This is a three-acre lake within the Commonwelah Lake Park in Beaverton, the park is maintained by Tualatin Hills Park and Rec. Amenities include ADA accessible trail, picnic tables, playground and restrooms.

**COTTAGE GROVE POND (ROW RIVER NATURE PARK POND):** trout, warmwater species

Cottage Grove Pond in the Row River Nature Park was last stocked for the season in early April. Trout and warmwater fish will continue to be available to anglers. To access this family-friendly fishery, travel east from Cottage Grove on Row River Road. The pond is located behind the truck scales and may be accessed via an asphalt pathway. Only the pond with the dock is seasonally stocked with hatchery trout. This pond also offers wildlife viewing opportunities and is open to fishing all year.

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

Cottage Grove Reservoir was last stocked for the season in mid-April. The reservoir will be stocked again in October. The reservoir is south of Cottage Grove and is open to fishing all year. Wilson Creek and Lakeside Park boat ramps should be accessible at the current reservoir elevation.

**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 species

Garden Lake (Creswell Pond) was stocked for the last time this season in early April. Trout and warmwater fish should continue to be available, although aquatic vegetation can be a challenge for anglers. This family-friendly fishing pond is located in Garden Lake Park on the east side of I-5 in Creswell and is open to fishing all year. The pond and park offer additional wildlife viewing opportunities.

**DETROIT RESERVOIR:** trout, kokanee

This reservoir receives over 100,000 trout throughout the year. It will receive another 10,000 legal size rainbow trout this week. There are plenty of holdover trout from last year as well as kokanee, mostly in the 10-13 inch range. Currently the reservoir is about 60 feet below full pool. Only Mongold State Park boat ramp is available. Check with local outfitters in the town of Detroit for fishing conditions.
NOTICE: As of May 21, the health advisory issued on May 5, 2015 for Detroit Reservoir for blue green algae has been lifted. However, anyone using the reservoir should be cautious and avoid swallowing or inhaling water. Skin contact may cause a rash for those with skin sensitivities. Be particularly vigilant with dogs; drinking blue green algae can be fatal to dogs. Visit the OHA website for more information.

**DEXTER RESERVOIR:** trout

Dexter Reservoir was last stocked for the season in late April. It will be stocked again in late September. Boat and bank access is available from state and county parks. Parking and bank access are also available from the causeway near Lowell. The reservoir near Lowell is visible from Highway 58.

**DORENA RESERVOIR:** trout, warmwater

Dorena Reservoir was last stocked for the season in late April. It will be stocked again in mid-October. The reservoir is east of Cottage Grove on Row River Road and is open to fishing all year. Trout and warmwater fish are available. Both Baker Bay and Harms Park boat ramps are accessible at current reservoir levels.

**DORMAN POND:** trout

Stocked the week of April 27 with 2,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is an eight-acre pond west of Forest Grove at the junction of Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 6.

**EAGLE CREEK:** spring Chinook

Eagle Creek is low and clear, like just about every water body in the state. It's still a bit early but look for some spring Chinook to enter the creek in late May or early June if there's decent flow at the mouth, as fish return from acclimation releases of two years ago.

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.”

**EE WILSON POND:** warmwater, trout

Youth Outdoor Day will be at EE Wilson Pond on Saturday May 30. While the fishing pond will be open to the public, hundreds of youth and their parents will be at the event and many will be at the pond.

Dissolved oxygen levels are rebounding well after a windmill that will mix the water and provide more oxygen to the bottom has been installed. The pond will receive another 1650 legal-sized, 100 larger, and 25 trophy size rainbow trout. This pond is located at EE Wilson Wildlife Area, about a ¼ mile hike from the main parking lot. A valid wildlife area parking permit is required.
ESTACADA LAKE: trout

Stocked the week of May 25 with 1,500 legal-sized rainbow trout.

Estacada Lake is a 150-acre reservoir on the Clackamas River behind River Mill Dam. There is a boat ramp in Milo McIver State Park at the lower end of the reservoir. A fishing dock next to the boat ramp provides non-boating access to the lake.

FALL CREEK: trout

Fall Creek upstream of Fall Creek Reservoir (northeast of Lowell) was recently stocked with 1,750 rainbow trout. Fish are released at multiple locations on the stream upstream of the reservoir up to Gold Creek. Native trout are legal to harvest in Fall Creek upstream and downstream of the dam through October.

FALL CREEK RESERVOIR: trout

Fall Creek Reservoir is open to fishing all year, but boat access is limited due to low flows this spring. The North Shore boat ramp near the dam is unlocked from approximately 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and is currently the only accessible boat ramp.

FARADAY LAKE: trout

Stocked the week of May 25 with 3,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 25-acre reservoir located 1.1 miles southeast of Estacada on Hwy. 224 next to a PGE hydro plant.

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. This reservoir is just shy of full pool and all four boat ramps are available at this time.

For local information regarding the lake and available boat ramps, 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 April to June, 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 three seasonal boat ramps. It was last stocked the week of May 18 with 4,000 legal-size and 300 larger rainbow trout. Water released from Green Peter has filled up this reservoir to about 6 feet below full pool. All boat ramps are currently available.
Please remember that only kokanee and adipose fin-clipped trout may be kept and there are no limits on size or number of bass. 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.

**FREEWAY LAKE, EAST:** trout

It was last stocked May 5 with 700 legal and 50 larger-sized rainbow trout. This water-body actually consists of three interconnected ponds and features some good size bass and crappie. A boat ramp is available at East Freeway Lake, and there is good bank access around Middle Freeway Lake.

Fishing for warmwater gamefish such as bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish should be improving at Freeway Lakes as the water warms and the fish become more active.

**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 a good population of smallmouth bass. It was stocked again the first week of May with 6,000 legal-size rainbow trout.

Kokanee fishing has returned and with the warming temperatures the fish are becoming active. Most fish, including holdover trout, are being caught between 20-40 feet below the surface.

Smallmouth bass can be found near underwater structure and at drop-offs. The reservoir level is currently about 40 ft. below full pool – both Thistle Creek and Whitcomb Island boat ramps are currently available.

Water releases below the reservoir are being reduced to fill the reservoir more quickly. The lack of rain and snow pack, however, might not bring the reservoir to full pool by the beginning of summer.

**HALDEMAN POND:** trout

Stocked the week of May 4 with 2,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a stocked 2-acre pond on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area that offers good bank access. Ideal for kids. A parking permit is required while on the wildlife area. Permits are available from all ODFW license vendors.

**HARRIET LAKE**

Stocked the week of April 13 with 2,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 23-acre reservoir on the Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas River in the Mount Hood National Forest. Boat ramp is just past campground.

**HARTMAN POND:** trout

Stocked the week of May 4 with 1,750 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a year-round warmwater and spring trout fishing pond in the Columbia River Gorge. Excellent for non-boating anglers.
From I-84, take the Benson State Park exit. The pond is adjacent to the Columbia River adjoining Benson State Recreation Area.

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

Stocked the week of May 18 with 3,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. This is a 1,110-acre lake and premier fishery located 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.

**HILLS CREEK RESERVOIR:** trout, warmwater fish

This reservoir is located about four miles southeast of Oakridge and is open to year round angling. Hills Creek Reservoir was stocked in mid-April with 6,767 legal-sized rainbow trout. These legal-sized trout are in addition to the 60,000 adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout fingerlings and 100,000 adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook salmon fingerlings released annually to reach harvestable size the following year. Adipose fin-clipped fingerlings get to good size and fight well! Trout and salmon must be adipose-fin clipped to be harvested. Warmwater fish are also available for harvest. Large native trout are available for catch-and-release fishing.

Packard Creek and CT Beach boat ramps are accessible at current reservoir levels.

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

Hills Creek above Hills Creek Reservoir is no longer stocked, but native fish are available for harvest. Use of bait is allowed April 25 through Oct. 31.

**HUDDLESTON POND:** trout, bluegill

Stocked the week of May 11 with 1,200 legal-sized rainbow trout and 25 trophy trout. Huddleston 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

It will be stocked this week with 1650 legal, 100 larger sized, and 25 trophy rainbow trout. Junction City is a popular stocked trout fishing pond 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. A few large brood trout may still be available as well. As a reminder, zone regulations apply: five trout daily may be kept and only one over 20-inches.

**LEABURG LAKE:** trout

Leaburg Lake will be stocked this week with 1,450 trout, including 250 larger fish. Only adipose fin-clipped trout may be retained; all wild trout must be released.
unharmed. Leaburg Lake will be stocked weekly through July, and then every other week through Labor Day. This waterbody also benefits from upriver stockings. Use of bait is allowed during trout season (through October).

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

The McKenzie River below Leaburg Lake will be boat stocked this week from Leaburg Landing to Hendricks Bridge with a total of 6,010 hatchery trout, including 1,750 larger trout. All non-adipose fin-clipped trout must be released unharmed.

This river reach is open to retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches in length. A Columbia River Basin Endorsement is required for anglers targeting salmon and steelhead in the McKenzie.

Gear is restricted to flies and lures, except bait use is allowed upstream of Hendricks Bridge through the end of the year.

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

The McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake is stocked with hatchery trout from the Goodpasture Bridge boat landing upstream to Finn Rock (through mid-June) or Forest Glen boat landing near the town of Blue River (beginning in late June). The upper McKenzie River was recently boat stocked with 9,100 rainbow trout, including 2,250 larger trout. All non-adipose fin-clipped trout must be released unharmed.

The river is open to retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches in length up to Trail Bridge Dam. A Columbia River Basin Endorsement is required for anglers targeting salmon and steelhead in the McKenzie.

Bait use is allowed up to Forest Glen boat ramp, which coincides with the stocked portion of the river.

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

The Middle Fork Willamette River above Hills Creek Reservoir is open to catch-and-release fishing for trout through Oct. 31. This reach of river is no longer stocked, although there may be some adipose fin-clipped trout originating from the reservoir available for harvest in the lower river reach. Gear use is limited to flies and lures.

**MOLALLA RIVER:** winter steelhead, spring Chinook

The Molalla River is running very low and clear, making for some tougher fishing conditions. For increased success, try early and late in the day when the sun is off the water. Spring Chinook passage is still high at Willamette Falls so there should be springers in the Molalla. These fish would be returning adults from the 100,000 smolts released upstream at the Trout Creek acclimation site a couple years ago.

**MT HOOD POND:** trout, crappie, bluegill

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host a family fishing event at Mt. Hood Pond on Saturday, May 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fishing gear and instruction will be provided by ODFW staff and volunteers. The pond will be
This venue is open only to youths 17 and under and individuals with a valid Oregon Disabilities Fishing Permit.

This is a 5-acre pond on the campus of Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham. Angling is restricted to youths age 17 and under and holders of ODFW's Disabled Anglers permits from April 1 - Aug. 31.

**NORTH FORK RESERVOIR:** trout

Stocked the week of May 25 with 6,000 legal-sized rainbow trout; this is in addition to 10,000 trout that were released into the reservoir the previous week.

North Fork is a 350-acre reservoir of the Clackamas River behind North Fork Dam approximately 5.2 miles east of Estacada, Ore.

Fishermen are reminded that the boat ramp and marina at Promitory Park will be closed to all public access until the summer of 2016 while PGE constructs a surface collector to improve the downstream passage of native salmon and steelhead juveniles at North Fork Dam. All other access points to North Fork Reservoir are open, and ODFW will stock the lake with hatchery trout as in the past.

For more information about the closure, visit [PGE’s website](https://pge.com) (pdf)

**PROGRESS LAKE:** trout, brown bullhead

Stocked the week of April 27 with 1,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. 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. Boating and swimming are not allowed.

**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 is currently open. The river was last stocked the week of May 18 with 3,000 rainbow trout. 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.

**ROARING RIVER PARK POND:** trout

This is a small one acre pond in Roaring River County Park near ODFW’s Roaring River fish hatchery. To get there, drive highway 226 east out of Albany and turn right onto Fish Hatchery Road and continue for about 7 miles. Park is on the right. It was stocked again on May 5 with 160 legal and 20 larger-size rainbow trout. Due to deteriorating water quality conditions, Roaring River Pond will no longer be stocked in 2015.
**SALMON CREEK:** trout

Salmon Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork Willamette River east of Oakridge and is open to trout harvest through October. Salmon Creek was recently stocked at multiple locations up to the Black Creek Road bridge crossing with a total of 1,750 hatchery rainbow trout. Bait use is allowed through Oct. 31. Both native and hatchery trout are available for harvest.

**SALT CREEK:** trout

Salt Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork Willamette River east of Oakridge and is open to trout harvest through October. This stream is not stocked, but native trout are available for harvest and bait use is allowed during trout season (April 25 through Oct. 31).

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

The Sandy River flows are low and angler effort is light. Fresh summer steelhead should be in the river from Cedar Creek downstream. Best areas for hooking steelhead are near Cedar Creek, Dodge Park, and Revenue. There’s also been a few spring Chinook caught in the lower river. This fishery should begin to pick up in the near future. If spring Chinook are your target species, concentrate your efforts in the lower river below Dodge Park. Springers are acclimated near the mouth of the Bull Run River and dropping flows should cause fish to begin to hold below Dodge Park.

Hydrological data for the Sandy River on May 26 shows flows at 1,010 cfs, a gauge reading of 8.70 feet, and the water temperature at 52°.

**SANTIAM RIVER (NORTH FORK):** steelhead, Chinook

River conditions are very good at the moment and should remain so for the next week. Steelhead and Chinook are entering the basin in good numbers. Over 120 summer steelhead and 1800 hatchery spring Chinook have navigated Upper Bennett dam as of May 26. Best bets for these fish are in the lower river, from Green’s Bridge down to Jefferson, from Packsaddle to Fishermen’s Bend, and from Mehama down to Stayton.

More fish are on the way. Counts at Willamette Falls fish ladder show over 1200 summer steelhead, over 33,500 spring Chinook, and about 4,300 winter steelhead have passed into the upper Willamette as of May 11.

When the ‘bite’ is on, bobbers and jigs are the preferred angling method with spoons, spinners and egg clusters also being effective. Currently the entire river below Packsaddle Park (near the Minto Fish Facility) is open year-round to adipose fin-clipped steelhead. Trout fishing opens this Saturday May 23, 2015.

River levels best for fishing are below 3,000 cfs at the Mehama gauge (currently the Mehama gauge is around 1,400 cfs as of May 18. Current conditions

**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.
NEW CAUTION: There is a large tree across the entire river between Green’s Bridge and the confluence with the South Santiam above Jefferson making this stretch of river extremely hazardous for boaters. Oregon State Marine Board is aware of this and are working on removing it. Better sections for boaters are below Jefferson and from Stayton to Shelburn.

NOTE: The gate at Green’s Bridge near Jefferson has been opened and will remain open until the next seasonal closure in June 2015.

SANTIAM RIVER (NORTH FORK) above DETROIT:

This section of the river is currently open to trout fishing. The river will be stocked with 3000 trout the last week of May. Holdover and resident trout can be found throughout the river. Anglers may keep up to 5 trout per day.

Closed to salmon fishing.

SANTIAM RIVER (SOUTH FORK): steelhead, Chinook, bass

New summer steelhead and spring Chinook are arriving every day at Willamette Falls but it will take a few weeks before the majority of them arrive in the basin. Spring Chinook and a few summer steelhead are in the basin now and can be found throughout the river. So far, 122 summer steelhead and 1,700 spring Chinook have entered the trap below Foster as of May 26. Best sections to fish are from Wiley Creek to Pleasant Valley boat ramps, around Waterloo County Park, and from Lebanon down to the confluence with the North Santiam.

Opens to trout fishing May 23, 2015.

SHERIDAN POND: trout

The pond was stocked last week with 600 legal-sized rainbow trout and 300 larger-sized trout. Sheridan Pond is a 2 ½-acre pond located on the edge of town. An old mill pond, it has plenty of bank access, parking, and a restroom. To get there take Hwy. 18 to Exit 33 onto Balston Rd. Go south on Balston Rd. approximately half a mile and turn left onto a gravel road leading about a quarter mile to the pond.

SILVER CREEK RESERVOIR: trout, catfish

Stocked the week of May 18 with 2,600 legal- and larger-sized rainbow trout and 200 larger trout. This is a 65-acre reservoir on Silver Creek 2.5 miles south of Silverton on Hwy. 214.

SMITH RESERVOIR: trout

Smith Reservoir was recently stocked with 5,000 legal-sized rainbow trout. 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. Both native and hatchery trout are available for harvest.
**SOUTH FORK YAMHILL RIVER:** trout

Stocked the week of May 18 with 1,900 rainbow trout, including 400 half-pounders in preparation for the opening of trout season on Saturday, May 23. The South Fork Yamhill from its confluence with the North Yamhill near McMinnville, upstream about 20 miles to Rock Creek near Grand Ronde is stocked with 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 and provides adequate turnouts and parking at several locations near the river. 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

Stocked the week of May 25 with 500 legal-sized and 200 larger rainbow trout.

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.

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

This 4-acre pond is located 2 miles above the upper end of Foster Reservoir. It was last stocked the week of May 11 with 1,333 legal and 50 larger size rainbow trout. Sunnyside Pond also offers bluegill and largemouth bass year round. Fishing for bass and bluegill should be improving as the water warms and fish become more active.

The park has a campground and picnic area and is a great place to take kids fishing. There is also 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:** trout

Stocked the week of May 18 with 5,500 legal-sized rainbow trout. This stocking is in addition to an additional 5,500 the previous week.

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.

**TIMBER LINN POND:** rainbow trout

This beautiful, family-friendly fishing pond is located within the 8-acre Timber-Linn Memorial Park in Albany. It was last stocked the week of May 11 with 250 legal and 25 larger-size rainbow trout. Please keep in mind that only one fish over 20-inches may be taken per day. Timber-Linn Lake can be reached by turning east off I-5 onto
the Santiam Highway (Hwy. 20), then immediately turning north onto Price Road and proceeding to the park entrance.

On May 30 there will be a fishing event for the local Boy Scouts at Timber Linn Pond. While the pond will be open to the public, there will be dozens of youth fishing in the pond between 8 a.m. and noon.

**TRAIL BRIDGE RESERVOIR:** trout

Trail Bridge Reservoir is open to year-round fishing. 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. Trail Bridge Reservoir was stocked in mid-May with 3,085 trout.

**TRILLIUM LAKE:** trout

Stocked the week of May 11 with 4,500 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. Adjacent [Trillium Lake Campground](#) is administered by the Zigzag Ranger District of the [Mount Hood National Forest](#). The large campground features a seasonal boat ramp and wheelchair-accessible floating dock.

**TROJAN PONDS:** trout

This is a 15-acre pond just east of Rainier on the north side of Hwy. 30 at the Trojan nuclear facility. The pond is located on the right side of the road as soon as you turn onto the Trojan Access Road.

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

This pond was last stocked first week of May with 300 legal-size rainbow trout. As a reminder, zone regulations apply: five trout daily may be kept and only one may be over 20 inches. This is an 8-acre privately owned pond located in Salem at the northeast corner of McGilchrist and 16th Streets, S.E.

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

This popular Salem fishery was stocked again the first week of May with 1,700 legal and 150 larger size rainbow trout. As a reminder, only one fish over 20-inches may be kept. Walter Wirth is a 20-acre lake located within the City of Salem’s Cascades Gateway Park.

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

Waverly Pond is located in Albany and is regularly stocked in fall, winter and spring. It was last stocked the week of May 11 with 160 legal and 20 larger size rainbow trout. Please keep in mind that only one fish over 20-inches may be taken per day. From I-5 take exit 234 west towards Albany. The pond is located a quarter mile down Pacific Boulevard on the right. A paved ADA-accessible path runs all the way around the pond.
Fishing for warmwater gamefish such as bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish should be improving at Waverly Lake as the water warms and the fish become more active.

**WILLAMETTE RIVER:** sturgeon, spring Chinook, shad

Despite it being late May spring Chinook anglers continued to get into the fish in the lower Willamette last week as water conditions held steady and more fish entered the river heading upstream. The best catch rates checked by ODFW showed up in the lower Multnomah Channel and a few fish were hooked in the Oregon City area. Shad fishing in Gladstone and Oregon City has been good in recent days also.

Daily counts at the Willamette Falls fish ladder continue with the partial passage for winter steelhead through May 20th standing at over 4,400. The summer steelhead count sits at over 1,100 fish passing, while partial numbers through May 20th now sit at over 35,500 for spring Chinook having passed through the ladder.

For anglers interested in sturgeon fishing, the “catch-and-release” sturgeon fishery remains a decent bet for hooking into fish and finding steady action with the St. Johns area and Milwaukie offering the best chance for success.

Hydrological numbers for the Willamette on May 26 show flows low but steady at 8.920 cfs, a water temperature in Oregon City holding at 63°, and visibility good at 6.5 ft.

**WILLAMETTE ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN:** COUGAR, COYOTE, SPRING BEAR, SPRING TURKEY

Spring bear and turkey hunting close May 31.

See the [turkey hunting forecast](#).

**EVENT:**

**Free archery instruction**, EE Wilson Wildlife Area every third Saturday of the month. Volunteers from Oregon Bow Hunters will be on hand to teach beginners and intermediate level new archers. No RSVP or pre-registration required. Free but [parking permit required](#); for sale online or at license sales agent but not at wildlife area so get it before you visit.

[Basic Archery](#) class with Benton Bowman in Philomath, June 20. Learn the art of archery at a workshop designed for beginners. $52; registration required.

**Spring Turkey**

Spring Turkey season closes May 31 for those with a tag. Gobblers are actively strutting and gobbling this time of year. During the late portion of the seasons, hunters are advised to be more patient as gobblers have heard a variety of calls and may be cautious or slower to respond. Most turkey hunting in the Willamette Zone occurs on private lands. Hunters wishing to have the best chance for success should meet landowners and secure access to a place to hunt prior to the start of the season. If you didn’t secure access before the season you should work to secure
access early in the season. Hunters should use a jake and hen decoy in attempt to draw in a tom to within range. Hone your turkey calling skills by listening to the sounds of live wild turkeys. Turkeys are abundant in the foothills surrounding the Willamette Valley and hunting can be very good for the hunters that have access to private lands that hold turkeys.

Big Game

Spring **BEAR** season closes May 31 in NW Oregon for those with a controlled spring bear tag. Biologists report many successful hunters have recently brought in bears to be checked in. Majority of bears being checked in have been harvested in NE and SW Oregon. NW Oregon bear harvest has been low. Hunting should improve as the weather improves. Bears feed heavily on grasses and other plants in the early spring and hunters should concentrate their scouting around meadows, low elevation riparian zones, and open hillsides. Bears also feed on insects and grubs which they find in rotting logs and stumps. Look for freshly disturbed logs and stumps to determine if a bear is feeding in the area. Tracks, scat and other bear sign should be easily located in areas where bears are frequenting. Glassing clearcuts and other openings early in the morning can be another productive method to locate bears.

The bear rut begins to kick in during the later parts of the season and hunters may find boars trailing sows. Please review the 2015 Big Game Hunting Regulations before your hunting trip to ensure that you are familiar with all of the requirements.

Successful bear hunters will need to check-in any bear taken at an ODFW office within 10 days of harvest. 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 bear checked-in. Be sure to bring in the skull *(The skull must be unfrozen)* without the hide, a copy of the spring bear tag, and harvest location information. Biologists recommend propping the bear’s mouth open with a stick after harvest; it makes for easier tooth collection and measuring. Please review the 2015 Big Game Hunting Regulations before your hunting trip to ensure that you are familiar with all of the requirements.

The 2015 **Cougar** season is currently open in NW Oregon for those with a cougar tag. Opportunities to track cougars in the snow of the Cascade Mountains will be difficult due to the limited snowpack this winter. Hunters can use predator calls that mimic an animal in distress to draw cougar into the open. Hunters will have their best success calling cougars to them with predator calls that mimic a distressed deer fawn or elk calf. Approaching cougar can be difficult to see when you are predator calling so hunting with a partner is advised.

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.** Cougar hunters are reminded that it is required to submit the reproductive tract of any female cougar taken. The reproductive tract provides valuable information on the number and frequency of kittens born annually in Oregon and is a critical part of ODFW’s cougar population models. Pick up the Big Game Hunting Regulations before your hunting trip to ensure that you are familiar with all of the requirements.
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.

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.

BE PREPARED

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.

WILLAMETTE ZONE WILDLIFE VIEWING

Valleywide

The WESTERN MEADOWLARK was voted Oregon’s state bird by school children in 1927. Meadowlarks are found in grassland-type habitats where they sing from perches such as fence posts, shrubs, trees, or powerlines. Remnant grassland prairie habitats, pastures and even young Christmas tree plantations along the edge of the Willamette Valley are good places to find these birds. Listen for their liquid, melodious song. Western meadowlarks can be seen in fair numbers just north of the east end of Diamond Hill Rd. (Diamond hill road crosses I-5 at the Harrisburg exit). There are untilled pasture lands that still support the native Willamette Valley sunflower and our state bird that has such a beautiful and distinctive call. Although meadowlark populations are abundant in Eastern Oregon, they are declining in the valley because of loss of native prairie to farming and development. s their habitat shrinks nest predators like fox, skunk, raccoon and non-native opossum and house cats have an increasing impact on these grassland birds.

HARLEQUIN DUCKS are Oregon’s only “anadromous” duck. This seaduck winters in the churning rocky intertidal zone at the coast and then moves inland to breed on turbulent mountain streams that mimic the crashing waters of their coastal environment. This bird has adapted to a unique way of life geared to taking advantage of the abundance of food that occurs where water flows fast and frothy. Harlequin ducks can be viewed in the spring and early summer along the middle and upper McKenzie River at Cooks Rapid or Bear Creek Rapid and the Middle Fork Willamette River around the town of Oakridge. They can also be found on the North Santiam River from Mill City upstream to above Marion Forks.
NEWTS, a type of salamander common in the Pacific Northwest, may be observed in their migration from terrestrial environs such as rotten logs and moist soil to their breeding grounds in ponds, small lakes and the edges of streams. These small amphibians may be found if you are hiking in forests during or just after it rains.

GREAT BLUE HERONS have young in their nests at this time of year. The young are very vocal when the adults arrive with food. One of the most visible colonies in the area is in a large cottonwood tree along the bike path at the east end of Alton Baker Park in Springfield (east side of I-5, north side of the millrace). Herons are usually very sensitive to disturbance and in other areas several instances of nest abandonment are known to have occurred due to human disturbance. This colony is especially acclimated to and tolerant of people. To minimize disturbance to the birds, do not approach the base of the tree from the north side of the millrace. Another very visible colony is in a stand of large cottonwood trees next to a pond on the east side of Delta Hwy, just north of the Valley River Shopping Mall in Eugene.

Many animals have young in the nest or den at this time of year. Typically the adult is foraging for food nearby and will return. Please do not pick up young birds or mammals, as this can decrease their chance of survival.

Deer and elk

Elk and deer are beginning to have their fawns and calves. Cow elk and black-tailed deer do carefully select their birthing areas, which are usually in locations close to food, heavy cover for hiding, and water. Deer often give birth along the edge of openings. Elk typically have a single calf, with twins rare, while twins are more common with black-tailed deer. Young of both species are spotted for the first several months of their lives, and are virtually scentless when very young. They rely on hiding and remaining motionless to avoid discovery by predators or man. If you find one in the woods, please leave it alone. The mother is typically feeding nearby.

Snakes bask when the sun shines

Three species of garter snake occur in the Willamette Valley. They are the most commonly seen snakes. Much variability in coloration exists in garter snakes but the best identifying characteristic is a stripe down the middle of the snake's back. No other snake species in western Oregon has a stripe down the middle. A good place to see these harmless snakes is on gravel roads and trails through wetland areas. Wildlife areas in the Willamette Valley such as Fern Ridge, Finley, EE Wilson, Baskett Slough and Ankeny are all good areas to see these beautiful animals. Best viewing conditions are on warm sunny days.

Osprey and turkey vultures are on the move

Ospreys are now returning to northwest Oregon from their wintering grounds in Central America. Ospreys mate for life and are building nests, which can be observed on the tops of communication towers, power poles, and broken off trees. Turkey vultures are also on the move this time of year. Turkey vultures are migrating northward to their breeding grounds. Watch for these large birds on drier days riding the thermals and imagine what our world would look like (and smell like) if there were no turkey vultures to clean up all the dead critters!
Where to hear songbirds

Many of the migratory songbirds will begin returning to the area in the next few weeks. Good places to see these birds include Skinners Butte Park, Spencer Butte, Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, Howard Buford Park, Elijah Bristow Park, Brown and Minto Island Park, and Ankeny, Finley and Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuges.

EE Wilson Wildlife Area

Wildlife viewing will be improving over the next several months. A waterfowl blind is available to photographers. Call the office at 541-745-5334 to reserve the blind.

Directions to EE Wilson Wildlife Area: From Albany, take Highway 20 toward Corvallis and after 5 miles turn right on Independence Highway. Go 3 miles and turn left on Camp Adair Road, then proceed 2 miles to the wildlife area.

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

The East Coyote, West Coyote Fisher Butte and Royal Amazon units are now closed to public access six days a week to provide sanctuary for ducks, geese and other birds that are nesting in preparation for the upcoming migration. The closure will be in effect, except on designated trails, through April 30. These areas are open to public access on Saturdays.

Wintering concentrations of waterfowl can still be observed on the lake and surrounding mudflats and wetlands. Several thousand Canada geese use Fern Ridge Lake for an evening roost site and the sunset and sunrise departures and arrivals of the large flocks of geese provides an outstanding viewing opportunity. Observant visitors may also catch a glimpse of black tailed deer and furbearers including beaver, otter, mink, red fox and coyotes.

Royal Avenue and the trail to the Fisher Butte viewing platform remain open all day every day year round. There is a second elevated viewing platform in the Fisher Butte unit located 1/4 mile north of the Fisher Butte unit parking lot on Hwy 126.

The majority of Fern Ridge Wildlife Area is open daily for public use providing great wildlife viewing opportunities. Visitors are reminded there are seasonal access restrictions in place in five units during the fall and winter to provide wildlife sanctuary.

The entire Fern Ridge lake water area and surrounding mudflats remain open daily year-round. The mudflats surrounding the lake low winter pool can provide for excellent hiking on a sandbar type lake bottom that extends for miles. Dogs are allowed on the Wildlife Area but now that hunting season is closed must be leashed.

Parking areas are located along Highway 126, Nielson Road, Cantrell Road, Territorial Highway, and Clear Lake Road. Contact the wildlife area headquarters, (541) 935-2591 if you have any questions.
**Sauvie Island Wildlife Area**

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area is now open.

Bird watching is excellent with spring migrants and summer resident arriving. White pelicans are showing up in larger numbers, as are purple martins and cliff swallows. The bald eagles and osprey are nesting and may be viewed from various observation points. Northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, and American kestrel may still be seen on the wildlife area and other points on the island.

**The best opportunities for viewing are Coon Point, Eastside Viewing Platform and Rentenaar Road.**

Sauvie Island is a main stopping point for migratory birds as they travel along the Pacific Flyway, and ODFW actively manages the Wildlife Area to provide food and cover for these creatures.

**Sauvie Island Wildlife Area** is located on Sauvie Island, only 10 miles north of Portland off Highway 30. A parking permit is required for the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area and can be purchased at ODFW License vendors or at the Sauvie Island ODFW office, Monday through Friday during office hours. For more information, call (503) 621-3488.
FISHING

Weekend fishing opportunities

- Kokanee fishing has been good in Lake Billy Chinook.
- We’re getting reports of good fishing in Hosmer, East and Big Lava lakes, and Crane Prairie Reservoir.
- The following are scheduled to be stocked this week: Lake Simtustus, East, Paulina and Walton lakes, Shevlin Youth Fishing Pond and the Deschutes River from Benham Falls upstream to Wickiup Reservoir.
- In Prineville and Ochoco reservoirs, warmwater fish are getting more active as the weather warms up.

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: rainbow trout

The water is very dirty and fishing has been slow. Recent sampling showed many trout around 12 inches. Scent, flash and vibration will help the trout find your offering in the dirty water.

BEND PINE NURSERY: rainbow trout

Limit is 2 fish per day, 8-inch minimum length.

BIKINI POND: rainbow trout

The pond received an extra allocation of fish for a youth fishing event, and should provide excellent opportunity.

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

Anglers report good trout fishing. Trout daily catch limit may include one rainbow trout over 16 inches and one non fin-clipped (unmarked) rainbow trout. NOTE: Anglers who harvest one rainbow trout over 16 inches that is non fin-clipped have met both of these special regulations.
**CRESCENT LAKE:** rainbow trout, brown trout, lake trout and kokanee

Anglers report fair fishing for kokanee and good fishing for lake trout.

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

Fishing for trout and whitefish has been good. Anglers are reminded that trout over 20-inches are considered steelhead and must be released unharmed. Fish that are being released should not be removed from the water.

**Flows below Bowman Dam**

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

Lake is scheduled to be stocked this week with rainbow trout. No recent reports.

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

No recent reports. Restricted to fly-fishing only with barbless hooks. NOTE: ODFW biologist will be capturing largemouth bass from the lake at night over the next two weeks. These fish will be released in various waterbodies throughout the state to enhance those fisheries.

**DESHUTES RIVER, Mouth to the Pelton Regulating Dam:** summer steelhead, redband trout, whitefish

Anglers are reminded that steelhead fishing from the northern boundary of the Warms Springs Reservation upstream to Pelton Dam closed Dec. 31. Trout season re-opened on this stretch on April 25. Recent reports of early hatches of salmon and stoneflies, should pique angler interest.

Steelhead and trout angling is permitted year round from the Reservation boundary downstream to the Columbia River. No recent reports lately on trout fishing, but the lower Deschutes around Maupin should be good.

Anglers, who catch a tagged hatchery steelhead with an orange anchor tag, are encouraged to [report catch information](#) to ODFW at 541-296-4628. Anglers catching a tagged wild fish should release it immediately without recording any information.

Check the [trap the seasons catch at Sherars Falls](#) as an indicator of fish movement in the Lower Deschutes at river mile 43. The trap is only in operation from July to the end of October.

**Lake Billy Chinook to Benham Falls:** rainbow trout, brown trout

No recent reports. Fishing restricted to artificial flies and lures.

**Benham Falls upstream to Wickiup Reservoir:** rainbow trout, brown trout

This section of the Deschutes River opened to angling on May 23. Five trout per day, which may include 2 non fin-clipped rainbow trout. Scheduled to be stocked with rainbow trout this week.
**Wickiup Reservoir upstream to Crane Prairie:** rainbow trout, brown trout

This section of the Deschutes River opened to angling on May 23. Two trout per day, 8 inch minimum length.

**Crane Prairie Reservoir upstream to Little Lave Lake:** rainbow trout, brook trout

This section of the Deschutes River opened to angling on May 23. Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Five brook trout per day.

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

Anglers report good fishing for rainbow and brown trout.

**ELK LAKE:** brook trout, kokanee, cutthroat trout

Anglers report fair fishing for brook trout.

**FALL RIVER:** rainbow trout

River is scheduled to be stocked this week with rainbow trout. Downstream of the falls opened to angling on May 23. Restricted to fly-fishing only with barbless hooks.

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

No recent reports.

**HOOD RIVER:** summer steelhead, trout, spring Chinook

Spring Chinook are present throughout the Lower Hood River, with decent catch rates occurring in the last week. A few winter steelhead are still present, but their numbers are declining. Early summer steelhead are also available. Good numbers of winter steelhead should continue into late April.

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

Anglers report good fishing with large trout being caught.

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

Fishing has been good lately, especially for kokanee. Opportunities for bull trout are expected to be good this year. 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.

**LAKE SIMTUSTUS:** bull trout, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass

Fishing should be good for the recently released trout.
**Laurance Lake:** Rainbow trout, cutthroat trout

Opened to fishing April 25, 2015, it has been recently stocked and should provide excellent opportunities.

**Lava Lake (Big):** Rainbow trout

Angers report good fishing for rainbow trout with large fish being caught.

**Lava Lave (Small):** Rainbow trout, brook trout

No recent reports.

**Lost Lake:** Rainbow trout, brown trout

No recent report. The lake may be accessible due to lack of snow; however, the lake is scheduled to be stocked the week of May 11. For anglers who can make their way to the lake, there is opportunity to catch holdover fish from last year’s stocking.

**Metolius River:** Redband trout, bull trout

No recent reports. Metolius River upstream of Allingham Bridge opens on May 23. Special fishing regulations apply to the Metolius River. All tributaries except Abbot, Lake, and Spring Creeks closed to fishing.

Special regulations in effect for this section.

**North Twin Lake:** Rainbow trout

There is good bank access and fishing should be fair over the next few weeks.

**Ochoco Creek Upstream to Ochoco Dam:** Rainbow trout

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, black crappie, smallmouth bass

Fishing has been fair for trout that average 14 to 16 inches.

**Odell Creek:** Rainbow trout

Odell Creek opened to angling on May 23. Catch-and-release for trout.

**Odell Lake:** Kokanee, lake trout

No recent reports. Closed to fishing for bull trout and any incidental caught bull trout must be released unharmed. All tributaries to Odell Lake are closed to fishing.

**Paulina Lake:** Brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee

No recent reports.
**PINE HOLLOW RESERVOIR**: rainbow trout, largemouth bass

The reservoir has been stocked and good fishing has been reported.

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

Fishing for trout has been slow. Bass fishing has been good.

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

Trout fishing has been good.

**ROCK CREEK RESERVOIR**: rainbow trout

The reservoir has been stocked and should offer good fishing this spring.

**SHEVLIN YOUTH FISHING POND**: rainbow trout

Open to fishing all year. Limit is 2 trout per day, 8-inch minimum length. Fishing restricted to juvenile anglers 17-years-old and younger.

**SOUTH TWIN LAKE**: rainbow trout

Lake is scheduled to be stocked this week with rainbow trout. There is good bank access and fishing should be fair over the next few weeks.

**SUTTLE LAKE**: brown trout, kokanee

No recent reports.

**TAYLOR LAKE (Wasco County)**: rainbow trout, largemouth bass

The lake has been stocked and there should be a good opportunity to catch a limit of trout.

**THREE CREEK LAKE**: rainbow trout, brook trout

Anglers report fair fishing for brook trout.

**WALTON LAKE**: rainbow trout

Fishing has been excellent for the recently released trout and recent sampling showed good numbers of 13-inch holdover trout. As a reminder, the bag limit includes only one trout over 20 inches per day.

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

No recent reports. Special regulations apply for this waterbody.
CENTRAL ZONE HUNTING

OPEN: COUGAR, SPRING BEAR, SPRING TURKEY

Spring bear and turkey hunting close May 31.

See the [turkey hunting forecast](#).

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. 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

**Spring turkey** season closes May 31 Winter conditions were mild and turkey survival appears to have been good. Public hunting opportunities abound on the Ochoco National Forest in the Maury, Ochoco, and Grizzly WMUs. Consult with local land management agencies on travel management rules. Resource damage can occur this time of year with offroad travel due to moist soils.

**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** can 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.

THE DALLES DISTRICT

**Spring Bear – Controlled Spring Bear Open April 1st – May 31st** Spring weather arrived early this year, allowing bears to come out of hibernation early and in good shape. Hunters should focus on clear-cuts, meadows and grassy slopes where bears are feeding on fresh tender shoots of grasses and forbs. Good optics and patience glassing these areas are key to a successful hunt.

**White River Unit**- Bear numbers are good in the White River unit. Despite healthy bear numbers, success rates have been fairly low in the spring and hunters tend to have a tough time finding bears for this hunt. The edges of the major drainages, such as the White River, Badger and Tygh Creeks, should be good places to find bears in the eastern edge of the unit. Areas south of Mosier provide plenty of open areas in the northwestern portion of the unit.
Hood Unit - Bear densities are good in the Hood Unit. Focus on higher elevation areas with grassy slopes and good vantage points.

Turkey - General Spring Turkey Open April 15th - May 31st. Turkeys can be found throughout the White River Unit with many public land hunting opportunities. The dispersed turkeys can be difficult to locate during the season especially after pressured by other hunters. The key to a successful turkey hunt is good pre-season scouting. Identify where they roost, travel and feed and you will be more likely to bag one of these wary birds. The White River unit came in third overall in terms of turkey harvest last year, but remains a heavily-hunted unit with lower success rates per hunter. Be aware of other hunters in the area and take necessary safety precautions.

There are high numbers of coyotes in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties. 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.

Hunters wishing to pursue cougar will find best success near areas of deer and elk concentrations, or in canyons near bighorn sheep. Using predator calls throughout the year can be highly effective.

Hunters are required to check-in the unfrozen hide and skull, with proof of sex attached to an ODFW office within 10 days. Hunters are also required to provide the reproductive tract of harvested female cougars. See pg. 42 of the regulations for details. Don’t forget to pick up a 2015 tag.

WHITE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA

SPRING TURKEY opened April 15.

A parking permit is now required to use/park on the White River Wildlife Area along with other ODFW wildlife areas. Camping is allowed only in designated areas.

Eurasian Collared Doves are UNPROTECTED with no season or bag limit restrictions. Hunters only need a hunting license to harvest these birds. Often found in urban areas, make sure you are outside city limits when discharging a weapon.

Vehicle Access: New rules took affect 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 is all year or until zone mortality quotas have been met. Cougar can be found on White River Wildlife Area but are seldom seen. The annual migration of deer from higher in the Cascades will entice cougars to follow. Use weather to your advantage; look for tracks in snow, mud, and dirt. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.

There are many coyotes prowling about this year. Try calling for them from open fields, meadows, and pastures. The best areas to find them will be near farm grounds on the eastern boundary.
CENTRAL ZONE WILDLIFE VIEWING

CROOK COUNTY

The Ochoco National Forest in wintertime is a great place for fresh air, scenery and deciphering animal tracks. Bring your snowshoes and be prepared to encounter tracks of many shapes and sizes. Also, be prepared for severe winter weather and driving conditions. Red-tailed, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks, northern harriers, American 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. Northern goshawks can be located throughout the Ochoco National Forest.

Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Area

The Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Area offers walk-in access to view a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, coyotes, otter, beaver, raptors, shorebirds and waterfowl. The area is closed to motor vehicle access each winter until April 15. Maps of the wildlife area are available at the Prineville ODFW office, at Prineville Reservoir State Park office and the ODFW website. 12/29/14.

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Weather conditions in the high desert are unpredictable at this time of year. Night time temperatures can dip below freezing and it’s not unusual to experience the occasional snow squall during the day. However, nice days and warmer conditions are also on the menu, and that encourages reptiles to venture out from their rocky winter residence. A good way to tell if it’s warm enough for reptile activity is to touch the rocks. If they feel warm, you can expect to see lizards around rock piles and snakes around ponds and wetlands, where you are also likely to see small packets of Pacific tree frog eggs attached to vegetation below the water line.

Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoirs are good areas to see bald eagles, common loon, horned grebe, and tree swallows. Both bald and golden eagles can be seen at Smith Rock State Park in north east Deschutes County, and yellow-bellied marmots (a favorite food item for golden eagles) will be active on warm sunny days. Other good birding locations include Camp Polk Meadows, located a few miles north east of Sisters on Camp Polk Road, where a wide variety of birds can be seen this time of year. Visitors to the meadows are likely to see American kestrel, great horned owl, multiple warbler species, kingfisher, Virginia rail, Wilson’s snipe, California quail, hairy and downy woodpeckers, pygmy nuthatches, mourning doves and western bluebirds to name just a few.

Bird watching is not just limited to wild places, as residents and visitors to Bend can watch an osprey pair nesting adjacent to the Parkway that runs through the city. Other opportunities to view a diversity of bird species (and other wildlife) without leaving Bend can be found along the trails that follow the Deschutes River. And Vaux’s swifts can be seen flying over the former Bend library at 507 NW Wall St., and disappearing into the chimney at dusk.

Other wildlife viewing areas to consider include Tumalo Reservoir (west of Highway 20 between Sister and Bend), Pelton Dam wildlife overlook and Lake Simstustus (Deschutes River northwest of Madras), and Hatfield Lakes (just north of the Bend
airport), where you can expect to see Canada geese, American widgeon, green-winged teal, bufflehead, ring-necked ducks, northern shovelers, lesser scaup, common and Barrow’s goldeneye, multiple gull species, and various grebes including horned, eared, western, and Clark’s, along with deer, rabbits, and a variety of other mammals, reptiles and amphibians. 4/27/15

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 all times of the 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). California bighorn sheep can begin lambing in early April. Look near large cliff complexes for a single female, called a ewe, below rimrocks. Bighorns ewes will isolate themselves in these cliff complexes before and after they lamb to provide protection from predators. A single ewe with her lamb can be the hardest time of year to see, so bring good optics and have patience scanning these areas and you may witness a lamb nurse from its mother.

Many different raptor species can be seen in the Deschutes River Canyon this time of year including Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, Prairie Falcons, Peregrine Falcons and Golden Eagles. A large variety of songbird species can be viewed in riparian areas along the river. It is best to go birding in the early morning hours before it gets too hot for birds to be very active. Some common species seen include Bullock’s Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, Mourning Dove, Violet-green Swallow, and Cliff Swallow.

WHITE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA

The deer are starting their move back up to the summer ground most of the bucks have lost their horns by now and you may see a few that are starting grow their new antlers. They are starting to lose their winter coat and may look shaggy with patches of hair missing. This doesn’t always mean they are sick.

Elk are being seen around the Wildlife Area in groups of 50 to 60 animals and sometimes more than 100 animals. When the weather is cold or snowy they can occasionally be seen from the viewing site off Rock Creek Rd./Hwy 48. You will have to get up early in the morning just before daylight or later in the evening to see them. These elk are wild and do not normally stand around very long after they have been spotted.

It is also possible to see bald and golden eagles on the Wildlife Area. Other raptors such as red-tailed hawks and rough-legged hawks are common sights. American kestrels and northern harriers are also easily seen hunting for food.

Lewis’s woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers, flickers, western meadowlarks, Steller’s jays, scrub jays, gray jays, Townsend’s solitaire, horned larks, and robins are all at home on the Wildlife Area. There have also been lots of magpies spotted flying around this year.

Look on ponds, lakes and streams to see a variety of ducks and geese. 3/09/15.
FISHING

Weekend fishing opportunities

- The South Loop Road is open up to the South Steens Campground. This opens up a lot of fishing in the upper portions of the Blitzen.
- Lake of the Woods was stocked recently with trophy and legal rainbow trout and fishing will be excellent from shore and boat.
- The Upper Sycan River near Rock Creek campground offers excellent dry fly fishing for small redband and brook trout.
- Lofton and Holbrook reservoirs were stocked last week with legals and trophy sized fish in time for the weekend.
- Balm Creek Reservoirs has been stocked and fishing should be good.

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, hybrid bass

The reservoir is high and launching boats is possible. Hybrid bass are traditionally targeted using crank baits; however they can be caught in the reservoir using various methods including bait. Trout are averaging 12 to 14-inches and hybrid bass larger than 20-inches are not uncommon. The reservoir is scheduled to be stocked again the week of May 11 with 12 to 14-inch rainbow trout and fishing reports are good.

A new state record hybrid bass (white and striped bass cross) was caught in Ana Reservoir on Dec. 10. The fish was caught using a Rapala crankbait on 10 lb. test line and measured 31½ inches with a girth of 24 inches. The fish weighed 19 lbs. 12 oz. The potential new state record is 1 ½ inches longer and 1 lb. heavier than the previous record of 18 lbs. 9 oz. caught in 2009.

ANA RIVER: trout

Fishing should be good for rainbow trout in Ana River. The Ana River is spring fed and rainbow trout are active throughout the year. The river was sampled on June 5, 2014 to evaluate the current stocking strategy and size of trout in the river. We found smaller trout (8 to 10-inches) were dominant from the dam for about 2 miles downstream. Larger trout up to 14-inches are more common in areas where access
is more difficult. Anglers can access these trout by floating the river in a pontoon or float tube.

Caddis flies are the dominant invertebrate. Small blue winged olive (size 18) mayflies should be hatching. Ana River is a great match the hatch fly fishing river with good hatches throughout the spring. Hatches typically occur during the afternoon from 12-3 p.m. the best time. Small mayfly hatches are typically best on overcast days with light rain or snow.

Tui chub and pit roach are abundant in the river therefore casting large flies or lures can be effective for catching larger fish.

Ana River is a good TROUT 365 fishery – good trout fishing 365 days a year.

**ANNE CREEK:** brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout

Annie Creek opened Saturday, April 25 to fishing. Bait will be allowed in Annie Creek beginning this year. Fishing should be only fair for brook trout as fish density is low in Annie Creek. Flows are low and fishable for this time of year. A few brown trout also are available. Most fish caught are under 8 inches. Best access is at the USFS snowpark off Hwy 62.

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

Approximately 5,000 legal-sized rainbow trout have been stocked in Balm Creek Reservoir. Fishing should be good.

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

No recent fishing reports. The reservoir is currently at 53 percent of capacity and one boat ramp is useable based on the Bureau of Reclamation website. USBR crews have been tagging fish populations in the reservoir over the last several years. If you catch a tagged trout report it to the Hines office at 541-573-6582.

**BLITZEN RIVER:** redband trout

The Blitzen River has been flowing between 120 and 150 cfs with water temperatures around 11°C. The warmer temperatures have resulted in higher flows and this trend is expected to continue as we move into the summer. There is active spawning going on so please use caution when wading in the river and avoid gravel bars whenever possible. Redband trout redds will be visible in tailouts and other areas so please do not disturb these or the spawning fish.

Recent reports indicate that fishing around the Page Springs Campground has been productive and fish have been taking dry flies when a mid-day hatch is present. Anglers have also had some success swinging weighted streamers. Fish are being caught all the way up to the confluence with Fish Creek and there have been a lot fisherman hiking in the canyon above Page Springs.

The East Canal, Bridge Creek, mainstem Blitzen above Bridge Creek and the Little Blitzen River are open for catch-and-release fishing for trout. Anglers willing to hike/bike the 3 miles into Bridge Creek have reported good success near the lower canyon. The South Loop Road is open up to the South Steens Campground. This
opens up a lot of fishing in the upper portions of the Blitzen. All fishing is currently
restricted to catch-and-release and flies and artificial lures only. Please respect the
fishing regulations for the Blitzen and tributaries.

**BLUE LAKE:** hatchery rainbow trout

Blue Lake is likely inaccessible due to snow. Fishing is not recommended at this time.
Blue Lake is a fantastic high elevation lake located in the Gearhart Wilderness
between Bly and Lakeview. A three mile trail leads to the lake and is a 1-2 hour hike.

Fish were sampled by net and hook and line sampling in the summer of 2014.
Rainbow trout ranged from 6 to 17-inches and were in healthy condition. The trout at
this lake see little pressure and are easy to catch using flies, lures or bait.

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

The reservoir is at 40 percent of capacity and the boat ramp is useable based on the
Bureau of Reclamation website. No recent fishing reports.

**BURNS POND:** trout, bass

Fishing has been good for legal-sized rainbow trout. The pond was stocked with
legal-sized rainbow trout the week of April 20 and anglers have been catching these
fish and some holdovers from last year.

The pond is about three-quarters full and should continue to fill up as the spring
progresses and irrigation season continues. Fishing should continue to be good
throughout the spring and summer.

**BURNT RIVER:** rainbow trout

Opened to fishing April 25, 2015.

**CALAHAN CREEK (LONG CREEK-SYCAN AREA):** brook trout and redband trout

Calahan Creek opened to fishing Saturday, April 25. The fishing regulation has
changed from flies and lures only to bait allowed. Fishing should be good for small
brook trout, most are less than 10-inches. Flows are low and fishable.

The lowermost 400-00 road crossing offers the best fishing. Please respect private
property as most of Calahan Creek occurs on Green Diamond Lumber Company.
Green Diamond currently allows public access to fishing and hunting.

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

The lake is a popular high mountain trout lake in the Fremont National Forest,
approximately 34 miles northwest of Lakeview, as the crow flies. Small boats with
trailers can be launched, however motors are restricted to electric only.

Rainbow trout fishing from shore is good. You can also fish Deadhorse Lake, one
mile to the west, while you are in the area. First stocking occurs in June, check the
2015 Lakeview Stocking Schedule online for details.
**CAMPBELL RESERVOIR**: redband trout, largemouth bass, crappie

The reservoir is just outside of Bly on the road to Dairy Creek. Deming Creek irrigation ditch feeds the reservoir. Campbell Reservoir should be fair for redband trout. Fishing for crappie should improve with warming weather.

**CHEWAUCAN RIVER**: redband trout

The river downstream and upstream of Paisley is now open, however the use of bait is PROHIBITED upstream of Hwy 31 at Paisley. Flows are high from the recent storms making waters murky and fishing poor. As water levels drop fishing should get better, reports were good before waters increased.

**CHICKAHOMINY RESERVOIR**: trout

No recent fishing reports but fishing is expected to be slow. The reservoir is low but the boat ramp may be useable. The bottom portion of the boat ramp is submerged in water but use caution when launching here during low water as unforeseen obstacles may be present. The reservoir may be murky following recent high winds in the area.

Due to poor habitat conditions in Chickahominy Reservoir over the last year and projected poor conditions this year, ODFW will not be stocking the reservoir. If conditions improve, then the stocking program in this reservoir will be reinstated.

**CORRAL CREEK (SF Sprague)**: brook trout and brown trout

Corral Creek is a tributary to upper SF Sprague River on Fremont National Forest. Corral Creek opened to fishing Saturday, April 25. The fishing regulation has changed from flies and lures only to bait allowed. Fishing should be good for small brook trout. Corral Creek campground and Gearhart Wilderness trails are nearby.

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

Fishing should be good from the shore. Flies and lures that mimic fat head minnows are productive. Fish are also feeding heavily on small, black midges this time of year.

**COTTONWOOD RESERVOIR (Lake County)**: native redband trout

No recent fishing reports. Redband trout exceeding five pounds are available. Fishing is typically slow but casting lures or flies that mimic fat minnows can be productive. Cast lures or flies to the shoreline.

**COTTONWOOD RESERVOIR (Lake County)**: native redband trout

No recent fishing reports. The reservoir is accessible and ice-free. Redband trout exceeding five pounds are available. Fishing is typically slow but casting lures or flies that mimic fat minnows can be productive. Cast lures or flies to the shoreline. Many redband trout are currently spawning in Cottonwood Creek and tributaries.

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

No recent fishing reports. The upper lake is full and the lower one is dry. As of 2013, the lakes will no longer be stocked with rainbow trout due to poor habitat quality.
**DEADHORSE LAKE:** rainbow trout

The lake is a popular high alpine trout lake in the Fremont National Forest, overlooking the wild and scenic section of the Sycan River. Small boats with trailers can be launched, however motors are restricted to electric only.

Rainbow trout fishing from shore is good. You can also fish Campbell Lake while you are in the area. First stocking occurs in June, check the 2015 Lakeview Stocking Schedule online for details.

**DELINTMENT LAKE:** trout

No recent fishing reports but Delintment Lake is generally a good place to catch holdover trout in the spring.

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

Deming Creek now opens to fishing on April 25, 2015. Previously Deming Creek was open the fourth Saturday in May. Most redband trout are less than 8-inches. Fishing for bull trout is closed. Flies and lures only; no bait is allowed to protect unique redband trout and bull trout.

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

No recent report but the reservoir is ice free.

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

There have been reports of good largemouth fishing, and with warming weather it should only get better. Fishing should continue to improve for warmwater fish such as crappie, largemouth bass and brown bullhead with increasing water temperatures.

**DUNCAN RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

Duncan Reservoir is scheduled to be stocked with rainbow trout next week prior to Oregon’s Free Fishing Weekend. No recent reports but water level is up to the boat ramp.

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

The North Loop Road is open up to Jackman Park and this allows access to Fish Lake. The lake has been inaccessible over the winter so anglers may find some nice holdover rainbow and brook trout. Spring is generally a good time to catch brook trout in Fish Lake.

**FOURMILE CREEK (tributary to Agency Lake):** brook, brown, and redband trout.

Open to fishing all year. Fourmile Creek off Westside road just north of Cherry Creek is open all year with bait allowed. Fishing should be good for brook trout. A few large brown trout occur in the stream.
Access is available off Westside Road at Fourmile Springs. A small car topper boat or canoe can improve fishing access at this area.

Anglers should be aware of private property around this area and can check Klamath County Land Ownership for information.

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

Fourmile Lake will be stocked this week with trophy and legal rainbow trout. These rainbow trout were going to be stocked in Holbrook Reservoir. Holbrook is expected to be very low this summer and may possibly go dry. The road into Fourmile is no longer blocked by snow but is very rough in spots. Anglers can call Lake of the Woods Resort for more information. The lake is 50 percent full and launching boats is possible. Fishing should be good from bank and boat.

*Fourmile Lake levels.*

Fishing is best in early morning and late evening when the lake has less wind. A few nice brook trout and lake trout have been caught so far this year. There is campground at the Lake.

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

No recent report. The lake is only 17 percent full, which makes launching boats challenging if possible. Fishing is likely slow. However, crappie should be moving into the shallows to spawn and fishing can be good if concentrations of crappie can be found.

**HAINES POND:** rainbow

The pond was stocked with rainbow trout the first week of April. This pond will not be stocked again until fall.

**HEART LAKE:** rainbow trout, kokanee

Stocking was delayed due to muddy conditions but will be stocked when conditions permit, fishing should be fair for rainbow trout. No recent reports.

**HOLBROOK RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

Holbrook was stocked last week with 1,200 legals and 400 trophy sized rainbow trout. Take advantage of this popular fishing area while the water is there, future stocking may be cancelled if water levels and temperatures become unsatisfactory.

Check the *stocking schedule online* for details.

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

The pond was stocked with rainbow trout the second full week of April.
**JACKSON CREEK (UPPER WILLIAMSON RIVER):** brook trout

Jackson Creek opened April 25 with the use of bait allowed. A primitive USFS campground exists on the creek. Fishing should be good for small brook trout. Flows are low.

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

Fishing is very good for warmwater fish such as crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish and brown bullhead catfish with water temperatures increasing. Water temperature is currently peaking at 61 degrees. The reservoir is turbid therefore anglers should try lures with high visibility and scent. Boats can be launched in several locations in the reservoir. Unimproved ramps occur just north and south of the Highway 66 bridge crossing. No fees are required to launch at these locations.

Try the bay just south of the BLM campground for crappie and pumpkinseed. Also try the rocky areas near and under the bridge. Goldfish dominate the fish assemblage in the reservoir. Anglers should mimic the goldfish with bronze or copper lures or plugs to catch largemouth bass in the reservoir.

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

Fishing continues to be good as turbidity has decreased and water temperature continues to increase. Unsettled weather might slow fishing early in the week but success should improve later in the week. Fishing is best from boat (trolling spoon or plugs) but bank anglers are also catching fish using dead minnows or worms. Fishing is generally slow with catch rates averaging 7 hours per redband from boat and 30 hours per redband from the shore but the fish captured are large. The lake is 0.9 feet below full pool. Water temperature has increased and is peaking around 60 degrees. Fishing success should improve with improving weather. Klamath Lake is managed for true trophy trout. Redband trout average 21-inches and around four pounds in the fishery.

Redband trout to be released should not be removed from the water; revive by cradling and moving fish back and forth through the water to pump water over the gills. If redband swallow your lure or bait, cut the line. ODFW also encourages use of single, barbless hooks if fish are going to be released. It is unlawful to continue to fish for the same type of fish after taking and retaining a catch or possession limit.

Upper Klamath Lake is a good **TROUT 365** fishery – good trout fishing 365 days a year.

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

**Keno Dam to J.C Boyle Reservoir**

The section from Keno Dam to J.C. Boyle Reservoir is open to fishing. Fishing is improving and should peak in the next few weeks. Mayfly and caddis hatches are prolific. The current flow is 742 cfs. Water temperatures are averaging around 60 degrees. Flows are good for a successful fishing outing.
The Klamath River is a rugged river with extremely difficult wading. The river is also always turbid. ODFW recommends wearing studded wading shoes, wading belt, and polarized glasses to observe boulders. Fish can also be landed easier with a landing net in the fast pocket water.

Numerous redband trout ranging from 12 to 16-inches occur in this reach with a very good chance of catching redband trout in the 18-20 in size class. Larger fish are feeding on minnows as fat head minnows and sculpin are abundant. Caddis pupae and mayfly nymph patterns also work well. The reach is also full of leeches, crayfish and damselflies. Fishing remains open throughout the fall and winter.

**J.C. Boyle Dam to J.C Boyle Powerhouse**

The Klamath River between JC Boyle Dam to JC Boyle Powerhouse offers good spinner fishing. Fly fishing should be good as well with stonefly and mayfly nymphs working well. Most fish in this section are small and average 10 inches. Below the springs this section remains near a constant 360 cfs of flow and water temperatures are much warmer in this section. Fishing is best below the spring inputs.

The springs start to discharge into the river approximately 1 mile below J.C. Boyle Dam. This section of river requires a hike down steep grade to the river with the exception of the area just above the powerhouse. This is your best bet for fishing in the Klamath Basin due to fishable flows. Look for giant salmonfly beginning to hatch.

**J.C. Boyle Powerhouse to State Line with California**

Below the JC Boyle powerhouse the fish get slightly larger than the aforementioned reaches and average 12 inches but rarely exceed sixteen inches.

River flows in this section are typically quite high during the day. If flow levels are 900 cfs or lower the river is fishable. Dead drifting rubber legged stonefly patterns and/or bead head pheasant tails can be good. Most fish are in the 6 to 8-inch range but numerous 12 inch fish can be caught with 16 inches the maximum.

Flows below the powerhouse will typically be high during all daylight hours. Flow release estimates have been discontinued until next spring. Check out the USGS website for flow information. Fishing will be slow due to high flows.

Klamath River is a good trout 365 fishery – good trout fishing 365 days a year.

**KRUMBO RESERVOIR:** trout, bass

A recent change in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge policy has allowed year-round fishing at this reservoir. However, no ice-fishing is allowed.

Anglers have reported moderate success for rainbow trout up to 19-inches this spring. Krumbo was stocked with legal-sized trout during the week of April 6 and again during the week of April 20, 2015.
**LAKE OF THE WOODS:** hatchery rainbow trout, kokanee, hatchery brown trout, yellow perch, brown bullhead, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, crappie, tui chub

Fishing will be excellent for hatchery rainbow trout as the lake was stocked with legals and trophy rainbow trout last week. The next time the lake will be stocked is just before Memorial Day weekend. A few kokanee can also be caught while fishing for trout.

Fishing is fair for yellow perch. Yellow perch can also be caught using small bait. Fishing for brown bullhead should also be fair. A few large holdover rainbow trout are being captured. Trophy brown trout are available. The lake will be stocked again with trophy and legal rainbow trout the week of May 8.

Take an active role in the management of Oregon fisheries! ODFW continues to release rainbow trout with bright orange tags near the dorsal fins throughout the year beginning next week to evaluate, harvest, survival, and growth, but we need your help. If you catch a tagged fish, please report it ODFW. Some tags include rewards of up to $50, and fish can be kept or released. If you release a fish, please write down the tag number and release the fish with the tag intact. **If the tag includes a reward, the tag must be removed from the fish and returned to ODFW to receive the reward.** Anglers should report and return tags to ODFW Klamath Falls Field Office at 1850 Miller Island Road West Klamath Falls, OR 97603. Phone number is (541) 883-5732. Anglers can also report tagged fish online. Reporting forms will also be available at Lake of the Woods Resort and Store. One angler has already returned a tag worth $50 from two weeks ago.

Lake of the Woods resort opened May 1. Call [Lake of the Woods Resort](#) for recent reports Toll Free at 866-201-4194.

**LOFTON RESERVOIR:** rainbow trout

Lofton Reservoir was stocked with 3000 legal and 600 trophy-sized rainbow trout last week, in time for the holiday weekend. Fishing reports were good.

**LONG CREEK (Sycan River):** brook trout, redband trout, bull trout

Long Creek opened to fishing on April 25. Fishing should be good for brook trout and redband trout in lower Long Creek.

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

Lost River is open to fishing all year. Public access is available at Crystal Springs day use area. Anglers can fish from the specifically designed bridge for fishing at this location. Currently, your best option on the Lost River is to fish for brown bullhead. Brown bullhead can be caught by fishing baits near the bottom. Boats can be launched from an improved boat ramp at Crystal Springs. Fishing should be good for largemouth bass if you can find them. Sacramento perch have been captured below Horseshoe Dam. This is one of the only locations in the state to capture this fish.

**MALHEUR RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

No recent fishing reports but the reservoir is expected to be low and fishing should continue to be very slow.
MALHEUR RIVER (Warm Springs Reservoir downstream to South Fork Malheur River): redband trout and hatchery rainbow trout

Water releases from Warm Springs Reservoir have been around 379 cfs as of May 12. Fishing is expected to be poor but may pick up with increased spring flows.

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

No recent fishing reports.

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

No recent fishing reports.

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

No recent fishing reports.

MANN LAKE: cutthroat trout

Anglers have reported slow fishing on Mann Lake recently with fish occasionally taking nymphs and spinners. Most fish are around 18-inches long, with some trout over 20-inches being caught. Recent high winds may have mixed the lake, resulting in murky colored water.

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

The lake is accessible. Trophy brown trout are available but fishing is typically slow. Anglers can call the Chemult Ranger District of the USFS (541-365-7001) for more information.

The 12 mile gravel road into Miller Lake is in horrible condition with numerous washboards.

MUD LAKE: hatchery rainbow trout

The reservoir is dry.

MURRAY RESERVOIR: trout

The reservoir is low for this time of year.

The reservoir was stocked with rainbow trout the third week of April.

NORTH POWDER POND: rainbow trout

The pond was stocked with rainbow trout the first full week of April.

OVERTON RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Fishing for rainbows is good, reports of 10-inch plus fish.
**OWYHEE RESERVOIR**: largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, catfish

Reports from early spring indicate that some smallmouth and largemouth bass have already been caught in the reservoir in water depths less than 20 feet, but overall, fishing has been slow.

The reservoir is at 24 percent of capacity and two boat ramps are useable based on the Bureau of Reclamation page. The county boat ramp will be closed indefinitely due to low water levels creating unsafe conditions. Users are asked to launch at the Indian Creek Boat Ramp, located 5 miles south of the county boat ramp.

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

Water releases below the dam have been around 125 cfs as of May 12. Fishing has been fair to slow depending on the time of day and location. Fish over 20-inches have been caught recently.

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

No recent fishing reports, but fishing is expected to be slow.

**PAIUTE RESERVOIR**: hatchery rainbow trout and Lahontan cutthroat

The reservoir is nearly dry.

**PHILLIPS RESERVOIR**: trout, perch

Reservoir storage is at 42 percent of capacity and declining. The reservoir has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

Anglers are reminded that tiger muskie are restricted to catch-and-release only. No harvest or removal from the reservoir is allowed. Please notify ODFW at 541-963-2138 if you catch a tiger muskie.

**PILCHER RESERVOIR**: trout

The reservoir opened to fishing April 25. This reservoir consistently provides some of the best spring reservoir rainbow trout fishing in the area. The rainbows typically range in size from 10 to 16-inches.

**POISON CREEK RESERVOIR**: hatchery rainbow trout

Recent reports indicate that fishing is slow but that some 14-inch holdovers have been caught. Poison Creek Reservoir was stocked with 250 trophy-sized trout the week of May 4 so bigger fish are available to anglers.

The limit is 2 per day; please respect the fishing regulations for the reservoir.

**POLE CREEK RESERVOIR**: hatchery rainbow trout

Recent reports indicate that fishing is slow but that some trout around 12-inches have been caught.
**PRIDAY RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

The reservoir is dry. This is great news as several illegally introduced species occurred in the reservoir and have now perished. This very productive reservoir will be stocked again once water returns -- likely in 2016.

**SAND AND SCOTT CREEKS:** brook trout and brown trout

Sand and Scott Creeks are very small spring fed streams west of Hwy 97 near the Silver Lake highway junction. Fishing on these small streams is open year-round with bait allowed. Most fish are less than 8-inches long.

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

Sevenmile Creek opened to fishing Saturday, April 25. Sevenmile Creek above Nicholson road will be open to the use of bait beginning this year. Fishing will be good for brook trout as flows are low. Fishing is best above the irrigation diversion above Nicholson Road.

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

Access is available to some lakes of lower elevation.

**SHERLOCK GULCH RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

The reservoir is currently low and very muddy. There have been no fishing reports.

**SPHAULDING RESERVOIR:** hatchery rainbow trout

The reservoir is dry.

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

Closed to fishing until May 23, 2015. Large numbers of redband trout continue to spawn on Spring Creek at Collier State Park and make for great fish watching. Number of spawning redband trout is around 100 and still can be observed on redds.

Check out the [Herald and News story and video](#).

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

The entire Sprague River opened to fishing on April 25. Fishing is slow in most of the Sprague River. The best places to fish are near Beatty. Launching a boat at the public access area just upstream of Beatty near the large power lines is your best bet to access good fishing areas.

Largemouth bass and yellow perch are most abundant in the river downstream of Lone Pine.

Endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers continue to spawn in the lower river. Please do not harass or fish for these species.
NORTH FORK SPRAGUE RIVER AND ALL TRIBUTARIES: brook trout, redband trout, brown trout, bull trout

The North Fork Sprague opened to fishing Saturday, April 25. Fishing was slow in most areas on opening day. The North Fork Sprague above the 3372 road will be open for bait beginning this year. This section of the river is dominated with small brook trout.

Fishing is fair near the meadow areas of Sandhill Crossing and Lee Thomas Crossing. Fishing will be slow in the higher gradient section of the canyon above the first 3411 road crossing. There is camping at Lee Thomas and Sandhill Crossing.

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

Fishing opened last Saturday, April 25. Fishing was very slow due to low fish density near day use park near Bly. Fishing for brook and brown trout improves greatly near the confluence of Camp Creek off the FS 34 road.

SUN CREEK: brook trout, bull trout, brown trout

Sun Creek opened Saturday, April 25. Sun Creek is closed to bull trout. Only bull trout occur in upper Sun Creek just above the Sun Pass Forest bridge crossing.

SYCAN RIVER: brook trout, redband trout, brown trout (below marsh)

The Sycan River and tributaries opened Saturday, April 25. Flows are low and fishable. The best fishing is above the Sycan Marsh as the river went dry in numerous locations below the marsh last year. Fishing was very poor in the Sycan River near Coyote Bucket and Teddy Powers Meadow.

The upper part of the Sycan River above Paradise Creek and Pikes crossing is dominated by brook trout. Dry fly fishing near Rock Creek campground is excellent for small redband and brook trout. Fishing near Pikes Crossing is very slow. Only redband trout are below the marsh with a very rare brown trout. Bait will be allowed in the South Fork of the Sycan River this year.

The mainstem Sycan River is still restricted to flies and lures only.

THOMPSON VALLEY RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, largemouth bass

The reservoir was stocked earlier this season with 9,000 larger-sized and 300 trophy-sized rainbow trout. Water levels at the reservoir are lower than normal, but trout and bass are still available for anglers.

THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR: trout

The reservoir was stocked with 5,000 legal-sized rainbow trout the last week of April. Reservoir storage is at 75 percent of capacity and declining rapidly. The reservoir was drained by the Lower Powder River Irrigation District in September 2014. The reservoir was not restocked with rainbow trout in November 2014 as normally occurs due to low water.
UNITY RESERVOIR: trout, bass, crappie

Reservoir is at 89 percent of capacity and declining. Fishing for rainbow trout should be fair to good through the spring months.

VEE LAKE: rainbow trout

Vee Lake was recently stocked with 400 larger sized rainbow trout. Water levels at the lake are lower than normal, but trout are still available to anglers. Access by boat may be difficult as the boat ramp stops just shy of the current water levels.

WARM SPRINGS RESERVOIR: smallmouth bass, crappie, catfish, perch, rainbow trout

No recent fishing reports. The reservoir is currently at 22 percent of capacity and fishing should improve as we move into the early summer.

LOWER WILLIAMSON RIVER: redband and brown trout

Opens to trout fishing May 23, 2015.

UPPER WILLIAMSON RIVER: redband and brook trout

The Upper Williamson River and some tributaries opened last Saturday, April 25. Fishing will be fair in most areas. Redband trout dominate the fishery on USFS land. Brook trout are abundant near the Deep Creek confluence.

Flows are low for this time of year. Insect activity is increasing and fish are responding. Fishing should be good in the near future.

WILLOW VALLEY RESERVOIR: largemouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, bluegill, lahontan cutthroat

No recent reports. You can access the reservoir and fishing is improving for warmwater fish. Fishing should continue to be good for largemouth bass. The reservoir is primarily a bass fishery as other species are either too small or density is low. Typically shore fishing is very slow. The reservoir is always turbid. Launching a boat is possible now that the boat ramp is in the water.

WOLF CREEK RESERVOIR: crappie, trout

The boat ramp is functional, and the dock is installed. Fishing has been fair for 9 to 12-inch rainbows.

WOOD RIVER and all tributaries: redband, brown, brook and bull trout

The Wood River and all tributaries opened Saturday, April 25. Flows in the Wood River are ideal for a successful outing. Fishing for brown trout is good with lures. Fishing will continue to get better for brown trout. Most brown trout are below Fort Klamath this time of year.

Anglers can launch low profile boats at Hwy 62 and Weed Road. Brown trout feed heavily on sculpins and earthworms this time of year. No bait allowed so anglers need to mimic earthworms and sculpins with flies and lures.
Bag limit remains two brown trout per day with only one over 20 inches. Most redband trout in the system are spawning or just completed spawning. All redband trout must be released in Wood River, Fort Creek and Crooked Creek.

**YELLOWJACKET LAKE:** trout

About 4,000 legal (8 to 11-inches) rainbow trout were stocked into the lake during the week of Oct. 3, 2014 and it will be stocked again this year in May.

Fishing has been fair for holdover trout in the 12-16 inch range with one report of anglers catching their limit in less than 1.5 hours of fishing.

**SOUTHEAST ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN: COUGAR, SPRING TURKEY**

Spring bear and turkey hunting close May 31.

See the [turkey hunting forecast](#).

**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. 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](#)

Spring [TURKEY](#) season is open until May 31. Turkeys can be found in the northern portion of the county on or near national forestland.

**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. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.

**Coyote** populations are low throughout Harney County. They will be widely scattered on breeding territories this time of year. Barking can be very effective for locating coyotes during the breeding season.

Be aware that bobcats and cougars may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing and season limitations exist for these species.
KLAMATH COUNTY

**TURKEY** closes May 31. Hunting opportunity has been fair in the South Keno Unit.

Controlled spring **BEAR** season closes May 31. Bears have been active earlier this year due to the very mild winter. Best prospects are in the Interstate Unit and also along the east side of the Cascades. Successful hunters are reminded to check-in their bear within 10 days of harvest.

**GROUND SQUIRREL** hunting is picking up in Klamath County. Belding’s ground squirrels emerge in the spring for a relatively short time, and hunters are currently enjoying the short season of opportunity before the grasses and alfalfa grow tall enough to obscure the squirrels.

Almost all of the hunting opportunity in Klamath County is on private lands, and hunters are reminded to ask for permission before entering.

**Shed Hunting.** Most Mule deer bucks have lost their antlers. With the mild winter weather deer are widely distributed at elevations up to 6500 feet and are not restricted to traditional winter ranges. Once an antler falls off it legally becomes the property of the landowner. Therefore shed hunters need to get permission from private landowners to access their property and pick up sheds.

**Cougar** hunting is open year around. Populations are healthy and distributed throughout the district in any area with a big game prey base. Cougars at this time of year are generally concentrated along with their primary prey of deer and elk on big game winter ranges. Some hunters have reported limited success with calling at this time of year.

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** populations are fairly low throughout Klamath County. At this time of year, mimicking coyote vocalizations can be an effective tool to bring coyotes away from their den sites and into range. Be aware that bobcats and cougars may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing and season limitations exist for these species.

KLAMATH WILDLIFE AREA

*This section was updated on May 05, 2015.*

All game bird hunting seasons are now closed. **Running or training of dogs is prohibited February 1 through July 31 except on designated Dog Training Areas or by permit.**

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; just be sure to put it on your dashboard. **Buy online** or at an **ODFW office** that sells licenses or at a license sales agent.
Overnight camping is not allowed on the Miller Island Unit. If you have any questions, please contact Klamath Wildlife Area at (541) 883-5734.

LAKE COUNTY

**Spring Turkey** season closes thru May 31. There are very few turkey in Lake County and harvest is very low.

**Spring Bear** closes thru May 31. With the mild winter conditions Bear have been active since February. Access is generally good to all but the highest elevations. Hunters are asked to not drive on the few roads that remain wet and muddy. Bear must be checked in within 10 days of harvest at any ODFW field office.

**Shed Hunting.** Most Mule deer bucks have lost their antlers. With the mild winter weather deer are widely distributed at elevations up to 6500 feet and are not restricted to traditional winter ranges. Once an antler falls off it legally becomes the property of the landowner. Therefore shed hunters need to get permission from private landowners to access their property and pick up sheds.

**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** pair bonds have formed and calls mimicking coyote vocalizations are most effective. Be aware that bobcats and cougars may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing and season limitations exist for these species.

**SUMMER LAKE WILDLIFE AREA**

*This section was updated on May 26, 2015*

All hunting seasons on the wildlife area are closed.

**Please be aware:** It is unlawful to discharge firearms between February 1 and August 31 except by permit issued by ODFW.

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

MALHEUR COUNTY

**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.

Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.

**Coyote** hunting is available throughout the district. Areas with livestock feeding and calving operations are strong attractors for coyotes. Howling and territorial challenges are typically the most effective calls this time of year.
SOUTHEAST ZONE WILDLIFE VIEWING

HARNEY COUNTY

Waterfowl migration has stopped and most waterfowl found now will be breeding pairs on territories and initiating nesting sites.

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

Shorebird migration is slowing. Birding will be more difficult as birds begin to initiate nesting. 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.

Spring passerine migrants continue to increase in diversity and number as the season progresses. 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 golden eagles, bald eagles and a variety of hawks perching on telephone poles and fence posts throughout the district. Resident raptors such as northern harriers and red-tailed hawks are very easily observed in open agricultural areas along with rough-legged hawks and an occasional ferruginous.

Bighorn sheep viewing will be very difficult at this time as sheep are having their lambs and will stay near steep rugged terrain. Viewers are urged not to disturb sheep during this sensitive time period.

Mule deer will be widely scattered and secretive this time of year as they prepare for fawning. The first of the antelope fawns have started appearing and wildlife viewers can expect to see plenty more in the weeks to come. 5/11/15.

KLAMATH COUNTY

Canada geese have mostly completed nesting, however a few new broods have been observed over the past week. Shorelines along the Lost and Klamath Rivers, as well as wetlands adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake and Lake Ewana and along portions of the Klamath Wildlife Area are good places to look for the spring’s earliest newborns.

Neotropical migrant passerine species including a variety of wood warblers, finches, and sparrows are becoming more abundant as their migration continues. Listening for unique bird songs along riparian areas near streams and rivers is often a successful method at this time of year.

Big game migrations are well underway as deer, elk, and pronghorn move from lower elevation winter range to summer range. Motorists are reminded to use caution especially along Highway 97 from Chiloquin to Bend and along Highway 140 East from Dairy to Lakeview.
Western and Clark’s grebes have returned from southern wintering areas. Best viewing opportunities are around Upper Klamath Lake. Watch for fantastic courtship displays from these birds. These aquatic water birds nest along shorelines on floating nests constructed of old emergent vegetation.

A great opportunity for wildlife viewing is right in Klamath Falls with several options available. The Wingwatchers Trail starts right at Veterans Park along Lake Ewauna in downtown and the Link River Trail is accessed from Lakeshore Drive. Many aquatic birds can viewed as well as passerine species.

Ask for permission from the landowner before entering private lands. Please watch for game and use caution while traveling on area highways and county roads. 5/26/15.

**Klamath Wildlife Area (Miller Island)**

*This section was updated on April 21, 2015.*

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](#).

**From February 1-April 30, use is restricted to public roads and parking lots to minimize disturbance to migrating waterfowl. The short birding trail next to the check station and the dog training area will remain open.**

Spring conditions are occurring on the area and are expected to continue according to recent weather updates.

**Waterfowl**

Great Basin Canada geese broods are being observed all across the area. There are still decent numbers of white-fronted, lesser snow geese and Ross's geese using the wildlife area; large flocks can be seen on the areas agricultural fields. Their numbers are continually dropping as they head further north to their nesting grounds.

Canvasback, scaup, ruddy duck, ring-necked, bufflehead and common and barrows goldeneye along with other diver species can be seen in the deeper ponds/canals and Klamath River. Many different dabbler species can now be found on the area. Some of the more common species included mallard, northern pintail, northern shoveler, cinnamon teal, wigeon and gadwall.

Many of the early nesting duck species have started nesting. Dabbler species are spread uniformly across the entire area. American coot abundance on the wildlife area continues to be very high and they can be found throughout the area.

**Shorebirds, waders and other waterbirds**

Ring-billed gulls are still observed on the area. Sandhill cranes can be observed scattered across the area and their very audible calls are becoming quite common. Killdeer, common snipe, yellow legs, American avocets and black-necked stilts are becoming an increasingly common site on the area. Several white-faced ibis were observed using the south end of the area on 3-30-15.
Flocks of dunlin were observed on the area over the past week utilizing some exposed mud flats. American white pelican and double-crested cormorant are occasionally seen flying by or loafing on some of the area’s ponds. Western and pied-billed grebes are also being observed on a more regular basis.

Great blue herons, great egrets, black-crowned night-herons and American bitterns are also occasionally observed on the area and should become a more common sight as the weeks go on.

**Raptors**

Great horned and barn owls can be seen at dusk. Red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, cooper hawks, American kestrels, prairie falcons and eagles can be seen foraging throughout the wildlife area. Ospreys are occasionally observed sitting on abandoned power poles close to the river and canals.

**Upland Game Birds**

California quail and the occasional ring-necked pheasant can be found scattered around the old homesteads and the headquarters area.

**Passerines**

Mourning and Eurasian collared dove can be found scattered over the area. American goldfinches, house finches, white crowned sparrows and Northern flickers continue to be a common site throughout the area. Tree swallows have become a very common sight across the area over the past several weeks. Marsh wrens, song sparrows, yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds can be found in dense stands of tall emergent hard stem bulrush and broad-leaved cattail and are very numerous.

Klamath Basin [waterfowl numbers](#) are available on the US Fish and Wildlife website.

Overnight camping is not allowed on the Miller Island Unit. If you have any questions, please contact Klamath Wildlife Area at (541) 883-5734.

**LAKE COUNTY**

Spring migration is about over. Migrant waterfowl have moved north and those remaining are resident nesters; eagle numbers have decreased along with the waterfowl. Most of the passerine species which migrate through the county have moved north, and the summer resident passerines are setting up nesting territories. Shore bird numbers are expected to be low because all of the major closed basin lakes were dry last year and have limited water this spring. That said most of the common summer resident shore birds have arrived, albeit in reduced numbers 5/20/15.

**Summer Lake Wildlife Area**

*This section was updated on May 26, 2015.*

Summer Lake Wildlife Area requires a calendar year 2015 $7 daily parking permit or a $22 annual parking permit. Parking permits can be purchased at any ODFW
license agent (pdf) or through the ODFW website. Locally, parking permits can be purchased at the Summer Lake Store, 1.3 miles north of Headquarters.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2015 PARKING PERMITS ARE NOW REQUIRED.**

Vehicle access to the Wildlife Viewing Loop is open. Major dike roads (Bullgate, Windbreak and Work Road) are closed to motor vehicles to reduce disturbance to migrating waterbirds. Non-motorized access is permitted and should afford good viewing opportunities.

Wetland conditions are good; a majority of the area’s wetlands are well flooded, viewing opportunities are very good.

Breeding season is underway and nearly all birds are in their bright nuptial plumage.

*Waterfowl*

Waterfowl populations are at breeding season levels as spring migration is over. Ducks remain widely scattered across the entire wildlife area. Nearly all ducks have formed pair bonds and are especially numerous in seasonally and intermittently flooded wetland areas. Hens are actively searching for nest sites at this time. Mallard broods continue to be observed.

Western Canada geese are widely distributed across the area. Late nesting continues for a few pairs, but a majority area rearing broods. Small groups of non or unsuccessful breeders can be found in newly flooded hay meadows. Soon, these birds will depart to molting areas, some as far away as Canada.

A few resident trumpeter swans remain widely scattered across the wildlife area. Most of these birds a part of restoration efforts and 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 (Θ) and two side-ways laying numerals that are read from the body toward the head.

*Shorebirds, waders and other waterbirds*

Shorebird numbers are beginning to decline as northern breeders depart for nesting areas in Alaska and Canada. Locally breeding species such as American avocets, black-necked stilts, western willet and Wilson’s phalarope remain very numerous and nesting is underway.

Please pay close attention at campgrounds, parking areas and road shoulders where nests of killdeer and willets are frequently encountered. The presence of a very vocal and displaying bird is a good sign there is a nest nearby.

Wilson’s snipe are commonly heard winnowing and western willets are very vocal during the evening and early morning hours.

American coots are very numerous; they are widespread across the entire area. Virginia rails and soras are being seen and are very vocal now. Nesting is underway and the season’s first broods should be detected soon.
Greater sandhill cranes are increasing and breeding pairs (15-20) can be found on nesting territories scattered widely across the entire area. Nesting is underway and territorial calling is very common during the early morning hours. The first colt (crane chick) of the year was observed last week. Cranes become very secretive this time of the year, however pairs and non-breeders are easily observed foraging in meadows along Hwy. 31.

Gull (California and ring-billed) numbers remain strong, over 1,000 are present on the island in the E. Link Unit and nesting is underway. Bonaparte’s and Franklin’s gulls continue to be observed in good numbers scattered across the area.

Caspian terns can be found regularly, as well as the more abundant Forster’s terns, and nesting for both species is underway. Black terns were observed early last week.

Grebes are fairly numerous at this time, and nesting is underway. Clark’s, eared, pied-billed and Western have been observed recently.

American bittern are very vocal now; there pumper-lump calls are very noticeable especially in the early morning hours. Great blue herons can still be found and great egret and white-faced ibis numbers are increasing. A large nesting colony is beginning to form and foraging adults are easily observed in shallow wetlands throughout the wildlife area. American white pelicans and double-crested cormorants continue to be observed in good numbers.

**Raptors and others**

Northern harriers and red-tailed hawks are nesting at this time. Turkey vultures are widespread across the area and are easily observed. Ospreys have returned and all three nesting platforms are occupied. Bald eagle numbers have declined dramatically, but adults from locally nesting pairs can sometimes be viewed. Golden eagles, American kestrel, peregrine and prairie falcons as well as accipiters (Cooper’s and sharp-shinned hawk) can sometimes be observed. Swainson’s hawk has been observed on a regular basis near Headquarters and is probably nesting nearby.

Great horned owls were found scattered across the entire wildlife area, especially in the trees at campgrounds, they remain very vocal, several nests have hatched and brood rearing is underway. Common barn owls have nested at Headquarters. Short-eared owls continue to be observed at several locations, especially at dusk.

**Upland game birds**

Fair numbers of California quail can be found and pheasants can sometimes be observed, especially around old homesteads on the north end of the wildlife area. Crowing and displaying rooster pheasants are frequently heard and seen during calm and still days. Quail have formed pairs and nesting is well underway. The season’s first brood was observed last week.

**Passerines**

Eurasian collared doves remain very numerous at Headquarters Complex and cooing is very commonplace throughout the day. Mourning doves are very numerous and coo-calling can be heard most of the day.
American goldfinches and pine siskins continue to be observed in good numbers at Headquarters. Song and savannah sparrows are very common along dikes and levees. Migrant sparrows have departed the area, but the occasional golden-crowned sparrow can sometimes be found. Late last week, lark sparrows were observed at Headquarters. Black-headed grosbeaks are frequently observed and can be heard singing throughout the day.

Tree swallows are very numerous and breeding is underway, with nearly every nest box throughout the area being attended by birds. Cliff swallow nesting building activity is well underway. Bank and northern rough-winged swallows can be found along the Upper Ana River near bluffs where several nesting burrow colonies can be found. Vaux’s swift are frequently seen and heard over the Headquarters area.

American robins, and occasionally evening grosbeaks and cedar waxwings are fairly abundant around Headquarters. House wrens have returned to Headquarters and can be heard singing throughout most of the day.

Migrant warblers continue to be observed and breeding species such as yellow and common yellowthroat are especially numerous.

Hummingbirds have been observed using to the feeders at Headquarters; rufous and black-chinned have been seen. Bullock’s orioles are very vocal and are utilizing the feeders as well.

Marsh wrens and song sparrows can be found in dense stands of hardstem bulrush and broad-leaved cattail throughout the wetlands and are very numerous. Blackbirds (Brewer’s, red-winged and yellow-headed) are found in good numbers now and are widely dispersed in wetland and other breeding areas. Brown-headed cowbirds remain very numerous, especially around Headquarters.

**Facilities and Access**

Please remember: **Calendar year 2015 parking permits are required beginning on January 1, 2015!** 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. Locally, parking permits can be purchased at the Summer Lake Store, 1.3 miles north of Headquarters.

The Wildlife Viewing Loop remains open, but major dike roads (Bullgate, Windbreak and Work Road) are closed to motor vehicle traffic. Non-motorized access is permitted on all dikes and levees.

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**

Currently nearly all of the wildlife area’s wetlands are fairly well flooded at this time. Irrigation season started on May 1 and water flow into the interior and eastside of the wildlife area has declined significantly. Flood irrigation of pastures and meadows on the west side of the valley is underway and providing new foraging areas for a wide variety of waterfowl and other waterbirds.
Shallowly flooded and slowly receding pond margins are seeing considerable waterbird use. Warm (mid-50’s to low 70’s) daytime temperatures have resulted in a heavy midge hatch and many species of birds are actively feeding on this very important food source. Mosquitos are beginning to appear at this time, providing yet another abundant food source for many bird species.

Summer Lake is beginning to decrease in size at this time, due to increased evaporation rates associated with longer days and warmer temperatures. Irrigation season is underway at this time; with the filling of Ana Reservoir and the suppressed discharge of Ana Springs; Ana River flow is reduced and will cause the lake to recede dramatically. Emergent wetland vegetation is actively growing at this time.

Upland habitat remains in excellent condition with considerable residual vegetation that is providing high quality food and cover for many wildlife species. Green-up and vigorous growth of nearly all forb and grass species is well underway. Planted tree and shrub plots are providing excellent sheltered sites and food resources for many wildlife species. Nearly all shrub species are flowering and some are beginning to set fruit.

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

Weekend fishing opportunities:

- The spring Chinook fishing has been good on the lower Umatilla, anglers should concentrate on the area upstream of the Hwy 730 bridge and Threemile Dam.
- As spring continues, fishing for holdover trout in Wallowa Lake can be good, with fish in the 15 to 20-inch range.
- Irrigon and Umatilla hatcheries will be closed May 25 through July 15 for renovations.
- Visitors to the Umatilla National Forest this spring should pack a rod for fishing some of the many stocked forest ponds.
- Spring Chinook fishing on the upper John Day should be fair with river conditions coming into shape. Season is open from May 20 through June 7.

Send us your fishing report

We’d love to hear about your recent fishing experience. Send us your 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.

BULL PRAIRIE RESERVOIR: rainbow and brook trout

Approximately 200 trophy rainbow trout were stocked last fall and should provide fair fishing. Brook trout are also available.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass

The Grand Ronde River will open for fishing on Saturday, May 23. Trout fishing early in the year can be good. Fly fishermen will find good hatches of caddis and stoneflies. Recent rains have increased flows and should set up well for a weekend raft or drift boat trip.

HATROCK POND: trout

The Hat Rock State Park provides a trail system with easy angler access to the pond for the entire family. Fishing for rainbow trout should be good.
**HOLLIDAY PARK POND:** rainbow trout

Pond has been stocked and fishing is good for both newly stocked and carryover trout.

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

The Imnaha River will open to fishing on Saturday, May 23. Fishing for whitefish in the upper river can be very good. Whitefish are abundant and can often reach lengths over 16-inches. Trout fishing can be good early in the season with all types of gear. Bull trout will begin moving through the system soon – remember, all bull trout must be released unharmed.

Spring Chinook are currently moving up the Columbia River toward the Snake River. ODFW managers are closely monitoring returns do determine the possibility of a salmon fishery on the Wallowa River. This fishery would open in early to mid-June provided a strong run of spring Chinook bound for the Wallowa. Check the ODFW website for fishery openings.

Flow data for the Imnaha can be found on the Idaho Power website.

**JOHN DAY RIVER:** spring Chinook / smallmouth bass

A spring Chinook season has opened on the John Day River May 20 through June 7, 2015. The river will be open for 26 miles from the Hwy 207 bridge (located .5 mile downstream of Service Creek, Ore.) upstream to the mouth of North Fork John Day River near Kimberly, Ore. Bag limit is 2 adults and 5 jacks both wild and hatchery can be harvested. There should be a decent number in the fishery area. The river has been flowing high but is predicted to drop and be in decent fishing shape by the weekend. A few bass are now being caught below Kimberly during the warmest days. John Day River flows

**JUBILEE LAKE:** rainbow trout

The main road to Jubilee Lake is open, but anglers must walk into the lake as the camp ground remains closed. This is one of the earliest dates for access to Jubilee Lake; fishing should be good for carryover rainbow trout.

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

Both ponds remain open all year. Long Creek Pond was stocked on April 13 and should provide good fishing. Carryover trout up to 18-inches are being caught at Cavender Pond.

**MAGONE LAKE:** rainbow and brook trout

Water temperatures are still cold and fishing is fair.

**McNARY PONDS:** trout

The ponds have been stocked and fishing should be good for rainbow trout. A trail system provides access to both pond and stream fishing and the area also has several handicap accessible fishing platforms.
**Peach Pond (Ladd Marsh):** rainbow trout

Stocked with rainbow trout for the first time this season during the first full week of April.

**Roulet Pond:** rainbow trout

Stocked with rainbow trout for the first time this season during the first full week of April.

**Rowe Creek Reservoir:** rainbow trout

Remains open all year. Fishing is good for carryover trout and the reservoir has been stocked.

**Tatone Pond:** trout

The pond has been stocked and fishing should be good for rainbow trout.

**Umatilla Forest Ponds:** trout

The forest ponds have been stocked and should provide good fishing for rainbow trout.

**Umatilla River:** spring Chinook

For the week of May 11 to May 17, anglers averaged 3.9 hours per spring Chinook caught. The catch has been early and late with fish and anglers dealing with the high water temperatures. Returns and catch rates should pick up quickly within the next couple of weeks.

To date a total of 3,500 spring Chinook have returned to Threemile Dam. Low water levels and high water temperatures are likely going to have major impacts on the fishery, trap and transport of all spring Chinook was started on April 26 and will likely continue for the remainder of the return season.

This will effectively end the upper river fishery, there have been 160 fish released into that area and fish may drop back into the fishery area. Anglers should consult the synopsis for detailed regulations. Anglers are reminded steelhead season ended April 15.

[Threemile Dam fish counts]

**Wallowa Lake:** rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout

Holdover trout from last season stockings are available and often range 15 to 20-inches long and can be caught in multiples. Early spring anglers have reported catching a few of these fish and one reward tag worth $50 has been returned from a heavy 18-inch fish.

The lake will be stocked for the first time this year before the Memorial Day weekend. Once stocking begins, catch rates are generally very high with many anglers taking home limits early in the day.
Some experienced fishermen are picking up large lake trout trolling at depth with downriggers. While lake trout aren’t abundant in Wallowa Lake it’s not uncommon to find fish over 25 pounds.

Biologists have received few reports on the kokanee fishery; however, late spring and early summer is usually best. Lend a hand to local biologist and report your kokanee fishing experience at ODFW Fishing Reports.

In 2014 the lake was stocked with tagged rainbow trout in an effort by ODFW to better understand the utilization of this fishery. Tagged fish have been caught at very high rates and over $2,700 in rewards have been paid. Some of these fish have likely held over from last year and are available to anglers. If you catch one of these tagged fish, please report the number, location, date, where in the lake the fish was caught and the size to the ODFW office in Enterprise or online.

**WALLOWA RIVER:** steelhead, mountain whitefish

Some salmonflies and caddis have been hatching and will put the fish on the bite; however, many techniques will catch fish. Whitefish will also be available and can offer up some fun when fishing for trout is slow. Remember, below Rock Creek only adipose-fin clipped trout may be harvested. All bull trout must be released unharmed. Spring Chinook are currently moving up the Columbia River toward the Snake River. ODFW managers are closely monitoring returns do determine the possibility of a salmon fishery on the Wallowa River. This fishery would open in early to mid-June provided a strong run of spring Chinook bound for the Wallowa. Check the ODFW website for fishery openings.

**WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR:** trout, crappie, bass

Anglers are reporting good catches of rainbow trout from 12 to 20-inches. Best catches are falling for PowerBait and night crawlers fished on the bottom. The Reservoir was stocked last week with larger than legal-sized trout. Warmwater fishing is picking up as water temperatures increase.

**NORTHEAST ZONE HUNTING**

**OPEN:** COUGAR, SPRING BEAR (see regs), SPRING TURKEY

Spring bear and turkey hunting close May 31.

See the turkey hunting forecast.

**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. Please report any wolf sightings or wolf sign to La Grande office (541) 963-2138 or online with the Wolf Reporting Form.

Use the Oregon Hunting Map to see where to hunt.
BAKER COUNTY

Check the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest website or call them for the latest on Forest Service Rd 39 construction and detour route information. Remember it is a designated snowmobile route until April 15 and is not maintained for passenger travel until mid-June. The southern 18 miles may be closed due to construction, please call or check the website ahead of time.

Black Bear The warm and dry winter has left much more country snow free than usual. Green up has begun to appear in the lower elevations. The mild weather will have bears out and more active in the early part of the season. Look for bears close to timber stringers feeding on open ridges. Successful hunters need to remember to check in their bear within ten days of harvest. It cannot be frozen and propping open the mouth will help in aiding tooth collection later.

Turkey season is here. Look for spring turkeys to be moving from wintering grounds to their nesting areas. Listen for males to be calling early and late in the evenings to help locate gobblers. With snow levels higher than normal expect turkeys to be at slightly higher elevations this year.

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. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.

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

The P.W. Schneider Wildlife area is closed February 1st through April 14th. Herbicide application to stop spread of invasive annual grasses is happening on the wildlife area, more information.

BLACK BEAR: Most of our snow is gone from mid and low elevation areas of the district, roads can be easily accessed. The best strategy for finding bears this time of year is to sit on a spot with a good view of open canyon sides and use binoculars or a spotting scope to locate them. The animals will feed off and on during all daylight hours and patience is the order of the day when spotting spring bears. Hunters are reminded all bears are required to be checked in within 10 days of harvest.

TURKEY numbers have been on the rise for the past few years in the district. Most of our snow is gone from mid and low elevation areas of the district. By opening day the turkeys will begin to move from their wintering areas up into nesting areas. The best strategy for finding them this time of year is to travel the forest roads or hike into areas where turkeys might be and call for them or just listen for their calls early in the morning.

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. Remember to pick up a 2015 tag.
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

TURKEY numbers have been rising slightly in the district. All our snow is gone from the timbered parts of the district. Turkeys have mostly moved up into the forest from their wintering areas. This year’s very mild winter has allowed turkeys to disperse throughout the forest. Season closes May 31.

Cougar hunting is open. Cougar are well distributed in our forested areas. Calling with distress calls or cougar vocalizations can be effective. However, locating a fresh, naturally made kill has the best chance of success.

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

Bears are distributed along forested stringer areas throughout the mid elevations of Umatilla County. Upper elevation forest roads are accessible from numerous access points throughout the county, thus providing earlier access to those timbered stringers amongst the mid elevations. Foraging bears can be observed by glassing open hill slopes with a south/southwestern aspect. Earlier in the season bears can be observed throughout the day. Bear numbers are increasing as we enter into May and should persist until the end of the season. Hunters are reminded all bears are required to be checked in within 10 days of harvest. Season closes May 31.

Turkeys are scattered throughout the forested areas of Umatilla County, look for turkeys along ridge tops crossing between drainages. Listen for gobbling turkeys within early hours of daylight from atop high elevation spots above those drainages. Less than average snow levels have provided earlier access to upper elevations.

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 County and hunters should have good success calling. Remember to ask permission before hunting on private lands.

UNION COUNTY

Bear numbers are strong in all of Union County and hunters have a good chance of filling a tag. Look for bears on open South slopes. Access to national forest lands should be excellent due to the light snow pack this winter. Many forest roads will be soft with early snow melt, take care not to cause unnecessary ruts.

Turkey numbers look good in Union County and chances of finding a Gobbler should be better than last year. Hunters will increase their chances of success by staying out in the field all day. Walking into hunting areas that are not reachable by vehicles can produce enjoyable, uninterrupted hunts. Birds are well distributed by midseason.
**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. 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 check in. Remember to pick up a tag for 2015.

**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**

Hunting now closed. [Ladd Marsh harvest statistics](#)

Note: all visitors including hunters must have in their possession a free daily permit to access the wildlife area. Permits and area maps/regulations are available at several self-check-in stations at entry points and parking lots. Wildlife hunters, viewers and anglers also need a parking permit to park on the wildlife area. Hunters receive a free parking permit with their hunting license. 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. Parking permits are to be displayed on the vehicle dash. [More information](#)

**WALLOWA COUNTY**

Check the [Wallowa-Whitman National Forest website](#) or call them for the latest on Forest Service Rd 39 construction and detour route information. Remember it is not maintained for passenger car travel until mid-June. The southern 18 miles may be closed due to construction, please call or check the website ahead of time.

**BLACK BEAR:** Spring bear season ends on Sunday May 31st. The early spring weather this year has allowed our bears to move into their summer mode of behavior 3-4 weeks earlier than usual this year, many bears are already at higher elevations and only active mornings, evenings, and at night. Consequently, the bear hunting has been slow. Although a good density of black bears exists throughout the district, bear hunters should try hunting them with predator calls rather than the usual spot and stalk techniques.

**TURKEY:** Spring turkey season also ends on May 31st. Turkey numbers have increased this year in the district and they over-wintered very well with the warm winter that we had this year. Hunting has been very good with several toms taken and hunters seeing many toms, especially young jakes. Turkeys have spread into nesting areas throughout the forested areas at this time. The best strategy for finding them is to travel the forest roads or hike into areas where turkeys might be and call for them or just listen for their calls early in the morning.

**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** numbers are moderate 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 WILDLIFE VIEWING

BAKER COUNTY

Bighorn sheep can be seen in the Burnt River Canyon west of Durkee or along the Snake River Road south of Richland. The best viewing is in the early morning and late in the evening.

Bald and golden eagles can be seen along the Snake River. Take the Snake River Road between Richland and Huntington. 4/21/15.

GRANT COUNTY

Countywide

Songbirds have arrived in the valley and are beginning to nest. Redwing blackbirds can be seen and heard as you drive from Prairie City to Dayville on Highway 26. Western meadowlarks can be heard singing in and around pasturelands. Great horn owls have been hatching young (owlets) over the past month, when walking through the forest be on the lookout for a “witches broom,” a typical great horn owl nest found in large fir trees.

Bald and Golden eagles can be viewed along the John Day River. The best time to see them is early in the morning. Watch for other raptors including Redtail Hawks and Northern Harriers, roosting in large trees and on power line poles.

Watch for deer and elk crossing the highways. Dawn and dusk are the most active time for deer and elk and are not easily seen due to low light conditions by drivers alongside the road. 4/26/2015

MORROW, GILLIAM AND WHEELER COUNTIES

The last of our winter migrants are still around but not many. Merlins and rough-legged hawks can be seen in the northern part of the district, but not for much longer. All the early migrants are here or passing by, Say’s phoebe, long-billed curlew, white-crowned sparrow, Rufus sided towhee have been seen in the yards of the District. Sandhill cranes have been seen passing overhead headed north for the summer.

Our year round raptors are easily found, American kestrels, northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, and barn, short-eared and great horned owls. Golden eagles and ferruginous hawks can be seen near their nests. Swainson’s hawks should be showing up fairly soon in the northern portion of the district.

In the grasslands grasshopper sparrows, horned larks can be seen flying. Snakes are starting to get more active with gopher/bull snakes being the most common.

Canada geese should be hatched by now; one can see adults with their young on the major waterways of the district.

Deer and elk can be seen in the forest, try meadows at daylight and dusk for the best chance for seeing an elk. 4/28/15.
**UMATILLA COUNTY**

Early spring conditions have provided early green up of annual grasses in mid elevations along the Blue Mountains. Deer and elk are distributed throughout the mid and upper elevations foraging on the new growth of perennial grasses, shrubs and forbs. Large groups of elk can be viewed for the next few weeks during early and late hours of daylight along south facing ridges. These groups will be on or near the boundary of the Forest Service intermingled between open grass slopes and timbered drainages. Deer will be more widespread and dispersed in smaller groups amongst the mid and high elevations. Bears will be distributed in similar areas of the Blue Mountains and are many different colors other than black and provide a unique viewing opportunity.

Migratory passerine and raptors can be observed nesting throughout Umatilla County. Federal, State and Tribal wildlife areas and refuges along with public road access throughout the county provide good viewing opportunities for Ferruginous, Rough-legged, Red tailed, Coopers and Swainson’s hawks, along with both Bald and Golden eagles. Riparian and wooded corridors and large grassland areas can also provide good viewing opportunity for Warblers, Robins and Sparrows. 5/11/2015.

**UNION COUNTY**

*Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area*

**Note: New this year: All visitors must have in their possession a free daily permit to access the wildlife area.** Permits are available at several self-check-in stations at entry points and parking lots. Wildlife viewers and anglers also 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 unit, including the autoroute, is open for the season. Visitors are advised to carefully read posted signs and consult the wildlife area administrative rules. Rules that apply to all areas are at the top (at the above link), and then scroll down to page 8, #635-008-120, for additional rules specific to Ladd Marsh.

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.

Canada geese have hatched and goslings can be seen throughout the area. Duck broods are also being seen in several locations. It is the season for babies on the marsh!

Great horned owl chicks are venturing out of their nests onto nearby tree limbs so they can be difficult to spot. Barn owls appear to be having a good nesting season. New fledglings seem to be everywhere. Other raptors include Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Cooper’s and Sharp-shinned Hawks and American Kestrel. Shorebirds are using mudflats and both American avocet and black-necked stilt are getting ready to nest. American white pelicans have been seen both in the air and on ponds. A single white-faced ibis was reported Monday east of Peach Rd. This species occasionally nests on Ladd Marsh.
Resident sandhill cranes are on their territories and non-breeding birds are using meadows and fields. Several of the crane nests have hatched; the pairs may be seen, from a distance, with their young in meadows. 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. 5/12/15.

WALLOWA COUNTY

As we move into summer, many raptors will be feeding young at their nests. Common raptors in the open areas of the county are red-tailed hawks, with occasional ferruginous and Swainson’s hawks also present. Most migrating bald eagles have moved north by now, but a resident pair of bald eagles is again using the nest at the south end of Wallowa Lake. Look for them in a large cottonwood tree near where the Wallowa River runs into the lake.

A good place to observe mule deer is along the Wallowa Lake highway between Joseph and the south end of Wallowa Lake. Drive slowly and watch along the moraine on the east side of the lake around dawn and dusk. Be careful to use the pullouts when stopping to watch these animals, as there will be other traffic on the road. White-tailed deer can be found throughout the Wallowa Valley on or near agricultural lands.

Many elk have returned to the Zumwalt Prairie now. Try driving the Zumwalt and Pine Creek Roads and looking carefully at ridge tops. Once you find a herd, use binoculars or a spotting scope to observe the animals.

While most of our migrant waterfowl have already headed north with the advent of warmer weather, some can still be seen flying into Wallowa Lake in the evenings from the county park at the north end of the lake. Canada geese (including new goslings) and several species of ducks can also be seen feeding in agricultural fields and along streams around the county.

Other migrants and summer residents are moving into the area including, western tanagers, Say’s phoebes, horned larks, killdeer, and robins. Mountain bluebirds are also arrived back from their southern haunts and can be seen in open grassland areas near trees. 5/26/15.
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

Fishing has been good for crappie on the Powder River Arm, but the fish are smallish, averaging 7 to 8-inches. Bobber and jigs are working well. Call the Idaho Power Company’s recording at 1-800-422-3143 to get information on [access at recreational sites](#). Reservoir level information

**OXBOW RESERVOIR:** trout, crappie, bass, catfish

Fishing has been good for trout, trolling Ford fenders. Anglers have been catching perch below Brownlee Dam and in backwater areas.

**HELLS CANYON RESERVOIR:** trout, crappie, bass, catfish

Fishing has been very good for trout at creek mouths.

**SNAKE RIVER below HELL'S CANYON RESERVOIR:** trout, steelhead, salmon, bass

The Snake River is closed for steelhead angling as of April 30, 2015. Spring Chinook season is open on the Snake River from the Dug Bar boat ramp up river to the boundary below Hells Canyon Dam. The bag limit is 4 Chinook salmon per day with no more than 2 adult fish over 24-inches. Barbless hooks and a Columbia Basin Endorsement are required when fishing for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon in Hells Canyon. Most anglers will access the canyon via jet boat launched at Heller Bar or Hells Canyon Dam. Oregon and Idaho regulations require barbless hooks in the Snake River when fishing for salmon, steelhead or sturgeon. [Updated information on flow levels](#)

**SNAKE RIVER (above Brownlee Reservoir):** channel catfish, flathead catfish, smallmouth bass

Catfish on the Snake River has been good, as is bowfishing for carp. Fishing for bass has been slow, most bass appear to be post-spawn and are trickier to catch. Bass fishing will improve gradually over the next few weeks.
COLUMBIA FISHING

Weekend Fishing Opportunities:

- Angling for spring Chinook and summer steelhead is open between Tongue Point and Bonneville Dam.
- Angling for spring Chinook and summer steelhead will open Thursday May 28, from Tower Island powerlines upstream to the Oregon/Washington border above McNary Dam, plus the banks between Bonneville and Tower Island powerlines.
- Shad angling is open from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- Sturgeon retention is open in the John Day Pool until the respective guideline of 500 legal white sturgeon is met.
- White sturgeon retention is closed from Buoy 10 upstream to the John Day Dam, but remains an option for catch and release fishing. Anglers are reminded that spawning sanctuaries take effect May 1 (see special regulations for details).
- Walleye fishing was excellent in the John Day Pool last week.

Current Columbia River regulations for salmon, steelhead, shad and sturgeon can be found at the Sport Fishing Regulation Update page.

SALMON, STEELHEAD AND SHAD

Salmonid angling was fair to good on the lower Columbia this past weekend, while shad angling was slow but should improve in the coming weeks. In the gorge, boat anglers averaged 0.73 spring Chinook caught per boat, while anglers fishing in Troutdale averaged 0.30 spring Chinook caught per boat. In the Portland to Westport area, boat anglers averaged 0.31 spring Chinook and 0.07 steelhead caught per boat. Bank anglers fishing in the gorge averaged 0.15 spring Chinook, while anglers fishing the Portland to Westport area averaged 0.03 spring Chinook caught per angler. On Saturday’s (5/23) flight, 335 salmonid boats and 218 Oregon bank anglers were counted from the Columbia River Estuary to Bonneville Dam.

Gorge Bank:

Weekend checking showed five adipose fin-clipped adult spring Chinook and three adipose fin-clipped jack spring Chinook kept, plus one unclipped adult spring Chinook released for 39 salmonid anglers; and 20 shad kept for 42 shad anglers.

Gorge Boats (Below Beacon Rock):

Weekend checking showed six adipose fin-clipped adult spring Chinook and one adipose fin-clipped jack spring Chinook kept, plus five unclipped adult spring Chinook
released for 15 salmonid boats (39 anglers); and eight shad kept for six shad boats (24 anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult spring Chinook kept, plus six unclipped adult spring Chinook released for 23 salmonid boats (48 anglers); and no catch for one shad boat (two anglers).

**Portland to Westport Bank**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult spring Chinook kept, plus one unclipped adult spring Chinook released for 105 bank anglers.

**Portland to Westport Boats:**

Weekend checking showed eight adipose fin-clipped adult spring Chinook, one adipose fin-clipped jack spring Chinook and three adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus five unclipped adult spring Chinook released for 42 boats (105 anglers).

**Estuary Bank (Clatsop Spit to Wauna Powerlines):**

No report.

**Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Wauna Powerlines):**

No report.

**Bonneville Pool (Columbia River between Bonneville Dam and The Dalles Dam):**

No report.

**The Dalles Pool (Columbia River between The Dalles Dam and John Day Dam):**

No report.

**John Day Pool (Columbia River between John Day Dam and McNary Dam):**

No report.

**STURGEON**

**Lower Columbia (below Bonneville Dam):**

Closed to retention, catch-and-release only. Weekend checking showed one legal and five sublegal sturgeon released for one boat (two anglers) fishing in the gorge.

**Bonneville Pool (Columbia River between Bonneville Dam and The Dalles Dam):**

Closed to retention, catch-and-release only. No report.
The Dalles Pool (Columbia River between The Dalles Dam and John Day Dam):

Closed to retention, catch-and-release only.

John Day Pool (Columbia River between John Day Dam and McNary Dam):

Weekly checking showed 10 legal white sturgeon kept, plus three legal, four oversize and 28 sublegal sturgeon released for 20 boats (48 anglers).

WALLEYE

Troutdale:

Weekend checking showed one walleye kept for two boats (five anglers).

Bonneville Pool:

No report.

The Dalles Pool:

No report.

John Day Pool (Columbia River between John Day Dam and McNary Dam):

Weekly checking showed 331 walleye kept, plus 41 walleye released for 49 boats (115 anglers).
MARINE ZONE

Weekend opportunities:

- Pacific halibut anglers will see the second spring all-depth opener in the Central Coast subarea this Thursday 5/28 through Saturday 5/30. The Columbia River and the Southern Oregon subareas are also open.
- Ocean Chinook salmon fishing is open from Cape Falcon to the California Border.

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.

Saltwater News Bulletins

You can subscribe to receive e-mails and text message alerts for marine topics you are interested in. 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.

Marine Reserves and Other Management Designations

Prohibitions at Oregon’s marine reserves at Cascade Head, Cape Perpetua, 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
- Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Area
- Cascade Head Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Area

In addition to reserves, there are several other management areas to be aware of, such as the Stonewall Bank conservation area (west of Newport) and marine gardens, described in the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations (pages 94-98).
Depth restrictions for bottomfish and Pacific halibut fishing are defined by waypoints.

**SALMON**

- Summary of open dates and regulations for the 2015 ocean salmon fishery (pdf)
- Catch estimates

Ocean recreational fishing is open for Chinook salmon from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. through Oct. 31, 2015, and from Humbug Mt. to the Oregon-California Border through Sept. 7. This season is open for all salmon except coho salmon, with a bag limit of two salmon per day, and minimum sizes for Chinook salmon at 24 inches or larger, and steelhead at 20 inches or larger. Fishing is slow.

Anglers are restricted to no more than two single-point barbless hooks when fishing for salmon and when fishing for any other species if a salmon is on board the vessel.

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 or on board while fishing prior to Aug. 1.

**PACIFIC HALIBUT**

- Summary of open dates and regulations for the 2015 Pacific halibut fishery (pdf)
- Catch estimates (usually updated on Thursdays)

The Columbia River Subarea (Cape Falcon to Leadbetter Point, WA) all-depth season opened May 1, every Thursday through Sunday. The Columbia River Subarea nearshore fishery opened May 4, every Monday-Wednesday. Fishing is slow.

The first Central Oregon Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.) spring all-depth opener (5/14-5/16) started slow on Thursday but picked up by Saturday, with a total estimated catch of approximately 42,000 lbs. The all-depth fishery in this subarea will be open again on May 28-30, with 62% of the quota remaining. Closer to home, the Central Coast Subarea nearshore fishery opens July 1.

The Southern Oregon Subarea (Humbug Mt. to the OR/CA Border) opened May 1, seven days per week. Fishing is slow.

Additional information about the sport halibut fishery.

**MISC FISHING**

Spring often finds saltwater surfperch species like pile surfperch moving into bays. Redtail and silver surfperch can be caught from ocean beaches throughout the year.

Surfperch fishing tips

**BOTTOM FISHING**

Rockfish and lingcod catches were good again last week, with many anglers catching limits. Rockfish were good-sized. Anglers out of Newport continue to report abundant squid, both visible in the water and in the stomachs of their rockfish; rockfish are
also reportedly feeding on Velella velella, otherwise known as By-The-Wind-Sailor jellyfish, which are easily recognizable by their bright blue “sail.”

**REMINDEERS:** Cabezon is closed through June 30, and the ocean is open for bottom fishing only inside of the 30-fathom regulatory line (30-fathom waypoints) April 1 through Sept. 30.

**New for 2015.** China, copper, and quillback rockfish (in addition to yelloweye rockfish) may not be retained.

**New for 2015.** The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish, of which no more than three can be blue rockfish and no more than one can be a canary rockfish.

Anglers are urged to avoid canary rockfish (retaining one only if it is injured and caught incidentally while targeting other species such as black rockfish) and to use a descending device for any that are released. Although canary rockfish numbers are increasing, the population is not fully recovered. Releasing individuals that are not bleeding from the gills or showing signs of injury other than barotrauma will help preserve fishing opportunity for other species such as black rockfish and lingcod throughout the year.

Signs of barotrauma, such as bulging eyes and gut protruding from the fish’s mouth, result from the rapid change in pressure as fish are reeled to the surface. They are reversible when fish are returned to depth with a descending device, and ODFW encourages the release of canary rockfish with a descending device even if they exhibit signs of barotrauma, as long as they are otherwise uninjured.

See ODFW’s sport groundfish webpage for an underwater video of a fish recompressed and released by ODFW researchers, and an entertaining and informative video showing several different types of release devices (both videos are at the bottom of the page).

There are separate daily limits for lingcod (2) and flatfish other than Pacific halibut (25). Several handouts – including “What Can I Keep, and How Many?” and species identification tips – are available on the ODFW sport groundfish webpage.

**Recreational shellfish safety status, as of May 26:**

- **Recreational harvest of razor clams is closed along the entire Oregon coast from the Columbia River to the California border due to elevated levels of domoic acid.** This closure includes all beaches and bays.

- **Recreational harvest of all shellfish (clams, mussels and scallops) is closed from the Columbia River to Tillamook Head (south of Seaside) due to elevated levels of domoic acid.** The closure applies to all beaches and bays.

- **Recreational harvest of mussels is also closed from Cascade Head (north of Lincoln City) to the north jetty of the Rogue River (at Gold Beach on the south coast) due to elevated levels of Paralytic Shellfish Toxin.** This closure includes all beaches, jetties, rocks and bays.
• **Recreational harvest of bay clams (but not razor clams) is open from Tillamook Head (south of Seaside) to the California border.** Scallops are not affected by this closure when only the adductor muscle is eaten. The consumption of whole recreationally-caught scallops is not recommended. Crabs are not affected by this closure and remain safe to eat, however it is recommended you do not eat the 'butter' (or viscera).

• Commercial shellfish products remain safe for consumers; samples show no biotoxins at this time.

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.** Press 1 for biotoxin closures and 2 for general safety recommendations. For more information, call ODA’s Food Safety Program at (503) 986-4720 or visit the [ODA shellfish closures](http://www.oda.state.or.us/shellfish/closures) webpage.

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.

**Bay clams**

May and June generally hold the best low tide series of the year and will provide many opportunities to dig gaper clams, cockles, and butter clams. Coos Bay, Yaquina Bay, Netarts Bay, and Tillamook Bay are four bays where bay clams can be taken if not affected by shellfish safety closures. Recent stock assessments have revealed abundant populations and that current harvest levels are sustainable.

See [ODFW’s bay clam webpage](http://www.ODFW.state.or.us/shellfish/bayclams) for more information on where and how to dig, clam ID, etc.

**Crabs**

Ocean crabbing is good and bay crabbing continues to improve, with crabbers having decent catch rates off the central coast again last week. Bay and ocean crabbers might run into red rock crab as well as Dungeness crab. Red rock crab is a native species but is not present in all of Oregon’s bays. **Good places to try** are from the docks in Tillamook Bay, Yaquina Bay, and Coos Bay.

Red rock crab are caught just like Dungeness and have a larger daily limit (24); check out these “How to Crab” tips. Unlike Dungeness crab, any size or sex of red rock crab can be retained, but most crabbers keep only the largest ones which have much more meat than small ones.

Some sport crabbers sometimes 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** (jpg).
MARINE WILDLIFE VIEWING

It’s a great time of year to see gray whales heading north with their calves. On a calm day, their blows can be easy to spot from a high vantage point on the shore, or take advantage of a whale-watching tour to see – and perhaps even smell – them from sea level.

A viewer at Gleneden Beach between Newport and Lincoln City reported very active whales spyhopping as well as waving pectoral fins and flukes in the air within easy spotting distance from shore.

Beachcombers

Velella velella are showing up on Oregon beaches. These blue or purple “By-the-wind sailors” are small pelagic jellyfish normally found offshore. Strong westerly winds bring them onto our beaches on occasion, mostly in the spring. Did you know that these tiny creatures are found throughout the Pacific, but their “sails” are oriented differently on each side of the ocean and north vs. south of the equator, so that each quadrant’s prevailing wind and current patterns help them stay in their preferred offshore locations? Learn more in a publication by Oregon Sea Grant.

Seabirds

Check out the Oregon Coast Birding Trail website for birding hotspots and self-guided itineraries for birders in any area of the Oregon Coast. Some especially great places to view seabirds and perhaps a bald eagle are Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (the deck behind the lighthouse); Heceta Head State Park (the viewing area in front of the lighthouse); Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint (the north deck by the parking lot); and Ecola State Park (the westernmost viewing platform at Ecola Point overlook).

Wildlife Viewing Map

Get more coastal viewing ideas from the ODFW wildlife viewing map. For example, at Cape Blanco, trails lead to the beach and viewpoints where marbled murrelets, rhinoceros auklets and raptors can be seen throughout the year.