

ODFW Recreation Report April 24, 2024

Includes updates to fishing, crabbing and clamming

Top 6 reasons to apply for a tag at the last minute

We've tried sharing reasons you should apply for a big game tag early. This year, we're taking a different approach with reasons to wait until the last minute.

- The thrill of being locked out of your account at 11:50 pm on May 14 because you forgot your password.
- The frantic group texting on the last day to make sure everyone applies on time and for the right hunt.
- That annual phone call with your great uncle who is in your party but doesn't text.
- The camaraderie of standing in a long line with other hunters at a license sale agent.
- Waking up in your own bed in your warm house in November because you didn't apply on time and aren't sleeping in a wall tent at elk camp.
- The chance to hunt in a new location because you accidentally applied for the wrong hunt and didn't give yourself time to correct it.

If you don't find these reasons convincing and want to apply now, [here's how](#).

Don't forget Premium and Raffle hunts

Since you're applying early, you'll have time to also apply for [Premium](#) and [Raffle](#) hunts. Both offer extended seasons and are in addition to your controlled hunt or general season tags.

Take the family fishing

A day on the water can be great way to make some memories with your family, and catch some dinner to boot! We've gathered all our how-to and where-to information in [one convenient location](#) to help you get started.

Several popular fisheries opened April 22

Including Odell Lake, Crane Prairie Reservoir, Wickiup Reservoir, Laurance Lake and the Wood River. Check out the zone reports to see how early season fishing has been. Spoiler alert: It's been a mixed bag.

Best bets for weekend fishing

Anglers can be spoiled with choice this time of year with trout, kokanee, salmon, steelhead, and bass and other warmwater species all "angling" for attention.

- Trout stocking continues with thousands for fish headed for waterbodies near you.
- Fishing for bass, crappie and other warmwater species is picking up in locations throughout the state.
- With the arrival of the first summer steelhead and spring Chinook of the season the fishing is beginning to heat up on the North and South Fork Santiam.

- Anglers have been catching some striped bass in the Coquille and mainstem Umpqua.
- With kokanee biting at Lake Billy Chinook, Odell and Wickiup, now might be a good time to consider these [tips for catching more kokanee](#).
- Big Rock Reservoir is the perfect place to take kids and catch a lot of 9 to 11-inch trout.
- Willow Valley Reservoir is a good bet for largemouth bass.
- Anglers are catching spring Chinook in the lower Willamette and throughout the Rogue River.

These examples are for demonstration purposes only. Check the zone reports for details and more options.

NW FISHING

April 24, 2024

Best bets for weekend fishing

- Spring Chinook fishing doesn't usually heat up on the North Coast until May but there are a few showing up on the Lower Columbia tributaries, and there could be a springer or two poking into Tillamook or Nestucca bays.
- Most of the North Coast lakes have been stocked with rainbow trout, and stocking will continue through May. Water conditions and temperatures are good for fishing and the weeds haven't gotten going yet, so it is great time to take advantage of the stockings listed below and go catch some trout!
- Surplus hatchery steelhead have been planted in Town Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Vernonia Pond, Lost Lake, and Lake Lytle. Catching a steelhead out of still water can be a fun and unique experience.
- Summer steelhead should start showing up in the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers anytime now.
- Warmwater fishing in the North Coast lakes should get started soon. Warm water fish get more active, and thus fishing improves, as water temperatures get in the mid to upper 50s and we are still a little cooler than that. In the early season, concentrate on deeper parts of the lake.
- The Mid Coast steelhead bite has slowed down and continued to remain fair. We are supposed to get a decent amount of rain going into this weekend and most of the midcoast rivers will jump about a foot. The remaining steelhead in the basins will take advantage of this and head into higher waters in the upper basins.
- Anglers that catch a hatchery steelhead are encouraged to donate the snout at the ODFW office in Roseburg. Collection barrels are at many boat ramps on the South Umpqua. These snouts may contain a coded-wire tag that will help inform managers on the best release strategy to improve the program. Those who contribute snouts with coded-wire tags are entered into a monthly drawing for a gift card to Sportsman's Warehouse. *Last updated 2/28/24.*
- Lakes up and down the Mid Coast are back on stocking schedule. As rivers are blown out lake fishing offers additional opportunity to catch some fish! Check the stocking schedule for an up-to-date look at recently stocked lakes!
- If you're striking out on the rivers, the Mid Coast beaches offer some great opportunity for surfperch and other near shore species and clamming as well. Check out this [link](#) for more information on clamming during the minus tides.

Trout stocking:

Scheduled to be stocked the week of April 22:

Big Creek Reservoir 2, Munsel Lake, Devil's Lake, Lost Lake (Clatsop County)

Recently stocked:

Sunset Lake, Mercer Lake, Loren's Pond, Lyle Lake, Big Cr Reservoir 1, Cleawox Lake, Town Lake, Tahoe Lake, Georgia Lake, Siltcoos Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Cape Meares Lake, Sutton Lake, Hebo Lake, Nedonna Pond, Olalla Cr Reservoir, Perkins Lake, South Lake

See the [Trout stocking schedule](#)

Trout stocking maps

Check out the [ODFW fishing and trout stocking maps](#) to find nearby fishing locations, driving directions and descriptions of amenities.

Announcements

E-tagging tips for anglers

It's important for anglers to tag their salmon and steelhead immediately, which means you'll need to know how to navigate the MyODFW app outside of cell phone range. Here are some [tips for e-tagging in the field](#).

Watch for boating hazards

Boaters should use extreme caution following winter storms and high water events. The high water may have brought down new trees and created new obstacles. Check the Oregon State Marine Boards, [Boating Obstructions map](#).

Sign up for the latest information on boater access

Marine Board's *Opportunities and Access Report* incorporates information from federal and state agencies, local facility operators and fellow boaters to provide up-to-date information so boaters can decide where to recreate and what to expect this season. [Subscribe to receive email updates](#).

Updates by waterbody

ALSEA RIVER: winter steelhead

The Alsea River has remained fair the past few weeks. Anglers are catching fish around the hatchery but the bite has definitely slowed. Water levels will be on the rise going into the weekend, so it's likely any fish lower down will start moving higher into the system. Lower down in the system will offer some decent floating opportunities although fish will likely be moving higher up this weekend.

Check the regulations before you head out this weekend! *Last updated 4/24/24.*

KILCHIS RIVER:

Winter steelhead on the Kilchis River is all but over, the fish that are still around will be spawned out or actively spawning. There are no spring Chinook releases in the Kilchis.

There won't be much fishing opportunity here until trout season opens in the streams on May 22. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

LOWER COLUMBIA TRIBUTARIES (Big Creek, Gnat Creek, Klaskanine River): spring Chinook

A few spring Chinook are starting to show up in these streams. It's still early and numbers are low but there is the chance of catching a springer. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

NEHALEM RIVER AND BAY:

The Nehalem River winter steelhead run is pretty much over and most remaining fish will be spawned out or actively spawning. There are no spring Chinook releases in the Nehalem.

There won't be much fishing opportunity in this basin until the streams open for trout on May 22. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

River levels and predictions for the Nehalem are available [here](#).

NORTH FORK NEHALEM RIVER:

The North Fork Nehalem steelhead run is pretty much over. There won't be much fishing opportunity here until trout season opens in the streams on May 22. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

NESTUCCA RIVER: summer steelhead, spring Chinook

The Nestucca River winter steelhead season is just about over but the first summer steelhead of the season should show up anytime now.

There should be a spring Chinook or two showing up in the bay, although it is usually very slow until May. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

River levels and predictions for the Nestucca are available [here](#).

SALMON RIVER: steelhead

The Salmon River is now closed for steelhead. It was a decent season with some nice fish being caught once the winter rains slowed.

Check your regulations before you head out. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

SILETZ RIVER: winter steelhead, spring Chinook

The Siletz has been remaining fair and steady throughout March and moving into April. The Siletz also has a hatchery component to its steelhead run and provides a great opportunity for early season steelhead retention. Most of the earlier fish have shot up and are hanging around in the upper Siletz Gorge. Some of the deeper pools after the 4-mile bridge likely have some fish hanging around. The Gorge provides excellent bank fishing opportunity but as winter flows settle in, be mindful of traversing the river at higher flows.

Lower down in the system floating through town, anywhere between Moonshine and Old Mill has shown some excellent success. The bite has slowed over the past week, although conditions have remained fair. This weekend will have a decent amount of rain coming through which will have fish pushing higher into the gorge.

We are still seeing fresh fish reaching the trap, which bodes well for bank angling along the upper gorge road! The obstruction land slide at mile post 12.1 has been removed allowing full access to the fishery.

Spring Chinook fishing has begun on the Siletz. Although it's still early in the season we have had a few reports of fish being caught lower in the system. With the rains we are getting this week going into the weekend we should see some fresh fish moving into the system.

Trout fishing will reopen May 22. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

SIUSLAW RIVER: steelhead

The Siuslaw is now closed for steelhead. Like its neighbors the Siuslaw was a fair and steady fishery with most fish being caught in and around late February into March.

Trout fishing will reopen May 22. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

THREE RIVERS: spring Chinook; summer steelhead

Three Rivers is pretty much done for winter steelhead, but there could be a summer steelhead or spring Chinook showing up anytime now. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

TILLAMOOK BAY: spring Chinook; marine species

The spring Chinook fishery on Tillamook Bay doesn't really get going strong until May but there could be the odd fish around. We've noticed a couple boats out trying already but haven't yet had any reports of springers being caught. Spring is also a good time of year to fish the jetty for rock fish, ling cod and surf perch. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

TRASK RIVER: spring Chinook

The Trask River is just about done for winter steelhead and most remaining fish will be spawned out or actively spawning. It is early for spring Chinook in the Trask, but there are probably a handful in the bay and we should start seeing some moving into the river by May. The Trask does not have a release of hatchery summer steelhead but is known to get the occasional stray. Trout fishing will open on the Trask on May 22. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Trask river levels and predictions are available [here](#).

WILSON RIVER: steelhead

Winter steelhead is just about done on the Wilson, but the first summer steelhead should be showing up any time now. The Wilson does not get a hatchery spring Chinook release. Trout fishing will open in the Wilson River on May 22. *Last Updated 4/24/24.*

Wilson River levels and predictions are available [here](#).

YAQUINA RIVER: winter steelhead

Steelhead fishery is now closed on the Big Elk. It was a fair fishery overall. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

SW FISHING

April 24, 2024

Best bets for weekend fishing

This is the weekend to fish in the Southwest Zone! Here a few suggestions but be sure to check the waterbody updates for more information.

- Trout fishing – for holdover and newly stocked fish – has been excellent at several ponds, lakes and reservoirs throughout the SW Zone. See the stocking schedule below for some ideas.
- Spring Chinook fishing for both boat and bank anglers continues to be good on the lower Rogue.
- Good numbers of spring Chinook have made it to the upper Rogue – 91 hatchery fish into the hatchery so far.
- Early season bass anglers have been catching some big fish in the mainstem Umpqua. There also are reports of some striped bass being caught.
- Winter steelhead are spread throughout the middle Rogue. Anglers should target acclimation sites like Skunk, Greens and Jumpoff Joe creeks.

Trout stocking

Scheduled to be stocked the week of April 22:

Expo Pond, Emigrant Reservoir, Reinhart Park Pond, Spaulding Pond

Recently stocked:

Loon Lake, Lake Marie, Powers Pond, Lost Creek Reservoir, Tenmile lakes, Cooper Creek Reservoir, Empire lakes, Weaver Rd Pond, Galesville Reservoir, Applegate Reservoir

[Check out the 2024 trout stocking schedule.](#)

Trout stocking maps

Check out the [ODFW fishing and trout stocking maps](#) to find nearby fishing locations, driving directions and descriptions of amenities.

Announcements

No spring Chinook in Umpqua in 2024

Just a reminder that retention of wild adult or jack spring Chinook in the mainstem and North Umpqua is prohibited in 2024.

Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation and Harvest Tag required beginning Dec.

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All steelhead anglers in the Rogue Basin and on the south coast will need a Rogue-South Coast Steelhead Validation from Dec. 1 to April 30. In addition, anglers will need a new harvest tag to keep wild winter steelhead in this area. Please check the regulations for wild winter steelhead harvest dates on the Rogue River as they can be different depending on where you are fishing.

The new validations will provide more accurate harvest information and close annual harvest loopholes on certain daily licenses. Learn more about this [new validation and harvest tag](#).

E-tagging tips for anglers

It's important for anglers to tag their salmon and steelhead immediately, which means you'll need to know how to navigate the MyODFW app outside of cell phone range. Here are some [tips for e-tagging in the field](#).

Sign up for the latest information on boater access

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Updates by waterbody

AGATE LAKE: bass, carp, crappie, yellow perch, brown bullhead

Agate Reservoir is now 100 percent full. For up-to-date reservoir levels click [here](#). The boat ramp is usable for small boats. There is also plenty of bank fishing access.

Boat anglers fishing near the dam have reportedly caught bass and crappie recently and fishing will only get better with the warming trend in the forecast. Anglers are encouraged to harvest any carp caught in the reservoir.

The Jackson County Park's day-use area closes after sunset and day use fees are charged. There is a 10-mph speed limit on this reservoir and electric motors only. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

APPLEGATE RESERVOIR: trout, landlocked spring chinook, largemouth bass, small mouth bass, black crappie, bluegill,

Applegate's reservoir level is currently at 1,979 feet, and the lake surface temperature is 49F. Check up-to-date reservoir levels [here](#), or call the Army Corps of Engineers at 800-472-2434 for flow and temperature information.

The reservoir is high enough now that Copper Boat Ramp is usable along with French Gulch. Holdover rainbow trout provided some very good action before the recent rains, so Applegate is good bet for trout anglers. Applegate was stocked recently with 10,000 legal-sized trout but anglers please note that the trophies will not be stocked this year. These fish are needed to make up losses in hatchery trout production this year.

There is a longstanding health advisory for consumption of resident species due to elevated levels of mercury. See Oregon Health Authority consumption guidelines or the 2022 sportfishing regulations for more information. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

APPLEGATE RIVER below Applegate Dam:

The Applegate River is currently closed to all fishing. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

ARIZONA POND: rainbow trout

ODFW placed aquatic weed mats in the pond so anglers will see buoys indicating their presence. Trout fishing will be good all month as the pond will be stocked regularly.

The pond is also an excellent spot to see wildlife like otters, beavers, and even elk. This is pond is managed by Oregon State Parks as a youth-only fishing pond. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

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

This should be a good time to fish Ben Irving. The lake was stocked a couple of weeks ago with trout, and the bass should be getting active on warm days. No recent reports from anglers, but we have heard the lake is high right now. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

CHETCO RIVER: Closed until May 22.

COOPER CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, bass, bluegill, coho and Chinook smolts

No recent reports, but there should be some good trout fishing now. There should still be some of the big trophy-size trout in there, although quite a few have been caught. Bass fishing should also be good. *Last updated 4/2/24.*

COOS RIVER BASIN: bottomfish, steelhead, cutthroat trout

Anglers can catch rockfish around the jetties in the lower Coos Bay estuary. Best fishing is typically near slack tides with good fishing one day and fair fishing the next. A jig fished with a twister tail trailer is always a good option to catch bottomfish.

The 2024 daily general marine fish bag limit is 5 fish plus 2 lingcod with no retention of yelloweye or quillback rockfish. There is no harvest of cabezon until July 1.

There is still an occasional steelhead in the Coos Basin rivers but most of these are wild steelhead. There is only a rare steelhead angler on the river this time of the year.

Trout fishing will reopen in rivers on May 22. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

COQUILLE RIVER BASIN: steelhead, striped bass

There are still a few hatchery and wild steelhead in the North Fork Coquille and South Fork Coquille rivers. Water in the North Fork Coquille will be low and clear but conditions are good for fishing on the South Fork Coquille. Bank anglers fishing the South Fork Coquille River should find the best fishing water near the town of Powers.

Striped bass anglers will be hitting the mainstem Coquille River. Fishing is typically good during the month of April in the upper portions of the mainstem Coquille River.

Trout fishing reopens in the rivers on May 22. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

DIAMOND LAKE: trout

No recent reports from Diamond Lake.

Ice is off Diamond Lake and when conditions allow, fishing should be good. The main boat ramp is the only ramp available right now for launching.

Diamond Lake has been stocked with tiger and brown trout. Anglers targeting brown trout have been doing fantastic lately with high catch rates and some great brown trout being caught (and released). These fish are intended to assist in controlling illegally introduced tui chub. These trout are catch-and-release only and need to be released immediately and unharmed if caught. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

ELK RIVER: Closed until May 22

EMIGRANT RESERVOIR: largemouth and smallmouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, catfish, rainbow trout

Emigrant is 69 percent full and continues to fill. The main boat ramp is usable. Anglers putting in the time have been catching a few nice smallmouth at Emigrant recently. One angler reporting a catch of 30 on a week ago. Lures have included a Rage Tail Craw, a Keitech Swing Impact soft bait, and a Ned Rig Craw Colored Senko.

In addition to warmwater fish, Emigrant has been stocked with 1,000 legal-size trout a few times in the last month.

There is a longstanding health advisory for consumption of resident warmwater species in Emigrant for high levels of mercury. Consult the sportfishing regulations or the Oregon Health Authority for more information on consumption guidelines.

The most current elevations for Emigrant Reservoir and other Rogue Basin reservoirs can be found on the Bureau of Reclamation's website, [here](#). *Last updated 4/24/24.*

EMPIRE LAKE: trout

Trophy trout were stocked in mid-March into Lower and Middle Empire lakes. Excess hatchery steelhead from the Millicoma Interpretive Center were stocked into Middle Empire Lake in early March. These fish can be kept by anglers in Empire Lake under the daily trout bag limit, which allows for one fish over 20 inches per day. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

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

Expo Pond is the pond at the Jackson County Fairgrounds located directly adjacent to the access road at Gate 5, at the Southern Oregon RV Park. Expo Pond has been stocked numerous times recently with catchable rainbow trout and anglers report good catches. Anglers should try casting Rooster Tails or Panther Martin lures, or fishing with bait—nightcrawlers, PowerWorms, Pautzke eggs, or PowerBait fished off the bottom.

Please remember to park in the day-use parking area and walk into the RV park to access the pond. Do not park your vehicle within the RV park. A Jackson County parks day-use or season-long parking pass is required.

Fishing for warmwater fish should start picking up this weekend with the warmer temperatures.

There are Chinese mystery snails in the most northern pond. They are highly invasive and were illegally dumped here. Please do not move these creatures and drain and dry any personal watercraft before using them in another waterbody. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

FISH LAKE: rainbow trout, brook trout, spring Chinook

Fish Lake is 62 percent full and there is open water for bank and boat fishing. Latest report is that all boat ramps are open and useable, and people are fishing and catching limits. Additionally, Fish Lake will be stocked with 5,000 legal-size trout this week.

Calling the resort at (541) 949-8500 for current conditions is a wise choice as the ice is forming and then melting so ice conditions are changing almost weekly.

A snow park permit is typically required beginning through April.

Any tiger trout caught should be immediately released unharmed. Anglers are encouraged to report their catch or any other fish stories to Rogue Fish District Staff 541-826-8774. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

GALESVILLE RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, bass

No direct reports from anglers, but stories that some of the trophy trout have been being caught. Around 60 trophy trout have been stocked into Galesville last month. Water levels are high. Bass fishing should be improving as temperature increases and trout fishing should continue to be good.

In Galesville Reservoir, all landlocked salmon and steelhead are considered trout and are part of the five-per-day trout limit, with only one trout over 20 inches long allowed for harvest. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

GARRISON LAKE: rainbow trout, cutthroat

Conditions are excellent for trout fishing. The lake was stocked with quite a few trophy trout. Slow trolling with a wedding ring spinner tipped with worms or other type of bait can be very effective. The best way to fish the lake is by boat, as there is limited shore access.

The 12th street boat ramp has an improved ramp and docks. With higher water in the spring, the walkway onto the boat dock can be covered by water so anglers will need rubber boots to access the dock. Anglers will want to check the weather before heading out, as the lake can be very windy. *Last updated 3/13/24.*

HEMLOCK LAKE & LAKE IN THE WOODS (Douglas County): trout

With recent snows, accessing the lakes will be difficult. Recent reports indicate the lakes are not accessible yet. Unless there is significant melting it may be some time before they are accessible outside of snowmobiles. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

HOWARD PRAIRIE: trout

Howard Prairie is 50 percent full. The boat ramp at the marina is now open but the marina and café are closed until sometime in May. The improvised gravel boat ramp at the dam is also available for small boats. A bank angler recently reported success catching trout 13-15 inches on Powerbait near the dam.

Anglers may want to consider a trip to Howard soon for some early season trout fishing as holdover trout are available and Howard was stocked this week with 7,500 legal-sized trout. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

HYATT LAKE: trout, largemouth bass

Hyatt is currently 59 percent full. Anglers may want to consider a trip to Hyatt soon for some early season trout fishing from shore as 7,500 legal-sized trout will be stocked this week. The BLM reported trout rising at Hyatt recently.

All BLM facilities are still closed, which effectively closes access for trailered boats. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

ILLINOIS RIVER:

The Illinois River is currently closed to all fishing. Last updated 4/3/24.

LAKE MARIE: rainbow trout, yellow perch

Lake Marie was recently stocked with rainbow trout and the fishing should be good this week. No recent reports from anglers. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

LAKE SELMAC (Selmac Lake): trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie

Selmac was stocked again recently with 5,000 legal-size rainbow trout, and fishing should be good. Largemouth bass, bluegill and black crappie fishing are also available.

Lake Selmac has its share of non-native aquatic hitchhikers. Boat anglers are asked to do their part to remove as much vegetation as possible before leaving the ramp, as well as drain and dry their vessel before boating in another waterbody.

Please help stop the spread of Oregon's aquatic hitchhikers! *Last updated 4/17/24.*

LEMOLO RESERVOIR: brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee

Conditions remain the same for Lemolo. No recent reports if Lemolo is accessible right now and the conditions of ice. The resort and campgrounds are closed for the season.

Kokanee in Lemolo are considered trout and therefore fall under the daily limit for trout of five per day with only one of those measuring over 20-inches. Contact Lemolo Lake Resort at 541-643-0750 for weather/road conditions and additional information. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

LIBBY POND: trout

The pond will not be stocked until the end of May. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

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

Lost Creek's current elevation is about 1,867 feet so just about full. The surface temperature is 47F. The Takelma and Stewart boat ramps are available for access by trailered boats.

Lost Creek was stocked with legal-size trout in time for Spring Break. Lost Creek was also stocked again a couple of weeks ago, but anglers should note that the trophies will not be stocked this year. These fish are needed to make up losses in hatchery trout production this year.

Trollers have had good late winter success at Lost Creek on holdover trout using a variety of gear: Apex lures, Brad's cut plug lures with scent, red hoochies, and wedding rings. Trout have been caught at the surface and down to about 50 feet with a downrigger. The lures are often fish behind dodgers, and can be spiked with corn, worms or power worms. Bank fishing on both sides of the dam can be very effective using PowerBait.

Anglers can get the latest reservoir details by calling the US Army Corps Lost Creek Lake and Applegate Reservoir projects information line at 1-800-472-2434. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

PACIFIC OCEAN AND BEACHES: bottomfish, surfperch, salmon

Fishing for bottom fish is open to all-depths year-round. The 2024 daily general marine fish bag limit is 5 fish with no retention of quillback or yelloweye rockfish. Retention of cabezon is closed until July 1. Anglers are reporting good catches of rockfish and lingcod near Charleston and Bandon when the ocean swells are small.

Anglers may choose to fish the offshore longleader fishery outside of the 40-fathom regulatory line, which is open year-round. The longleader fishery daily bag limit is 12 fish made of only yellowtail, widow, canary, blue, deacon, redstripe, greenstripe, silvergray, chillipepper, and bocaccio rockfishes. No other rockfish or lingcod are allowed on an offshore longleader fishing trip. Find information about longleader setup and rules [here](#).

Ocean Chinook salmon fishing opened from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt on March 15. Salmon anglers will be allowed to harvest 2 Chinook salmon per day. Ocean salmon anglers have picked up a few Chinook salmon near Charleston and Winchester Bay.

Surfperch anglers will find redbtail surfperch along the ocean beaches like Horsfall Beach, Bullards Beach and near Cape Blanco. During the months of April and May, redbtail surfperch will be moving closer to the river mouths. Surfperch anglers are also catching striped surfperch along rocky shorelines. Anglers have been catching surfperch when the ocean swells are calmer, using sand shrimp, mole crabs or artificial sand worms. Ready to try surfperch fishing? Here are some [tips to get you started](#). *Last updated 4/3/24.*

[2024 sport bottomfish seasons](#)

PLAT I RESERVOIR: trout, bass

No recent reports from anglers. It was recently stocked with over 600 trout. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

REINHART PARK POND: trout, bass

Reinhart Park Pond in Grants Pass will be stocked with trout again this week and fishing should be good. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

ROGUE RIVER

Rogue River, lower: steelhead, spring Chinook

Spring Chinook fishing continues to be pretty good. Boat anglers are mainly focusing on the lower river as every day more fish move into the river. Bank anglers fishing at many of the gravel bars in the lower river are also picking up Chinook. As flows drop in the river, bank anglers will have a tougher time catching Chinook as the salmon will move deeper as the river clears.

Steelhead are still getting picked up on a daily basis, but winter steelhead fishing is about done for the season as most fish are upriver or in tributaries spawning.

Anglers are reminded that the Rogue has a new winter steelhead season structure that starts Dec. 1. Anglers can now retain wild steelhead starting Dec. 1, but they must be tagged on the new wild steelhead tag. Only 3 wild steelhead can be retained from Dec. 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. Anglers are reminded to check the regulations in the particular area they are fishing prior to heading out, as start and end dates vary by zone. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

Rogue River, middle: steelhead, trout, Chinook

Flow is currently clear and slowly dropping in the middle Rogue but winter steelhead are being caught along with confirmed spring Chinook catches. Flow in Grants Pass is 2,590 CFS with a water temperature of around 56F.

Winter steelhead are spread throughout the middle Rogue. Targeting acclimation site areas at Skunk Creek (Baker Park), Greens Creek or Jumpoff Joe Creek is a good idea as numerous hatchery winter steelhead have been caught recently.

Also, covering as much water as possible is the key to finding fish right now. A variety of techniques can lead to success, including side drifting, float fishing, pulling plugs, and swinging flies.

More spring Chinook have been caught and anglers should expect more to arrive in Grants Pass soon with the decent flow and warming river temperatures.

Anglers are reminded that trout fishing closed on April 1 to protect smolts migrating to sea.

Current flow, temp and turbidity conditions for the Rogue can be found at the USGS stream gauges [here](#), or checking the City of Grants Pass water page's river data [here](#). *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Rogue River, upper: steelhead, trout, Chinook

Lots of winter steelhead are present in the upper Rogue and there is a good mix of hatchery and wild fish present. Recent, higher flows have fish spread out, occupying all types of

holding water. Mainstem spawning activity has picked up so try to avoid redds and actively spawning fish. Expect more fish to arrive through May.

A good early season total of 91 hatchery spring Chinook have made it into the hatchery as of last week, so a good time to try for a bright, early spring Chinook. Just over 600 winter steelhead have arrived at the hatchery so far this season.

The release from Lost Creek is 1,800 CFS (slightly increasing late this week) and the river temperature is 49F .

Anglers can call the Army Corps of Engineers at 800-472-2434 for an update on hatchery counts as well as flow and temperature information.

Make sure to check the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for each section of river before you head out. Anglers are reminded that trout fishing closes on April 1 to protect smolts migrating to sea.

For up-to-date river levels, check all the USGS Rogue gauges [here](#). *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Rogue River, above Lost Creek Reservoir: trout

The snow around Prospect has likely melted and access to the river should be available but some of the Forest Service roads not used during the winter may be impassable. The best bet is probably PacifiCorp's North Fork Park. Check the driving conditions on ODOT [Trip Check](#) before heading up.

The Rogue and tributaries above Lost Creek Reservoir remain open year-round, with a daily retention limit of 5 trout (no limit on brook trout). *Last updated 4/10/24.*

SIXES RIVER: Closed until May 22

SMITH RIVER, Umpqua: steelhead

No recent reports from the Smith. Water conditions are low, and steelhead runs should be winding down. This is primarily a catch-and-release fishery. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

TENMILE LAKES/TENMILE CREEK: steelhead, trout, bass

Steelhead fishing is still technically open on Tenmile Creek and Eel Creek but fishing is basically over for the season. Eel Creek is open to steelhead fishing until April 30.

Excess hatchery steelhead captured at the Eel Lake fish trap were hauled to Saunders Lake recently. These fish can be kept by anglers in Saunders Lake under the daily trout bag limit which allows for one fish over 20 inches per day.

The water temperature in Tenmile Lakes has been slowly warming up, with some shallow water areas reaching the low 60 degrees during the recent sunny weather. Largemouth bass are transitioning to the spawning areas and anglers can start to find largemouth bass in shallower water.

Trout fishing in rivers and streams will reopen May 22. Trout fishing in the lakes is open year-round. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

UMPQUA HIKE-IN LAKES AND FOREBAYS: trout

Hike-in lakes are still mostly inaccessible. Anglers are encouraged to report their fishing trips to help guide future stocking rates.

Stocking these lakes will be a volunteer backpacking and horsepacking activity tentatively scheduled for mid-July. Prospective volunteers should contact Levi.m.simmons@odfw.oregon.gov for more information. *Last updated 4/3/23.*

UMPQUA RIVER, MAINSTEM: Steelhead, Chinook, surfperch, bass

The mainstem has decent water conditions this week but may get muddy by the weekend. Steelhead season has slowed greatly in the mainstem, but anglers are catching a few spring Chinook throughout the mainstem.

Some anglers have started fishing for early season bass, and reportedly getting some large smallmouth. Early warm days are a great chance to catch some great bass. There is no bag limit on bass caught in the Umpqua. There are a few reports of some striped bass being caught in the lower sections.

There is NO HARVEST OF WILD ADULT OR JACK SPRING CHINOOK in the Umpqua this year. The river remains open for hatchery Chinook through June 1. Fall seasons have not yet been finalized. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

UMPQUA RIVER, NORTH: Steelhead, Chinook

Steelhead season is winding down quickly. There should still be some around, but very few hatchery steelhead can be found on the North Umpqua. Spring Chinook are crossing Winchester Dam daily, so angling should be improving.

There is NO HARVEST OF WILD ADULT OR JACK SPRING CHINOOK in the Umpqua this year. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: steelhead

Steelhead runs have slowed quickly this past week. There are definitely still some around, and some still bright and healthy while others are getting darker.

Bass fishing should start picking up as soon as we get some warmer weather. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

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

Willow Lake offers fishing for trout and a variety of warmwater species in a beautiful setting. Willow is now 100 percent full offering plenty of open water to fish as the weather clears up a bit. Willow Lake was stocked again recently with 4,000 legal-size rainbow trout and fishing should be good.

For more information on camping and day use please visit the Jackson County Parks [website](#) or call [541-774-8183](tel:541-774-8183).

Anglers catching illegally introduced yellow perch are always encouraged to take as many of these as they want. This illegal introduction has only resulted in stunted perch and negative impacts to the bass and trout fishery in this lake and numerous others around the Southwest District. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

WILLAMETTE FISHING

April 24, 2024

Best bets for weekend fishing:

- With the arrival of the first summer steelhead and Spring chinook of the season the fishing is beginning to heat up on the North and South Fork Santiam.
- Stocking has been underway for a few weeks – there should be a lot of fish around.
- Anglers are still picking up a few bright winter steelhead in the Clackamas and Sandy rivers. Early summer steelhead and spring Chinook are in the mix, too.

Trout stocking

Scheduled to be stocked the week of April 22:

McKenzie River above Leaburg, Dexter Reservoir, Trojan Lake, Timber Linn Lake, Fall Creek, Bule River, Leaburg Lake, Junction City Pond, Blue River Reservoir, Salmonberry Lake, St Louis Pond, EE Wilson Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir, Sunnyside Park Pond, Walter Wirth Lake, Foster Reservoir, Clear Lake, Haldeman Pond

Recently stocked:

Waverly Lake, Junction City Pond, Dorena Reservoir, Bethany Pond, Blue Lake, Salmon Creek, Fall River Reservoir, Mt Hood Pond, Sheridan Pond, Harriet Lake, Walter Wirth Lake, Huddleston Pond, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Salmonberry Lake, Benson Lake, Coast Fork Willamette River, McKenzie River below Leaburg, EE Wilson Pond, Trojan Lake, Leaburg Lake, Canby Pond, Timber Linn Lake, Foster Reservoir, Green Peter Reservoir, Dorman Pond

[Check out the 2024 trout stocking schedule.](#)

Trout stocking maps

Check out the [ODFW fishing and trout stocking maps](#) to find nearby fishing locations (including high mountain lakes), driving directions and descriptions of amenities.

Announcements

Two rods allowed for Willamette spring Chinook

Anglers will be able to use their two-rod validation in the Willamette River this year for hatchery spring Chinook and all other fish except sturgeon, beginning March 1 downstream of Willamette Falls and May 1 upstream of Willamette Falls. [Learn more.](#)

E-tagging tips for anglers

It's important for anglers to tag their salmon and steelhead immediately, which means you'll need to know how to navigate the MyODFW app outside of cell phone range. Here are some [tips for e-tagging in the field.](#)

Boat ramps reopen on Lookout Point and Green Peter reservoirs

Both Thistle Creek and Whitcomb Island boat ramps are now open.

Sign up for the latest information on boater access

Marine Board's *Opportunities and Access Report* incorporates information from federal and state agencies, local facility operators and fellow boaters to provide up-to-date information so boaters can decide where to recreate and what to expect this season. [Subscribe to receive email updates.](#)

Dexter Pond road closure

Beginning Friday, April 1, the public will not be able to drive into the Dexter Ponds Hatchery due to bridge inspection by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Please call the USACE Park Ranger Office at 541-942-5631 with questions.

Updates by waterbody

ALTON BAKER CANOE CANAL (ABCC): trout

Will be stocked the week of April 8 with 1,250 rainbow trout.

The canoe canal is open to fishing all year and is located within Alton Baker Park. A 4-acre pond at the midpoint of the canal is a good spot, as is directly behind Kowloon Restaurant. However, the canal can be fished all along its two-mile length from Day Island Road in Eugene to Aspen Street in Springfield. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

BLUE RIVER: trout

Will be stocked the week of April 22, with 750 rainbow trout.

Blue River is located east of Eugene near the town of Blue River, north of Hwy. 126 and is open to year-round fishing. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

BLUE RIVER RESERVOIR: trout, warmwater species

Will be stocked the week of April 22 with 3,100 rainbow trout.

The USFS has hired a concessionaire company to maintain the boat ramps and parking areas and they are charging \$9 to park at the Saddle Dam or Lookout Campground/boat launch parking area. For details people can call the USFS McKenzie Ranger District 541-822-3381. Blue River Reservoir is located east of Eugene near the town of Blue River, north of Hwy. 126 and is open to year-round fishing. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

CARMEN RESERVOIR:

Latest estimates for when access and fish stocking will resume are now 2026 at the earliest. Public access to Carmen Reservoir is prohibited until further notice. Closure is due to operations required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) resulting in reservoir drawdown over the summer.

CLACKAMAS RIVER: winter steelhead

Winter steelhead can currently be found throughout the system and bright fish are still being caught by anglers. Reports of the occasional summer steelhead being picked up are also beginning to surface and the first batch of spring Chinook are likely already in the river. Fishing pressure has died off a bit, but there are plenty of reasons to get out and fish.

The winter steelhead return continues to be excellent on the Clackamas River. The current run prediction is for over 4,000 returning adults. Only in 1962 and 1971 have we had more than 3,000 unmarked winter steelhead return to the trap.

[USGS hydrological data](#) readings from the Estacada gauge near [Milo McIver State Park](#). Hydrologic data and river forecasts can also be accessed on the NOAA/National Weather Service NW River Forecast Center -- [NW River Forecast Center](#). *Last updated 4/3/24.*

CLEAR LAKE: trout

Will be stocked the week of April 22nd with 2,500 hatchery rainbow trout. . Clear Lake is accessed from Hwy. 126 approximately 70 miles east of Springfield. [Linn County's Clear Lake Resort](#) rents cabins and boats. *Last updated 4/8/2024.*

COAST FORK WILLAMETTE RIVER: Chinook, summer steelhead, trout

Will be stocked the week of April 15 with 750 hatchery rainbow trout. The river is open to fishing all year for trout, hatchery Chinook salmon, hatchery steelhead, and wild steelhead over 24 inches. Use of bait allowed April 22 – Oct. 31 but beginning Nov. 1 anglers may only use lures and artificial flies. In addition to five hatchery trout, two wild trout may be kept daily. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

COTTAGE GROVE POND: See Row River Nature Park Pond

COTTAGE GROVE RESERVOIR: trout, spotted bass, largemouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, bluegill

Will be stocked the week of April 15 with 3,750 rainbow trout.

Cottage Grove Reservoir is south of Cottage Grove and is open to fishing all year. *Updated 4/10/24.*

DETROIT RESERVOIR: trout

Reservoir levels continue to rise as prescribed in the rule curve and looks like it will fill completely by the Memorial Day weekend. Water levels have increased enough for most boat ramps to be in the water, including Detroit Lake State Park as well as the main ramp at Mongold. Kokanee fishing is heating up and a few holdover trout are also being caught. This is the time of year where juvenile chinook are also feeding more actively before beginning their outmigration to the ocean. Please be mindful and release any Chinook back into the water.

Trout are available and active year-round. Pretty much all techniques will catch fish, but it might take some experimenting to find out what is most effective on the day you're out there. Trout are usually stocked from late April through July.

The reservoir gets stocked with trout during the spring and summer with many of these fish throughout the fall and winter and into next year. As a reminder, anglers are allowed to keep up to five trout, with an additional five fish kokanee bag limit.

Also, as a reminder to anglers, fishing for and harvesting Chinook in the lake and the rivers above is prohibited. Any Chinook caught in Detroit must be released unharmed.

It's always a good idea to check the water levels at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website before using the boat ramps. For the latest information on water levels at Detroit Reservoir check with the Army Corps of Engineers' [website for more information](#).

Anglers are encouraged to report their catch on an [on-line form](#). Remember to indicate whether the fish you catch have their adipose fin or not. This information will allow ODFW to manage the fishery for the benefit of both recreational anglers and the resource. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

DEXTER RESERVOIR: trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass

Will be stocked the week of April 15, with 2,400 rainbow trout. If you harvest fish, check the guts for tags. Squeeze the guts and see if there is anything hard in there. Please return the tags to ODFW Springfield office as some of our colleagues are conducting research on Chinook and some of them may have been consumed by other predators. The office is located at 3150 Main St. in Springfield right next to Les Schwab. Sorry, there is no reward but you can feel great about helping with research!

Dexter Reservoir near Lowell is visible from Hwy. 58. Boat and bank access is available through state and county parks. Parking and bank access are also available from the causeway near Lowell. Largemouth bass and some smallmouth are also available to anglers in this reservoir. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

DORENA RESERVOIR: trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, crappie, bluegill

Will be stocked the week of April 15 with 5,500 rainbow trout.

Dorena Reservoir is east of Cottage Grove on Row River Road and is open to fishing all year. Trout and warmwater fish are available. Baker Bay Park (Lane County) is open seasonally from April – October. The park has a boat ramp, ADA restrooms, showers, picnic and camp spots. *Last update 4/10/24.*

EAGLE CREEK: winter steelhead

Fishing pressure has been low in Eagle Cr, but fish can still be found especially after flows have come back up.

Fishing in this system can be good at times, but it depends heavily on river levels as this system is very flashy.

Keep in mind that long stretches of Eagle Creek do run through private property. Anglers are advised to pay close attention to where they fish. Always ask permission prior to accessing or crossing private lands on your way to your favorite fishing spot. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

EE WILSON POND: warmwater species, trout

The pond is stocked with trout from February through May. It will be stocked again this week with 1,500 trout. As a reminder, only one fish over 20 inches is allowed to be kept as part of a 5-fish bag limit. In the spring and summer anglers can also pursue bass, bluegill, and crappie.

This pond is located inside EE Wilson Wildlife Area. Getting to it requires a 1/3-mile walk from the parking area. It has three newly installed fishing piers including one that is ADA compliant.

A parking permit is required, and one can be purchased online or at any ODFW office. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

FALL CREEK: trout

The Bedrock Fire burned the upper portions of the drainage, access will be challenging and water temperatures in this sub-basin will likely be elevated in the river during the summer months. For these reasons, ODFW will not be stocking Fall Cr. in 2024 and will instead focus stocking in Fall Creek Reservoir.

Fall Creek is open all year for trout. Bait is allowed from April 22 through Oct. 31; however, beginning Nov. 1, anglers may only use lures and artificial flies. Five hatchery trout and an additional two wild trout may be harvested daily in the river.

Fishing for salmon upstream of Fall Creek Dam is prohibited. Below Fall Creek Dam the creek is open all year for hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead and wild steelhead greater than 24 inches. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

FALL CREEK RESERVOIR: trout

Will be stocked the week of April 29 with 3,000 rainbow trout.

Fall Creek Reservoir is currently being held down and will be held at winter low level until early May to allow passage of juvenile spring Chinook salmon. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

FARADAY LAKE: trout

Faraday Lake is now closed while PGE updates its powerhouse at Rivermill Dam. For more information, visit [PGE's Parks and Recreation webpage](#).

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 waterbody. Orchard Park boat ramp opened April 1, while the boat ramps at Richardson Park and Perkins Peninsula will open on May 13. Information regarding the lake and available boat ramps, contact the Lane County Parks Department at 541-682-2000.

Bass and crappie fishing usually gets going around mid-April with peak months being May and June. Look for crappie along the weedy edges on the south side of the reservoir. The south shore around Perkins Peninsula as well as along the face of the dam are good spots.

There is good bank access at several rest stops and campgrounds, and three seasonal boat ramps. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

FOSTER RESERVOIR: trout, bass, perch, catfish

The reservoir was stocked several times last fall. It will be stocked again this week with 3,300 trout.

This reservoir near Sweet Home is usually stocked several times in the spring and early fall with over 28,000 hatchery trout. Besides trout, look for smallmouth bass and yellow perch near underwater structure and drop-offs. Please remember that only *kokanee* and adipose fin-clipped *trout* may be kept as part of the trout bag limit, but there are no limits on size or number of *bass*.

Retention of warmwater fish species such as bluegill, catfish, crappie, and yellow perch is also allowed -- no limit on size or number. Anglers report good success in the two arms of the reservoir, as well as the shoreline in between. Fishing is best when light levels are low, either early morning or late evening.

The reservoir water level is near low pool. Your best bet to launch boats remains Sunnyside County Park which is open year-round. It will slowly fill up through the spring in order to retain as much water as possible by the summer.

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. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

GOLD LAKE: brook trout, rainbow trout

Gold Lake fishing will open around May 22, 2024. Gold Lake is closed to fishing between Oct. 31 and May 22 annually.

Gold lake has special fishing regulations in place that include no retention of rainbow trout, no limit on brook trout, fly-fishing only (has to be a fly rod, no spinning rigs) and barbless hooks. Oregon State Marine Board passed a new regulation in 2020 that allows ELECTRIC motors only on Gold Lake.

Gold Lake is a 100-acre lake located north of the Willamette Pass summit off Hwy. 58 approximately 23 miles southeast of Oakridge. *Last updated 1/31/24.*

GREEN PETER RESERVOIR: trout, bass

The water level in Green Peter continues to rise and is now only 25 feet below full pool. Thistle Creek boat ramp was re-opened by Linn County on Feb. 1. This time of year, your main quarry will be trout and any kokanee that may have survived the unprecedented drawdown this fall. Smallmouth bass fishing will begin to heat up in a few weeks when the water warms up a little.

The reservoir is usually stocked with trout in the spring. It was stocked again last week with 5,000 hatchery trout. Later in the spring and summer this reservoir also produces excellent smallmouth bass. Also, as a reminder to anglers, fishing for and harvesting Chinook in the lake and the rivers above is prohibited. Any Chinook caught in Green Peter reservoir must be released unharmed.

For the latest information on water levels at Green Peter Reservoir check with the Army Corps of Engineers' [website for more information](#). *Last updated 4/24/24.*

HARRIET LAKE: trout

There's still a fair amount of snow at Harriet and the lake likely won't be stocked until late May. The lake will have to be accessed from the Skyline route until hazard trees are cleared. For more information, visit [PGE's Parks and Recreation webpage](#).

Harriet Lake 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. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

HENRY HAGG LAKE: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, bullhead catfish

Early springtime bass will be actively feeding and preparing to spawn when water temperatures reach 55-65 degrees. A variety of baits can entice strikes at many depths; hence a good rule of thumb is to start in deeper holding areas and work the travel corridors to spawning areas in shallower water until you locate them.

Main lake points tend to be more productive in between creek arms where they can feed, find deep water access, and be close to shallower spawning areas. Often the big females will shoal up in slightly deeper holding water behind the smaller schools of younger fish that feed up in the shallows. Once the water reaches 55 degrees start looking for fish in shallower depths when they really get into their spawning mode.

Crappie are following similar patterns as bass moving towards their spawning areas and feeding heavily. They'll be traveling the river channel ledges up towards the back of the creek arms. Anytime there is brush, logs or steep rocky type structure, they'll likely school nearby. Larger fish tend to be more solitary and slow trolling smaller crankbaits near the bottom can be productive.

Crappie deep water to shallow water migrations tends to be a little behind bass since they spawn in 65-70-degree temperatures. Just remember, structure is key for crappie, even if its random smallish boulders on the flats above their travel corridors.

Trout will likely be surface feeding on cloudy days until the water gets warmer and then they will hide below the thermocline on sunny days when the surface waters get above their temperature thresholds. This is when fishing baits suspended just over the bottom in harder substrate can shine when fishing from the bank.

When surface waters temperatures hit the 65 degree, trout may also be found where cooler creek water enters the lake. If the trout are in these areas, large trout imitation swimbaits can take the occasional bass over 5 pounds when conditions are right but be ready to be diligent and exercise patience.

Current reservoir level can be found [here](#).

Hagg Lake is one of western Oregon's largest lakes and is a premier warmwater fishing destination. The lake is home to both the state record smallmouth bass and bullhead catfish.

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. The lake and lake park are currently open, although users are encouraged to check the [Hagg Lake Park website](#), as conditions can change. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

HILLS CREEK RESERVOIR: trout, crappie, bass

Will be stocked the week of April 15 with 2,400 rainbow trout. Don't forget that you can keep hatchery Chinook in the reservoir as mentioned below.

Hills Creek Reservoir is located about four miles southeast of Oakridge and is open to year-round fishing. In addition to catchable-size trout, the reservoir is stocked with 60,000 adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout fingerlings and 100,000 adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook salmon fingerlings annually to provide a harvest fishery the following year.

Trout and salmon must be adipose fin-clipped to be harvested. Large native trout are available for catch-and-release fishing. Packard Boat Ramp (USFS) generally remains accessible at all normal reservoir elevation. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

JUNCTION CITY POND: trout, bluegill

This pond will be stocked again this week with about 1,500 trout. The east side of the pond along the highway is still a work in progress, but otherwise the pond and the archery range are open for use. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

LEABURG LAKE: trout

Leaburg Lake will be stocked the week of April 15 with 2,000 hatchery rainbow trout.

Leaburg Lake is open to fishing all year. Bait can be used from April 22 – Oct. 31, but beginning Nov. 1, anglers may only use lures and artificial flies. All wild trout must be released. Only hatchery fish may be kept. *Last updated 4/8/23.*

MCKENZIE RIVER below Leaburg Lake (R1): trout, salmon, steelhead, Chinook

The week of April 15, with 7,500 rainbow trout. Bait can be used from April 22 – Oct. 31, but beginning Nov. 1, anglers may only use lures and artificial flies.

All non-adipose fin-clipped trout must be released unharmed. Check the 2024 Sport Fishing Regulations for bait restrictions in the segment you plan to fish. Beginning Nov. 1, anglers may only use lures and artificial flies.

The lower McKenzie River is open to retention of adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches long. A Columbia River Basin

Endorsement is required for anglers targeting salmon and steelhead in the McKenzie. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

MCKENZIE RIVER above Leaburg Lake (R2): trout, steelhead

Will be stocked the week of April 22 with 7,750 rainbow trout.

All non-adipose fin-clipped trout must be released unharmed. Bait is allowed from Leaburg Dam to Forest Glen Boat Ramp from April 22 – Oct 31. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE RIVER: trout, salmon, steelhead, Chinook

The Middle Fork Willamette River is open to bait *below Dexter Dam only*. Reminder: Restrictions from Dexter Dam to approximately **700 feet** downstream to the markers: No angling from the north shore, from a floating device, or while wading (page 44 in regulations). This river reach is open to retention of adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead and non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead greater than 24 inches long.

There may be more fishing opportunity below Dexter Dam for warmwater game fish (walleye, bass) following the drawdown of Lookout Point Reservoir in winter of 2023 as fish passed downstream through Lookout Point Reservoir and Dexter dams.

A Columbia River Basin Endorsement is required for anglers targeting salmon and steelhead in the Middle Fork Willamette below Dexter Dam.

The Middle Fork Willamette above Lookout Point and Hills Creek reservoirs is open to fishing using lures and artificial flies. All wild trout must be released upstream of Lookout Point Reservoir. The Middle Fork Willamette River is not stocked with hatchery trout. *Last updated 1/31/24.*

NORTH FORK RESERVOIR: trout

Trout stocking will resume this spring in time for trout season, which opens May 22.

For more information, visit [PGE's Parks and Recreation webpage](#).

North Fork Reservoir is a 350-acre reservoir of the Clackamas River behind North Fork Dam approximately 5.2 miles east of Estacada, Ore. This reservoir has two boat ramps, boat moorage, 50 campsites, picnic areas, boat rentals, grocery store, fueling station, and ADA-accessible fishing platforms. It is big and deep enough, and is fed by the upper Clackamas River, to stay cool longer into the summer than most of the other lakes and ponds. *Last updated 1/10/24.*

QUARTZVILLE CREEK: trout

This river above Green Peter Reservoir gets stocked from late spring through the summer.

The river is in decent shape at the moment. Flows are at 250 cfs as of April 23. Best conditions for fishing are below 300 cfs. Light tackle including flies works best, but bait is allowed.

Trout are active year-round, and anglers are allowed to keep up to five fish daily. *Last updated 4/124/24.*

ROARING RIVER PARK POND: trout

This small, one acre pond was stocked recently with 125 trout. This Linn County park is located about 15 miles east of Albany near the Roaring River Hatchery. From Albany take Hwy 20 east to Hwy 226. Head east for about 3 miles and turn right onto Fish *hatchery Road. Continue east for about 7 miles, following the signs to Roaring River Park. Last update 4/24/24.*

ROW RIVER NATURE PARK POND (formerly Cottage Grove Pond): trout, bass, bluegill

Was stocked last weekend with 22 show-pond fish that were up to 26 inches long. It will also be stocked again this week with 950 rainbow trout. Currently the fishing dock has been removed and will be replaced this spring/summer, but the bank is still accessible.

Cottage Grove Ponds are open to year-round fishing and are accessible via an asphalt pathway behind the truck scales on Row River Rd. In addition to fishing, these ponds also offer wildlife viewing opportunities. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

SALMON CREEK: trout

Will be stocked the week of April 15 with 1,325 rainbow trout.

Salmon Creek is open to fishing all year. Bait can be used from April 22 – Oct. 31, but beginning Nov. 1, anglers may only use lures and artificial flies. Trout are released at multiple locations upstream to Black Creek. Two wild trout per day, 8-inch minimum length, may be kept in addition to five hatchery trout. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

SALT CREEK: trout

Salt Creek is an unstocked tributary to the Middle Fork Willamette River east of Oakridge. Salt Creek and its tributaries are open to fishing all year. Bait can be used from April 22 – Oct. 31, but beginning Nov. 1, anglers may only use lures and artificial flies. Two wild trout may be kept per day, 8-inch minimum length. *Last updated 5/19/20.*

SANDY RIVER: winter steelhead

Winter steelhead can currently be found throughout the system and bright fish are still being caught by anglers. Reports of the occasional summer steelhead being picked up are also beginning to surface and the first batch of spring Chinook are likely already in the river. Angling pressure below the hatchery has been light, but people are still walking out with fish.

Flow and visibility on the Sandy are greatly influenced by each passing front and change in snow levels. Colder temperatures, as well as less precipitation means this glacially-fed system will not only be on the drop but will also clear up much more quickly.

Anglers should confirm access before they go. All Metro Parks and boat ramps (including Dabney and Lewis and Clark) are now open but may have modified operations. Check conditions at individual parks on [Metro's website](#). State parks and recreation areas appear open.

[USGS hydrological data](#) for the Sandy near bull run. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

SANTIAM RIVER (NORTH FORK): steelhead, trout, coho

River levels best for fishing are at or below 3,000 cfs, and the river is currently running at around 2,100 cfs at the gauge in Mehama.

With the arrival of the first summer steelhead and Spring chinook of the season the fishing is beginning to heat up. Summer steelhead have started to enter the river and about 100 have already made it passed the Stayton area. So far, they have counted 1,751 adults passing above Willamette Falls as of April 20.

Spring chinook numbers will begin to increase dramatically in the next couple of weeks but their arrival in the basin still a few weeks away. Now that we are passed April 22 the bait restrictions on the river have been lifted and bait is again allowed. For the next week or two the lower river will have more fish until the bulk of the run arrives and pushes more fish into the upper sections. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

There are several large, downed trees in the river creating some dangerous hazards for boaters in the lower river. For more information check out the [Oregon State Marine Board website](#).

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

Fishing is generally best when flows are below 3,000 cfs. Currently flows are around 2,200 cfs at the Waterloo gauge as of April 23. Fishing is starting to heat up with the arrival of the first few summer steelhead of the season. Summer steelhead are off to a pretty good start this year with over 1,750 adults having crossed into the upper Willamette River so far. A few of these fish have already arrived in the South Santiam and are being caught by anglers, with more arriving each day.

A few weeks behind are the spring chinook, but their numbers are expected to rise dramatically in the next couple of weeks. Now that we are beyond April 22, bait restrictions are lifted and anglers can use bait through the end of October. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

SMITH RESERVOIR: trout

Latest estimates for when access and fish stocking will resume are now 2026 at the earliest. The Eugene Water & Electric Board is enveloped in a construction project to retrofit, refurbish and upgrade capital equipment at its Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project.

In order to keep the public and construction personnel safe during the five-year project, Forest Road 730 is closed at the Powerhouse, cutting off access to Trail Bridge Campground, Smith Reservoir and Lake's End Campground. The road closure will continue through 2026.

SUNNYSIDE PARK POND: trout, bass, bluegill

This pond will be stocked again this week with about 1,100 trout.

This 4-acre pond is located two miles above the upper end of Foster Reservoir. The pond also offers bluegill and largemouth bass year-round. The park has a campground and picnic area and is a great place to take kids fishing. There is also boat ramp access to the Middle Fork arm of Foster Reservoir. Please keep in mind that only one fish over 20 inches may be kept per day as part of a 5-fish daily bag limit.

To get there from I-5, take US 20 through the town of Sweet Home and continue around Foster Reservoir to Quartzville Creek Rd. Take a left and follow this road for two miles to the park. *Last update 4/24/24.*

TIMBER LINN POND: trout

This pond is usually stocked from November through May with hatchery trout. It will be stocked this week with about 1,230 trout.

This is a family-friendly fishing pond located within Timber-Linn Memorial Park in Albany. 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. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

TIMOTHY LAKE: trout, kokanee, crayfish

The lake should be accessible to stocking trucks soon. The lake will have to be accessed from the Skyline route until hazard trees are cleared.

Timothy lake is a great summer destination for fishing and recreating on the water. Anglers should keep in mind this is a very popular destination. Trout fishing is often best at the head of the reservoir. Check the [Mt Hood National Forest website](#) for access updates. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

TRAIL BRIDGE RESERVOIR: trout

The Eugene Water & Electric Board is implementing a construction project to retrofit, refurbish and upgrade capital equipment at its Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project. Latest estimates for when access and fish stocking will resume are now 2025 at the earliest. The capital construction projects planned for the 2017-2024 timeframe will create significant public access constraints due primarily to safety concerns. In order to keep the public and construction personnel safe during the project, EWEB and the Forest Service agreed to close access to Forest Road 730 at the Powerhouse.

The closure will deny public access to Trail Bridge Campground, Smith Reservoir and Lake's End Campground. The closure of the road to the public started in March 2017 and will continue at least through 2024.

ODFW has discontinued stocking of Trail Bridge reservoir for the duration of the closure – hatchery fish allocated to the reservoir are being redistributed to other stocked waterbodies. Only adipose fin-clipped trout may be harvested from Trail Bridge Reservoir. Only flies and lures may be used.

TRILLIUM LAKE: trout

The gate to the lake is still locked due to snow drifts in several areas along the road. Trillium will be stocked once it's accessible. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

TURNER LAKE: bass, panfish, some trout

This approximately 70-acre lake just north of Turner is open to public fishing along the southern half where the boat ramp is. It is an old borrow pit and features largemouth bass, panfish such as bluegill, and a few trout. There's a boat ramp in the southwest corner of the lake. This waterbody should produce fish year-round. It was stocked recently with about 2,000 trout. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

WALTER WIRTH LAKE: trout, bass, panfish

This urban lake usually gets stocked from about Thanksgiving through May. The rest of the year anglers can target bluegill and bass. It will be stocked this week with 2,000 trout. As a reminder, only one fish out a 5-fish bag limit may be longer than 20 inches.

Walter Wirth is a 20-acre lake located within the City of Salem's Cascades Gateway Park with good access all the way around. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

WAVERLY LAKE: trout, bluegill, catfish

This lake in Albany gets stocked starting in February through May usually. The rest of the year offers fair warmwater fishing for bluegill and bass. It was stocked last week with 1,000 hatchery trout. As a reminder, only one fish out a five-fish bag limit may be longer than 20 inches.

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. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

WILLAMETTE RIVER: catch-and-release sturgeon, steelhead, spring Chinook, coho, small and largemouth bass

For week of April 15-21 preliminary catch/effort:

3,724 boats

- Chinook- 873 kept, 126 released
- Steelhead- 79 kept, 21 released.

305 bank anglers

- Chinook- 2 kept, 0 released
- Steelhead- 2 kept, 2 released

See summaries for more details.

- [Spring Chinook](#)
- [Steelhead](#)

River conditions and fish counts:

- April 21 [Willamette River Portland-Temperature/Visibility](#): 55 F, visibility: 8.0 ft
- [Willamette Falls Counts as of 4/7/24](#): 801 Chinook – 8,235 winter steelhead – 1,751 summer steelhead
- [Link to Willamette River Morrison Bridge Hydro Data](#)

- Link to [NOAA-Willamette River Forecast \(Salem\)](#)

The upstream section between Albany and Harrisburg is open year-round for trout fishing, which can be very good when flows are cooperating. Look for deep slot pools and the tail-end of long riffles and the head of pools where the fish are likely stacked up in feeding lanes.

Smallmouth bass can be a lot of fun to catch and are plentiful between Salem and Corvallis during the spring and summer. Trout prefer the cooler temperatures upstream of Corvallis. From Salem downstream there are plenty of largemouth bass in the deeper, quieter sections.

The river is ideal for small boats such as canoes and kayaks, but there are enough public access points for bank anglers as well. Consult Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for specific locations.

The Willamette often gets overlooked because it is so close. But this river offers convenience, fairly good access and variety. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

CENTRAL FISHING

April 24, 2024

Best bets for weekend fishing

- Odell Lake, Crane Prairie Reservoir, Wickiup Reservoir and Laurence Lake reopened to fishing on April 22.
- Anglers have reported catching holdover and brood rainbow trout in Haystack Reservoir. The brood fish were stocked from Wizard Falls Hatchery and offer a unique opportunity to catch trophy-sized fish.
- Spring fishing for kokanee and bull trout has been excellent on Lake Billy Chinook.
- We have received early reports of nice sized kokanee, averaging around 16 inches out of Wickiup Reservoir.
- Nymphing has been the ticket for trout anglers on the Metolius River between Wizard Falls hatchery and Lower Bridge, and below.
- Nymph fishing for trout also has been good on the lower Deschutes, especially above White River.
- With kokanee biting at Lake Billy Chinook, Odell and Wickiup, now might be a good time to consider these [tips for catching more kokanee](#).

Trout stocking

Scheduled to be stocked the week of April 22:

Ochoco Reservoir, Shevlin Pond, Pine Hollow Reservoir, Antelope Flat Reservoir, Cottonwood Pit, Rock Creek Reservoir, Prineville Fishing Pond

Recently stocked:

Taylor Lake, North and South Twin lakes, Rock Creek Reservoir, Pine Hollow Reservoir, Kingsley Reservoir, Middle Fork Pond, Baker Pond

[Check out the 2024 trout stocking schedule.](#)

Trout stocking maps

Check out the [ODFW fishing and trout stocking maps](#) to find nearby fishing locations, driving directions and descriptions of amenities.

Announcements

Parasitic Copepods in the Twin lakes

Anglers have been reporting rainbow trout with heavy parasite loads of the common parasitic copepod, *Salmincola californiensis* in North and South Twin lakes this spring. There are no health concerns with consuming fish with these copepods. They are typically attached to the gills, fins, and skin of the fish and are usually not present in filets. This [ODFW webpage](#) shows common fish diseases and parasites including the copepod.

Steelhead currently present in the upper Deschutes Basin

Anglers may encounter steelhead in Lake Billy Chinook, the Crooked River downstream of Bowman Dam, the Deschutes River near Steelhead Falls and in the Metolius River. Steelhead are now actively spawning, and anglers are reminded that rainbow trout over 20 inches must be released. These fish are part of reintroduction efforts and may have green tags inserted near the dorsal fin. If you observe these fish, please do not disturb them.

Boat ramps affected by Lake Billy Chinook extended drawdown

Due to scheduled dam maintenance Lake Billy Chinook will be held at a lower elevation this spring while work is being conducted. The lake will be held between 1940 and 1941 feet in elevation until early June. Normal elevation of full summer pool is 1944 feet. Some boat launches may remain inaccessible until the reservoir returns to its typical level, including the boat launch at Perry South campground. Users can find an available launch at the Crooked River day-use area of The Cove Palisades State Park in the meantime.

Crooked River and Ochoco Creek flows remain moderate

Based on the current reservoir contents, and inflows, the Bureau of Reclamation is continuing with flood control operations at Prineville and Ochoco reservoirs. Anglers should continue to expect moderate discharges in the Crooked River from Bowman Dam and Ochoco Creek from Ochoco Dam for the foreseeable future.

Fish consumption advisories

The Oregon Health Authority has issued consumption guidelines for parts of the Columbia River due to high levels of mercury and/or PCBs. Fish with these chemicals look, act, smell and taste like any other fish, so caution is important.

- [Bonneville Dam fish advisory](#)
- [Safe fish choices for pregnancy and young children](#)

E-tagging tips for anglers

It's important for anglers to tag their salmon and steelhead immediately, which means you'll need to know how to navigate the MyODFW app outside of cell phone range. Here are some [tips for e-tagging in the field](#).

Sign up for the latest information on boater access

Marine Board's *Opportunities and Access Report* incorporates information from federal and state agencies, local facility operators and fellow boaters to provide up-to-date information so boaters can decide where to recreate and what to expect this season. [Subscribe to receive email updates.](#)

Updates by waterbody

ANTELOPE FLAT RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Recent fish inventory showed fewer numbers but nice healthy rainbow trout averaging 12-18 inches. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

BIKINI POND: trout

Bikini Pond was stocked on March 21 with 10 brood-size trout and 500 trophy-size trout. More trout will be stocked in Bikini Pond the first week of April. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

CENTURY GRAVEL POND: rainbow trout

Century Pond was stocked with rainbow trout in mid-May. The pond is located ¼ mile west of the junction of USFS Rd 46 (Century Drive) and USFS Rd 4635. *Last updated 5/24/23.*

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

Crane Prairie reopened for the year on April 22. The reservoir 87 percent full and ice free. Initial reports of fair trout fishing with trout spread out throughout the stumps and channels. Boat ramps are open at the Crane Prairie Resort and snow is melting out quickly at Quinn River and Rock Creek. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

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

Open to fishing all year. Recent reports of good fishing for large brown and lake trout; however, access to the lake may be limited by snow and low water levels. Crescent Lake is currently 16 percent full. One lake trout per day, 24-inch minimum length. Anglers can now keep 5 kokanee in addition to daily trout limit. *Last updated 3/6/24.*

CROOKED RIVER: trout, whitefish

The USBOR continues flood control operations from Bowman Dam. While flows are declining, moderate to high flows will likely affect water clarity and fishing until flood control operations ends. Real-time outflows from Bowman Dam can be viewed [here](#).

Open to fishing all year below Bowman Dam. The Crooked continues to fish well this spring, anglers report good fishing below Bowman Dam and downstream with fish spread throughout the Wild and Scenic reach. Nymphing has been the most effective method but fly-anglers should keep an eye out for fishing rising in afternoon and try blue wing olive or midge patterns.

Anglers are reminded that steelhead are now being passed around the Pelton Round Butte Hydro Project Dam and may be present in the Crooked River over the spring months. Rainbow trout over 20 inches are considered steelhead and must be released.

Crooked River anglers may encounter bull trout now that there is volitional passage at Opal Springs. Anglers who catch a bull trout should release it unharmed and report their catch to the US Fish and Wildlife Service at crookedbulltrout@fws.gov. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

DAVIS LAKE: largemouth bass, rainbow trout

Open to fishing all year. Davis Lake water level remains low, making launching boats difficult. Fly-fishing only, barbless hooks required. Catch-and-release for trout. No limit on size or number of warmwater fish. Davis Lake anglers may encounter bull trout which must be immediately released unharmed. *Last updated 5/24/23.*

DESCHUTES RIVER, mouth to Pelton Dam: steelhead, redband trout, whitefish

Trout nymphing has been good, especially above White River where the flows have been less variable and occasionally murky.

If you harvest a steelhead with an external orange tag that reads "ODFW THE DALLES" please call 541-296-4628 to report the tag or fill out [this form online](#). If you catch a wild steelhead with an orange tag, please leave the tag in place and release the fish unharmed. These tags are a part of the annual lower Deschutes mark-recapture population estimates conducted by ODFW.

A reminder the Deschutes closed on Jan. 1 from the Northern Boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation to the Pelton Regulation Reservoir for all fishing. This section will reopen on April 22 under permanent rule. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

DESCHUTES RIVER, Lake Billy Chinook to Benham Falls: rainbow trout, brown trout, whitefish

Open to fishing all year. Anglers report good spring fishing upstream of the Old Mill area in Bend and around Steelhead Falls. Nymphing has been the most effective method. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

DESCHUTES RIVER, Benham Falls to Little Lava Lake: rainbow trout, brown trout

The Deschutes River upstream of Benham Falls closed for the season on Sept. 30 and will reopen May 22, 2024.

EAST LAKE: rainbow trout, brown trout, kokanee

The Paulina Lake Road closed for the winter on Nov. 21. Deschutes County has not released an anticipated reopening date for the road yet. No recent fishing reports. Anglers can now keep 5 kokanee in addition to daily trout limit. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

FALL RIVER: rainbow trout, brown trout

Fly-anglers continue to report productive and consistent spring fishing in the Fall River. Nymphing has been the most effective method. The river will be stocked the week of April 8.

A reminder to anglers that new regulations are in effect for Fall River and the river is now closed to fishing below Fall River Falls Oct. 1 through May 21. Fall River above Fall River Falls

remains open year-round. Restricted to fly-fishing with barbless hooks only. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

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

Haystack is currently at 80 percent full. Excess brood rainbow trout were released into Haystack Reservoir the third week of February. This is a rare opportunity for anglers to catch trophy-sized broodstock rainbow trout in Haystack Reservoir in late February and March. Anglers have been reporting success catching these large fish as well as holdover trout.

Following draining of Haystack Reservoir for maintenance, anglers should expect slow fishing as the reservoir is restocked and fish populations rebound.

On June 8-9 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. the Columbia Drag Boat Association will hold its annual drag race on Haystack Reservoir. The Reservoir will be closed to all boats during racing operations. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

HOOD RIVER: spring Chinook, winter steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout

Spring Chinook fishing opened on the Hood River on Monday, April 15. A couple Hood River spring Chinook PIT tags have showed up over Bonneville this week. The peak of spring Chinook fishing on the Hood will be around Memorial Day.

There are still some Hood River steelhead coming over Bonneville Dam. There are still fish in the river, but trap operators on the Hood are starting to see more kelts, indicating the run is winding down.

Bait is allowed and bag limit is 3 hatchery steelhead per day. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

HOSMER LAKE: brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout

The Cascade Lakes Highway closed for the winter on Nov. 21. Open to fishing all year. Anglers continue to report good brook, cutthroat and rainbow trout fishing. Restricted to fly-fishing only with barbless hooks. Catch-and-release for all species. *Last updated 11/29/23.*

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

See announcement at the top of this report regarding lower lake levels and boat ramp access this spring. Anglers report good spring kokanee and bull trout fishing.

Harvest is limited to 1 bull trout over 24 inches under the daily trout limit. Anglers can now keep 5 kokanee in addition to daily trout limit. No bag or size limits on brown trout and bass. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

LAURANCE LAKE: rainbow trout

Laurance Lake opens for the season on Monday, April 22. The road has been reopened for access to the lake but access to the boat ramp is still snowed in *Last updated 4/24/24.*

LAVA LAKE, Big: rainbow trout

The Cascade Lakes Highway closed for the winter on Nov. 21. Open to fishing all year. Anglers report good fishing for rainbow trout. *Last updated 11/29/23.*

METOLIUS RIVER: rainbow trout, bull trout

Despite heavy fishing pressure over the holidays, the Metolius River continues to fish well for mountain whitefish, redband trout, and bull trout. Nymphing with stonefly, mayfly or caddisfly nymphs has been effective for trout and streamers are a good bet for bull trout.

Fly-anglers should keep an eye out for fish rising in the afternoon and be prepared to try blue wing olive or midge patterns. Catch-and-release for trout including bull trout. Fishing is restricted to fly-fishing only upstream of Bridge 99 (Lower Bridge).

The Metolius River from Allingham Bridge upstream to the headwaters closed for the season Nov. 1 and will reopen May 22, 2024.

Artificial flies and lures permitted below Bridge 99 (Lower Bridge). *Last updated 1/4/24.*

NORTH TWIN LAKE: rainbow trout

Open to fishing all year. Recent reports from North Twin of excellent fishing for holdover and recently stocked trout. North and South Twin were last stocked in mid-April. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

OCHOCO RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, black crappie, smallmouth bass

The reservoir is 89 percent full. Recent reports of good rainbow trout fishing and large fish from the bank near Ochoco Dam. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

ODELL LAKE: lake trout, kokanee, rainbow trout

Odell Lake reopened for the year on April 22. Early reports of fair kokanee fishing with fish in the 12 to 13-inch range. Some Forest Service boat ramps may remain closed due to snow. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

PAULINA LAKE: brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee

The Paulina Lake Road closed for the winter on Nov. 21. Deschutes County has not released an anticipated reopening date for the road yet. Open to fishing all year. No recent fishing reports. Anglers can now keep 5 kokanee in addition to daily trout limit. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

PINE HOLLOW RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill

Pine Hollow was stocked on April 23 with 2,500 legal trout, 40 brood-size trout. Anglers have reported Pine Hollow being green with algae and slow fishing. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

PINE NURSERY POND: trout, largemouth bass

Open to fishing all year. No recent fishing reports. Limit is 2 fish per day. *Last updated 12/13/23.*

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

Prineville Reservoir at 99 percent full. Anglers report fair fishing for trout, crappie and bass. Currently experiencing an algae bloom. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

SOUTH TWIN LAKE: rainbow trout

Open to fishing all year. Anglers continue to report good spring fishing for holdover and recently stocked trout. North and South Twin were last stocked in mid-April. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

SPRAGUE POND: rainbow trout

Sprague Pond was stocked in mid-May.

Turn at Cow Meadow sign off USFS Rd 40. Take first left at first dirt road and follow road to pond. *Last updated 5/24/23.*

TAYLOR LAKE (Wasco County): rainbow trout

Taylor Lake was last stocked on April 2 with 1,200 legal fish and 50 brood fish. Report of the best trout fishing have been in the southern corner of the lake. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

THREE CREEK LAKE: rainbow trout, brook trout

Open to fishing all year; however, Forest Service Rd 16 closed for the season on Dec. 1. Three Creeks Lake was stocked in August. *Last updated 12/6/23.*

WALTON LAKE: rainbow trout

No recent fishing reports. *Last updated 4/16/24.*

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

Wickiup Reservoir reopened on April 22. The reservoir is 77 percent full and boat ramps are currently accessible. Initial reports of very healthy kokanee averaging 16 inches and up to 19 inches, however fish are spread out making schools difficult to locate.

A reminder that Deschutes River regulations (May 22 opener) apply upstream of the markers near Sheeps Bridge. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

SE FISHING

April 24, 2024

Best bets for weekend fishing

- Big Rock Reservoir is the perfect place to take kids and catch a lot of 9 to 11-inch trout.
- The Wood River was very slow on opening weekend but remains your best bet for brown trout in the Klamath Basin.
- Willow Valley Reservoir is your best bet for largemouth bass in the Klamath Basin.

- Powder Valley reservoirs and ponds have holdover fish from last year and will be restocked throughout the spring.
- Fish for holdover trout on Krumbo, Malheur and Yellowjacket reservoirs has been great.
- There are some large redband trout moving up the Blitzen right now.
- Anglers report very good fishing at North Powder Pond.
- In Poison Creek Reservoir, fishing has been good for holdover trout in the 17-inch range.

Trout stocking

Scheduled to be stocked the week of April 22:

Delintment Lake, Becker Pond, Moon Reservoir

Recently stocked:

Bully Creek Reservoir

[Check out the 2024 trout stocking schedule.](#)

Trout stocking maps

Check out the [ODFW fishing and trout stocking maps](#) to find nearby fishing locations, driving directions and descriptions of amenities.

Announcements

Fish consumption advisories

The Oregon Health Authority has issued consumption guidelines for various waterbodies in Oregon including the Snake and Columbia Rivers due to high levels of mercury and/or PCBs. Fish with these chemicals look, act, smell and taste like any other fish, so caution is important.

- [Statewide advisories](#)
- [Bonneville Dam fish advisory](#)
- [Safe fish choices for pregnancy and young children](#)

Sign up for the latest information on boater access

Marine Board's *Opportunities and Access Report* incorporates information from federal and state agencies, local facility operators and fellow boaters to provide up-to-date information so boaters can decide where to recreate and what to expect this season. [Subscribe to receive email updates.](#)

Got a good fish story?

If you have been out fishing and have a recent fishing report you would like to share, we would love to hear it! Please send your fishing updates to: odfw.info@odfw.oregon.gov.

Updates by waterbody

AGENCY LAKE (including Straits): redband trout, yellow perch, brown trout

Open year-round. Redband trout are moving around, and some are spawning. Most of the lake is turbid due to windy conditions and water temperatures are still cold but warming. Agency Lake is terrible to fish in the wind and even harder to launch/trailer your boat at Henzel Park. Best fishing is trolling minnow imitations from a boat. Overall fishing remains slow but is slowly improving.

Catch rates remain low due to record setting drought in the years 2020 thru 2022 resulting in poor survival of juvenile redband trout and subsequent recruitment into the adult population.

Agency Lake regulations are catch-and-release for redband/rainbow trout with no bait allowed (artificial flies and lures only). The boundary of Agency Lake is the south end of the Straits. This change is due to record low spawning escapement for trophy redband trout throughout the Klamath Basin in 2020. ODFW also encourages the use of single barbless hooks in this fishery, not removing the fish from the water, and using catch-and-release rubber nets.

Keep on the lookout for radio tagged redband trout. These fish must be released unharmed. The long antenna looks like fishing line coming from the abdomen. Please report any radio tagged fish. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

ANA RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, hybrid bass

There have not been any recent reports from trout anglers recently. Stocking has been postponed until May. Hybrid bass anglers have been catching a few with bait and lures but it's taking some time to do so. The reservoir is full and all boats can launch at the ramp.

Bait fishing is the proven method for catching hybrid bass, but fly-fishing and casting Rapalas are also effective when these fish are feeding. Rapalas that imitate tui chub and rainbow trout, favorite food sources for hybrid bass, are good bets for catching these fish. On sunny days you will need to fish deeper than cloudy days. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

ANA RIVER: rainbow trout

Flows are more constant right now and fishing should be picking up. There are some really nice fish in this river, but patience is key when targeting these fish.

This river is spring fed and does not freeze in the winter. Ana River is a great match-the-hatch fly-fishing river with good hatches throughout the year. Hatches typically occur during the afternoon from 12-3 p.m. Small blue-winged olive mayfly hatches are typically best on overcast days with light rain. Beadheads under a bobber work as well as stripping minnow patterns in low light conditions.

Tui chub are abundant in the river therefore casting large flies or lures can be effective for catching larger fish. Bait fishing is allowed, and anglers can keep 5 trout. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

ANNIE CREEK: brook trout, brown trout and redband trout

Open year round with bait allowed. Fishing is slow.. Fishing is almost always slow especially with very cold-water temperatures. Flows are low enough for some success but snowmelt should begin soon.

Annie Creek flows

Most of the creek is dominated by small brook trout up to 10 inches. Brown trout are rare and redband trout are highly unlikely in the catch. Please report any redband/rainbow trout caught in the creek to ODFW at 541-883-5732.

Access is available year-round off Hwy. 62 at the USFS snow park. . There is plenty of public property on USFS, State Forest and Crater Lake National Park – fishing is regulated by the National Park (541-594-3000).

Several waterfalls occur on the creek inside Crater Lake National Park offering exceptional views. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

BECK KIWANIS POND, Ontario: trout, bluegill, largemouth bass

No recent reports but fishing for bluegill should improve as water warms up. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

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

No recent reports but fishing for bluegill should improve as water warms up. Beck Kiwanis was stocked with 2,300 rainbow trout on 4/15/2024 so fishing for rainbow trout should also be good. *Last updated 4/17/2024*

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

Beulah Reservoir is nearly full. There should be some large rainbow and redband trout available in Beulah right now. Bull trout are now in the reservoir as well. Bull trout must be released if captured. The reservoir is ice-free and boat ramp will be accessible. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

BIG ROCK RESERVOIR: hatchery rainbow trout

The reservoir is accessible, and fishing was excellent this past weekend. Fish in the 9- to 11-inch range were biting anything that was thrown at them! Both bait, lures and flies are sure-fire ways to catch rainbow trout in this reservoir. Rainbow trout will continue growing this spring and summer. Perfect place to take kids and catch a lot of trout in this desert landscape. *Last updated 4/24/23.*

BLITZEN RIVER: redband trout, carp

The Blitzen is flowing at around 400 cubic feet per second at the [gage](#) at Page springs weir. Water temperatures are in the 40s and some mayflies and small stoneflies were hatching last week. Water clarity will be variable depending on flows and warmer weather as snow melts off of Steens Mountain. There are some large redband moving up the system right now. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

BURNS POND: trout

Burns Pond was stocked the week of April 9 with 2,700 legal sized trout. We have received reports of some nice holdover trout being caught as well. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

BULLY CREEK RESERVOIR: bass, catfish, crappie, rainbow trout

Bully Creek Reservoir is full. No reports on fishing success but there should be a few nice crappie, channel catfish and bass around. This reservoir will be recovering from extremely low water in 2022 but fry that hatched last spring should grow fast and provide a great fishery in years to come. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

CAMPBELL LAKE: rainbow trout, brook trout

Access is available to snowmobiles. The lake is probably open. *Last update 4/16/24.*

CAMPBELL RESERVOIR: redband trout, largemouth bass, white and black crappie, bluegill

BLM, ODFW, and BOR stocked a total of 431 crappie the past two weeks . Please let these crappie spawn.

Catch rates for largemouth bass and bluegill should be improving. The reservoir was dry in summer of 2022. All fish perished. ODFW and BLM have stocked largemouth bass and a few crappie in 2023.. Please release all fish as they need to spawn this year to repopulate the reservoir. There might also be a few redband trout around. The reservoir is about 80 percent full.

There is no boat ramp on the reservoir that occurs on public property. Most of the reservoir sits on private property. Water is slightly turbid but better water clarity than most desert reservoirs. Water temperature is warming fast. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

CHERRY CREEK: brook trout and redband trout

Open all year. Water temperatures are near freezing, but snow is melting.

Cherry Creek flows

This creek is very small; well-suited to fly-fishing. Brook trout are more abundant higher in the system. A very big fish in the creek is 10 inches. Water is crystal clear after it settles from the spring snow melt, and habitat is exceptional. There is a lot of snow in the watershed.

Snow will limit access. The Cherry Creek trail parallels the creek and leads to many productive wilderness lakes. One of the best waterfalls in the basin is just off the trail.

ODFW encourages unlimited harvest of brook trout Recent sampling showed high densities of brook trout and redband trout lower on the creek. The redband trout in this creek are some of the prettiest around. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

CHEWAUCAN RIVER: redband trout, largemouth bass, brown bullhead

The river is very cold and swollen as spring flows are coursing through the system. Fishing will get better when the stream temperature increases and flows lessen. Heavier weighted flies and lures might get to trout during this time of year. Plan for fishing to be slow.

The river is accessible. Redband populations are lower right now due to drought and recent wildfires. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

CHICKAHOMINY RESERVOIR: trout

Fishing has been good this past week for holdover rainbow trout with some anglers reporting catch rates of around five fish per hour. Fish are ranging in size from 12 to 17 inches. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

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

Open year round. Bait is allowed. Access remains blocked by snow. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

COTTONWOOD MEADOW LAKE: rainbow trout, brook trout

Access is available to snowmobiles. The lake is probably open. *Last update 4/16/24.*

CROOKED CREEK (Klamath Co): redband trout, brook trout and brown trout

Closed Nov. 1 to protect spawning redband trout. Opens May 22. *Last updated 11/1/23.*

CRYSTAL CREEK redband trout and yellow perch

Closed Nov. 1 to protect spawning redband trout. Opens May 22. Check [Crystal Creek Flow](#). *Last updated 2/27/24.*

DEADHORSE LAKE: rainbow trout

Access is available to snowmobiles. The lake is probably open. *Last updated 1/24/24.*

DEEP CREEK: redband trout

Currently the headwaters are inaccessible due to lots of snow. There is access along Hwy 140.

Current river conditions are high and will probably remain that way for the next month. Fishing success will increase as water temperatures increase and flows lessen. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

DELINTMENT LAKE: rainbow trout

No recent reports on access to Delintment Lake but there is likely snow on the road which will impede access. This reservoir will be stocked as soon as access opens. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

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

Access is available to all vehicles. The lake is open, but still cold due to snow melt. As temperatures warm this spring fishing success will increase. There are plenty of perch in the lake and anglers have been catching crappie recently and bass will start biting soon. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

DUNCAN RESERVOIR: hatchery rainbow

The reservoir is open and is spilling at the moment. There have not been any recent fishing reports, but there should have been some holdover trout from last year.

This has been an excellent trout fishery in the past, but in recent years people have ruined it by illegally introducing brown bullhead and largemouth bass. Please report illegal fish introductions to 1-800-452-7888. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

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

Fish Lake is frozen and will have plenty of ice for safe ice fishing.

The Steens Mtn. Loop Rd is closed. Check with [Burns District BLM](#) for updates on road closures or to inquire about access to this reservoir (541-573-4400). *Last updated 1/10/24.*

FORT CREEK: brown trout, redband trout, brook trout, bull trout

The creek closed Nov. 1 to protect redband trout spawning. Reopens to trout fishing May 22. *Last updated 3/13/24.*

FOURMILE CREEK (CANAL) (tributary to Agency Lake): brook, brown, redband trout, yellow perch

Open all year. Bait is allowed. Yellow perch fishing is very slow in Fourmile Canal, if you can find them. You can access the canal by boat from launching at Henzel Park. This area is not as turbid as the main lake.

Fourmile Creek will be slow if you can find the concentrations of brook trout. Try the confluence with Fourmile Canal or where the Cherry Creek channel hits Fourmile Creek. A kayak can be launched at the headwaters at Fourmile Springs. There is also a beaver dam. Concentrate efforts around the dam. Check [Fourmile Canal Flow](#).

Last updated 3/13/24.

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

The Lake is blocked by snow and is currently 37 percent full. There is a lot of snow this year so the lake might not be accessible until mid to late June.

Check [Fourmile Lake Levels](#).

Please report any kokanee caught from the lake.

Launching boats becomes particularly challenging as the lake recedes. There is no official concrete boat ramp with dock. Launching takes place from a sandy shoreline. Only small boats are recommended. You can also call Lake of the Woods Resort for updates. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

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

Fish sampling by Bureau of Reclamation this year showed incredible densities of yellow perch and some larger crappie. Use small hooks and bait for the perch as most are small with smallmouths.

Fishing should be improving for brown bullhead and yellow perch. Best place to fish for perch is at the north boat ramp. Near the Barnes Valley Boat ramp can also be worth a try if lake levels are high enough.

The reservoir is 44 percent full. Call the Klamath Falls BLM office for updated information.

Gerber Reservoir water levels

Gerber Reservoir is a large turbid reservoir with good bank access. Most of the reservoir is on BLM property. Open all year. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

HEART LAKE: hatchery rainbow trout

Access is available to snowmobiles. The lake is iced over and is probably open. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

HOLBROOK RESERVOIR: hatchery rainbow trout

Access is available from Fishhole Creek Road. The lake is open and fishing should be good. A boat is ideal as you can actively search for fish trolling, but bank fishing is usually productive. There should be quite a few holdover trout from last year. The reservoir has been spilling for two weeks so the boat ramp is easily accessible. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

J.C. BOYLE RESERVOIR (Topsy Reservoir), now Klamath River

The reservoir is now a river. All boat ramps are closed. The river is not accessible due to deep sediment and KRRC rules. The old reservoir will now change to the Klamath River regulations, which are: no bait allowed and one redband/rainbow trout in the 12- to 15-inch size class. Fishing will be closed June 15-Oct. 1 from Keno Dam downstream to Highway 66 Bridge. *Last updated 3/6/24.*

UPPER KLAMATH LAKE: native redband trout, yellow perch, kokanee, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, tui chub and blue chub

Fishing from shore at Howard Bay and Shoalwater Bay continues to improve. Fishing from a boat is also improving. Catch rates are still low for Redband Trout. The area near the outlet is also producing some fish. Most bank anglers use dead minnows with a crappie rig setup. Most boat anglers troll lures that mimic minnows or sculpins.

Hagelstein Park above Hwy 97 is now closed to protect endangered Lost River suckers (C'waam), shortnose suckers (Koptu) and redband trout.

The lake is open to fishing all year. Redband trout are moving throughout the lake making it challenging to find fish. Fishing is slow. Best location to fish is near the outlet. The lake is also turbid and cold but warming fast. The Rocky Point area might be your best bet as water clarity is good and water temperatures are currently warmer.

Please remember that nets or traps of any type cannot be used to catch any species of fish. This includes minnows to use for bait. See page 20 of the Sport Fishing Regulations for legal harvest methods for minnows and chubs.

ODFW encourages catch-and-release on this fishery due to record low spawning numbers in 2020 and very low numbers in 2019 and the record setting drought from 2020 thru 2022

which reduced survival. Please fight your fish quickly and then release your fish immediately without removing it from the water. Releasing fish is easier with barbless hooks.

The lake is 0.4 feet below full pool and 93 percent full.

Klamath Lake water levels

Please remember that once you retain your one redband/rainbow trout limit you must stop fishing for redband/rainbow trout. Also, all radio tagged redband trout must be released unharmed. Redband trout will have what looks to be fishing line coming from the abdomen. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

KLAMATH RIVER: native redband trout, rainbow trout, brown trout

Keno Dam downstream to Hwy 66

The fishery below Keno Dam has been very slow due to extended drought in the past. We encourage catch and release in this fishery and handling fish carefully.

Fishing not recommended in the old JC Boyle Reservoir bed as getting to the river is nearly impossible in most areas due to very deep sediments. Access to the old Topsy Reservoir bed is also prohibited by KRRC currently.

Regulations changed Jan. 1, 2024, to a bag limit of one redband-rainbow trout per day in the 12 to 15-inch size class. This regulation is to protect large redband trout spawners, chinook and steelhead smolts and adults. The river will be closed from June 15 to Oct. 1 from Keno Dam to the Highway 66 Bridge downstream.

Hatches of mayflies and caddisflies are occurring. No bait allowed!

Access is very challenging. The road into Keno Dam is very bad. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. There are other points of access that require a long hike to the river.

The river is difficult wading. Anglers who wade should have studded wading boots, wading belt, wading staff, polarized glasses and maybe a helmet and shin guards. The bottom is very slick and bedrock ledges can drop off quickly. Visibility is also poor.

Water temperature increased substantially to 58 and flows remain similar at 875 cfs. Turbidity has decreased to around 15 FNU.

Check [KlamathKeno Reach flows](#). Expect flows to increase considerably.

Once you retain your limit of redband-rainbow trout you must stop fishing for redband-rainbow trout. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Hwy 66 Bridge downstream to Springs

This section of river is open year-round. Access is currently prohibited by KRRC from Hwy 66 to the dam. Removal of JC Boyle Dam has begun. Fishing not recommended in this section due to difficult access. The Powerhouse Road on the west side of the river will be closed all year. Access to the Klamath River will be available from the Topsy Grade Road or traveling through Dorris. The Topsy Grade Road can have large potholes where vehicles can get stuck. This section of the river will require a significant hike to the river on the east side.

Regulations will change Jan. 1, 2024 to a bag limit of one redband rainbow trout per day in the 12- to 15-inch size class. This is to protect large redband trout spawners, chinook, coho and steelhead smolts and Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead adults. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Springs to state line with California

The Frain Ranch section is fishable. Turbidity is well within fishable levels. Take the road through Dorris to access. Flows should increase considerably in the near future. This section of river is open year-round. Turbidity can be tracked by visiting the USGS Real Time Klamath River Gage.

After this point the river should be quite fishable unless large amounts of water are released at Link River dam. Fishing only recommended when Turbidity (FNU) is less than 40. The Powerhouse Road on the west side of the river will be closed all year. Access to the Klamath River will be available from the Topsy Grade Road or traveling through Dorris. The Topsy Grade Road can have large potholes where vehicles can get stuck.

On some days there should be good hatches of blue winged olive mayflies. Mothers Day Caddis and other caddis specie are hatching.

Click here for [Klamath River flow and turbidity.](#)

Regulations changed on Jan. 1, 2024 to a bag limit of one redband-rainbow trout per day in the 12- to 15-inch size class. This regulation is to protect large redband trout spawners, Chinook salmon smolts and adults, and steelhead smolts and adults. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

KRUMBO RESERVOIR: trout, bass

Fishing for holdover trout has been great. The reservoir is full and water has flooded the boat dock but the boat launch is still looking good. Anglers are consistently catching trout in the 17-inch range using a variety of methods. Fly-fishing from the bank has been productive with streamers, PowerBait has been working well, and trolling from a boat will also turn up a few fish. The reservoir will be stocked with legal rainbow trout sometime in May. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

LAKE EWAUNA-KLAMATH RIVER (Above Keno Dam to Link River): redband trout, largemouth bass, Sacramento perch, yellow perch, crappie, brown bullhead, goldfish, tui and blue chub

This stretch of river and lake has typically been an area that lacked significant fish densities to warrant much of a fishery. Dissolved oxygen concentrations in the summer approach 0 mg/l in many areas thus reducing fish densities.

Recent sampling found good numbers of small, juvenile largemouth bass, Sacramento perch, yellow perch and even a few crappie. These findings are surprising. This is a very large area and anglers might be able to find largemouth bass and perch. Look for areas of water return from wetlands or pumps. These areas will have more oxygen and better water quality. The area near Lake Ewauna and below the Tule Smoke Hunt Club (Rat Club) are places to focus as water quality is typically better in those locations. The side channel area near the island below Hwy140 bridge might also be worth some effort. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

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

The lake will be stocked with trophy rainbow trout the week of April 29. The lake is open water. For recent fishing updates, call the resort at 1-866-201-4194.

The lake is dominated by stunted yellow perch. Very small bait and hooks will catch these fish. Yellow perch fishing should be slow.

Fishing for warmwater fish might improve with warmer conditions. Fishing for brown trout and kokanee might be worth a try. A few holdover rainbow trout are being caught trolling spoons and spinners.

You can also visit Lake of the Wood's [website to observe current conditions at the lake](#). Scroll down and click on the right-side video link for a live video of current conditions on the lake at the Lodge. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

LINK RIVER: redband/rainbow trout

Fishing regulations for the Link River changed on Jan. 1, 2021. New regulations include catch-and-release for redband/rainbow trout and no bait allowed (artificial flies and lures only). This change is due to record low spawning escapement for trophy redband trout throughout the Klamath Basin in 2020.

Flows have increased to 1060 cfs. Redband trout numbers in the Link River are very low. Redband trout should be in this stretch now.

Check [Link River Flows](#).

ODFW also encourages the use of single barbless hooks in this fishery, not removing fish from the water and catch-and-release rubber nets. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

LOFTON RESERVOIR: hatchery rainbow trout

Access is available to snowmobiles. The lake is probably open. *Last updated 1/24/24.*

LONG CREEK: brook trout, redband trout, bull trout

Open to fishing all year. Access is blocked by snow. *Last updated 2/27/24.*

LOST RIVER: largemouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, tui and blue chub

Lost River is open year-round with bait allowed. Fishing is slow at the Crystal Springs Bridge crossing and also near the boat ramp off Crystal Springs Road. Fishing bait for brown bullhead is your best bet.

The river near Big Springs in Bonanza is slow. Another location to try is near Horseshoe Dam. *Last updated 3/28/24.*

LUCKY RESERVOIR: hatchery rainbow trout

More than likely access is available to 4-wheel drive vehicles. If bait on the bottom is not working, try raising your offering higher in the water column where it's warmer. Slowly stripping flies is also a good bet. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

MALHEUR RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Malheur Reservoir was sampled last fall and had some nice-size rainbows. Most of the trout are in the eight-inch range but there are some much larger 15- to 17-inch fish available as well.

Fishing has been great for holdover trout. This reservoir will be stocked with fingerling rainbow again this spring. The boat ramp will be in the water now but use caution if you launch from an undeveloped location with muddy shoreline. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

MANN LAKE:

Mann Lake has filled up enough to support a fishery but has not been stocked. We are working to re-stock with Lahontan cutthroat but the lake is currently fishless. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

MILL FLAT POND: hatchery rainbow trout, largemouth bass

This pond is accessible to 4-wheel drive vehicles. Both largemouth bass and rainbow trout should bite more readily as spring progresses. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

MILLER LAKE: brown, rainbow, brook trout and kokanee

Access to the lake is blocked by snow. Snowmobile access is available. Call the USFS in Chiloquin for more information, 541-783-4001. *Last updated 2/27/23.*

MUD LAKE: rainbow trout

Access is available to 4-wheel drive vehicles. There have not been any fishing reports, but fish stocked from last year should be 8-12 inches. Bait is usually the preferred method for anglers at this lake, but stripping flies near the shoreline can produce trout. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

NORTH POWDER POND: hatchery rainbow trout

Fishing is reported to be very good at North Powder Pond. Many good-size rainbows are being caught. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

OWYHEE RESERVOIR: largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, catfish

The reservoir is full and it should be a great year on Owyhee Reservoir. No recent reports on bass fishing but crappie fishing was excellent last fall.

Trout fishing has been productive this spring in the lower reservoir. All boat ramps are currently usable.

Anglers targeting bass may catch some with tags near the dorsal fin. ODFW is studying bass movement, condition and angler harvest of bass. The tags have a four-digit number and can be reported by phone or on [MyODFW.com](https://www.myodfw.com). *Last updated 4/10/24.*

For reservoir elevations click [here](#).

OWYHEE RIVER (Lower): brown trout, hatchery rainbow trout

The lower Owyhee is currently flowing at around 4,500 cfs. Fishing will be much different than normal for this time of year due to the high water. We anticipate flows will be much higher than normal for most of the spring. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

PHILLIPS RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, yellow perch

Phillips held a good bit of water over winter and is now over half full. It should continue to fill throughout the spring. Holdover rainbow trout from last year will provide fishing opportunities throughout April, and the reservoir will be stocked with new fish starting in May. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

PILCHER AND WOLF CREEK RESERVOIRS: trout, crappie

Both reservoirs should fill throughout the spring. These sites are stocked annually with fingerlings, and last year's fingerlings should be getting to good sizes by now. Additionally, crappie are available at both locations. As the spring warms, anglers may find groups of crappies near shore by submerged willows and vegetation. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

POISON CREEK RESERVOIR (Grant County): rainbow trout

Fishing has been good for holdover trout in the 17-inch range. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

POLE CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Pole Creek Reservoir filled up this spring and was stocked with 3,000 catchable rainbow trout and 15,000 fingerling rainbow.

Recent sampling showed black crappie are quite abundant but most of them are very small. There are a few nice trout available in the 14- to 16-inch range. *Last updated 4/10/24.*

PRIDAY RESERVOIR: hatchery rainbow trout

Access is available, and the reservoir is open. There are some trophy trout still left in the reservoir and fingerling rainbow trout should be in the 8-10 inch range. Try bait fishing fairly close to shore and move around the reservoir until you find fish.

Typically windy days will stir up more food and the trout seem to bite better.

Priday Reservoir is on some BLM property between Plush and Adel, but the majority of the reservoir is on private property. Please respect the private property by staying on the main roads and cleaning up trash from others so everyone can enjoy this fishery.

SEVENMILE CREEK (CANAL): brook trout, brown trout, redband trout, yellow perch

Open all year. Sevenmile is a very cold and clear creek and fishing will be very slow. Snow is melting. Fishing for brook trout is best in the beaver dam pools above Nicholson Road. Most brook trout captured are less than 12 inches.

Catch-and-release for redband/rainbow trout with no bait allowed from Agency Lake to Nicholson Road.

Anglers can access Sevenmile Creek at Nicholson Road and fish upstream of Nicholson Rd. Bait is allowed upstream of Nicholson Road. There are currently large beaver dam pools immediately upstream of the bridge. Brook trout will concentrate, therefore keep moving until you find the schools.

The mouth of Sevenmile Creek at Agency Lake is slow for yellow perch and a few largemouth bass. You can access this area by hiking two miles down the Wood River Wetland Trail. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Check [Sevenmile Creek Flows](#)

SKY LAKES AND MOUNTAIN LAKE WILDERNESS: brook trout and rainbow trout (Cranebow triploids)

Snow is blocking access and there's a lot of snow at all the lakes. The lakes were stocked with 3-inch rainbow trout last summer. Many of the larger trout will target these new fish. Rainbow trout Rapalas, Crocodiles, Super Dupers can work really well for these larger fish.

Best lakes to catch fish are Clover, Como, Harriette, Echo, Weston and South Pass in the Mountain Lakes Wilderness and Sonya, Margurette and Isherwood in the Sky Lakes Wilderness.

Best lakes for brook trout are Badger Lake (Sky Lakes Wilderness), which is a short hike from Fourmile Lake, and Clover Lake (Mountain Lakes Wilderness).

Best lures are typically dark Panther Martin spinners.

The biggest trout come from the bigger and deeper lakes of Harriette, Isherwood and Margurette.

Please report Brook Trout captured in Elizabeth, Little Heavenly, Big Heavenly or Isherwood Lakes. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

SPENCER CREEK: redband trout and brook trout

Closed Nov. 1 and will reopen May 22. *Last updated 2/27/24.*

[Spencer Creek Flow.](#)

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

The river is very high and turbid. Fishing for all species is slow.

Best places to fish for brown trout and redband trout are the fast water areas near Chiloquin High School, the narrows and near all the springs in Beatty. Boats can be launched at two locations above Beatty.

There are a few warmwater fish in the Sprague. The dominate warmwater fish is yellow perch. A few largemouth bass are around but their population has declined. There are also small brown bullhead. The best place to fish for warmwater fish is above Saddle Mtn Pit Road Bridge to near Godowa Springs Road Bridge. Bait is allowed in this section.

Numerous flow data can be seen here: [Near Real Time Hydrographics Data \(state.or.us\)](#)
Last updated 4/24/24.

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

Open year-round. Catch rates are very low due to very high flows. Water temperatures are near freezing. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

[NF Sprague River flows](#)

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

Open year-round. Fishing will be slow, and access will be difficult due muddy roads. The river is quite turbid down low in the system with very high flows. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

Check [SF Sprague River Flows](#).

SPRING CREEK: redband trout, brook trout and brown trout

Closed Nov. 1 to protect spawning redband trout. Reopens May 22. *Last update 11/1/23.*

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

The gate to the Sun Pass State Forest is closed. Fishing not recommended at this time as density of fish is low. Open to fishing all year but closed to fishing for bull trout. Only bull trout occur in upper Sun Creek just above the Sun Pass Forest bridge crossing. Fishing is not recommended now as fish density remains low. Recent sampling found low numbers of brook trout, brown trout and no catchable-size redband trout. Bull trout numbers are very high so anglers need to know their fish species. Signs onsite show the differences between brook trout and bull trout. This [article on MyODFW.com](#) has good tips for distinguishing bull and brook trout, and their hybrids.

ODFW encourages release of all redband trout. The Sun Creek channel has been rerouted into the historic channel and is connected to the Wood River below Kimball State Park.

If you fish here, make sure you know your fish species well. If you don't know then let it go. Check [stream level](#). *Last updated 1/31/24.*

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

Open year-round. Fishing has been very slow below the marsh. Flows are very high.

Fishing below the Sycan Marsh is not recommended at this time as most of the river has been dry most summers. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

Check [Sycan River Flows](#).

THIEF VALLEY RESERVOIR: trout

Over winter and throughout the spring, fishing has been good at times. There are some nice size fish available this year. Recently, bank fishing has been slow, but anglers in boats were

still encountering trout. Trout from prior stocking will be available over the next several weeks, and new fish will be stocked later in May.

Follow this [link](#) to see the Bureau of Reclamation website listing current reservoir levels. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

UNITY RESERVOIR: trout, smallmouth bass, crappie

Unity Reservoir can be one of the most consistent trout fisheries in eastern Oregon. This reservoir is stocked with fingerlings that grow quickly and catch of 14- to 1- inch trout is not uncommon. In the spring, anglers can use a variety of techniques to catch trout, and bank anglers can be successful fishing at the state park. In addition to trout, there also are some warmwater fishing opportunities available at Unity Reservoir.

Follow this [link](#) to see the Bureau of Reclamation website listing current reservoir levels. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

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

The reservoir is now spilling. Warm Springs Reservoir was stocked with 30,000 rainbow trout fingerlings last spring. These trout have likely grown quickly and should be at least 12 inches this spring.

One angler noted smallmouth bass fishing was surprisingly good earlier this fall. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

UPPER WILLIAMSON RIVER: redband trout and brook trout

Fishing should be very slow for Redband Trout due to past drought and there are few redband trout on public lands. Targeting Brook Trout near Deep Creek is your best bet. Past drought from 2020- 2022 have affected adult redband trout numbers. Flows are good for fishing. Fishing on the private pay-to-fish ranches on the Sand Creek and Yamsi Ranches should be excellent for brook trout with redband trout mixed in. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Check [Upper Williamson River Flows](#).

LOWER WILLIAMSON RIVER: redband trout, brown trout and yellow perch

The river closed Nov. 1 to protect spawning redband trout. Reopens May 22. Check [Williamson River Flows](#).

Last updated 11/1/23.

WILLOW VALLEY RESERVOIR: largemouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, bluegill, Lahontan cutthroat, pumpkinseed sunfish, Sacramento perch.

ODFW and BLM have restocked the reservoir with small numbers of bass and crappie, and hundreds of pumpkinseed sunfish in 2023.

Fishing for warmwater fish should have improved with warmer weather. This reservoir warms quickly. This fishery seems to be slow due to turbid conditions. With warmer weather this week fishing should improve.

Willow Valley is a very turbid, desert reservoir. The boat ramp is in good condition but there's no dock. Bass and crappie can be found at the habitat structures placed by BLM and ODFW in the past. Yellow perch are prolific in the reservoir but stunted. The Antelope Creek channel can be a good place to start for bass. The flooded aquatic plants just west of the dam is also a good bet. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

WOOD RIVER (including Petric Canal): redband trout, brown trout, brook trout and bull trout

The Wood River was slow for brown trout on opening day. This was likely due to the cold water temperatures and clearer water. Currently, flows are low but expect them to increase with snowmelt in the Annie Creek and Sun Creek drainages.

Water temperature will be cold; therefore, it is imperative that lures and flies are fished deep and slow. Most brown trout feed near or on the bottom this time of year.

During high flows brown trout gorge on earthworms. Since bait is not allowed artificials that mimic worms like the San Juan Worm fly might work. Brown trout also feed on sculpin, stoneflies (golden and salmonflies), sucker eggs, mice, cased caddisflies and clam shrimp this time of year.

The best section to fish is above Crooked Creek. Fishing near Fort Creek might also be productive.

Most large redband trout caught this time of year are spawned out kelts. Please handle them carefully.

Bull Trout are becoming more common in the catch. Know the difference between Brook Trout and Bull Trout. *Last updated 4/24/24.*

Check [Wood River Flows](#)

YELLOWJACKET RESERVOIR: trout

Fishing for holdover trout on Yellowjacket has been great this spring with fish up to 17 inches being consistently caught. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

NE FISHING

April 24, 2024

Best bets for weekend fishing

- Steelhead fishing can be good on the Wallowa and Imnaha Rivers when they are not running murky.
- Kokanee fishing at Wallowa Lake can be good during the spring months.
- Wallowa County ponds will have a mix of holdover trout from last year and new fish stocked throughout April.
- Fishing for holdover trout at Aldrich Ponds can be very good this time of year.
- Magone Lake can be a not spot for early spring trout fishing.

Trout stocking

Scheduled to be stocked the week of April 22:

Marr Pond, Morgan Lake, Wallowa Wildlife Pond

Recently stocked:

McNary Channel Ponds, Holliday Park Pond, Hat Rock Pond, Willow Creek, Long Creek Pond, Seventh St Pond, Tatone Pond

[Check the 2024 trout stocking schedule.](#)

Trout stocking maps

Check out the [ODFW fishing and trout stocking maps](#) to find nearby fishing locations, driving directions and descriptions of amenities.

Announcements

Fish consumption advisories

The Oregon Health Authority has issued consumption guidelines for various waterbodies in Oregon including the Snake and Columbia Rivers due to high levels of mercury and/or PCBs. Fish with these chemicals look, act, smell and taste like any other fish, so caution is important.

- [Statewide advisories](#)
- [Bonneville Dam fish advisory](#)
- [Safe fish choices for pregnancy and young children](#)

E-tagging tips for anglers

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Got a good fish story?

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Updates by waterbody

ALDRICH PONDS (Roosevelt and Stewart Lakes): trout (2 fish limit)

The access road to the ponds is now open. Both ponds will be stocked towards the end of May, but these ponds can be great this time of year with plenty of holdover trout available. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

GRANDE RONDE RIVER: trout, whitefish, steelhead

Steelhead fishing has begun to slow as fish move upriver into the Wallowa River. However, steelhead will continue to be available into the spring until the season closure on April 30th. Trout and whitefish can be caught year-round in the Grande Ronde, and anglers may have some good fishing for trout and whitefish when flows are not too high. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

HAT ROCK POND: trout

Hat Rock Pond will be stocked during the week of May 1. Anglers should find success using PowerBait, worms or spinners and focusing their efforts in the mornings or evenings. *Last updated 5/3/23.*

IMNAHA RIVER: trout, whitefish, steelhead

Steelhead will be available on the Imnaha River throughout April although catch rates may slow as more fish move upstream to the hatchery. The best public access is downstream of Horse Creek. Anglers fishing the Imnaha closer toward town need to be sure to get landowner permission before accessing private lands. Bait, jigs and flies can all be effective ways of targeting steelhead in the Imnaha River.

Anglers should remember they might encounter bull trout in the Imnaha River. They cannot be harvested and must be released. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

JOHN DAY RIVER: steelhead

Weather and river conditions remain highly variable. The John Day has generally been slightly murky, but steelhead are being caught. Fishing has been a little slow likely due to river conditions, and flows will likely remain high and turbid through the end of steelhead season which closes on April 30, 2024.

Bass fishing is still an option, but fishing will likely be slow until flows stabilize, which is usually around May and June coinciding with some of the best early summer months to target bass. *Last updated 4/17/24.*

MAGONE LAKE: rainbow and brook trout

The road to the lake is now accessible to vehicles. Early spring fishing is usually excellent at this location. *Last updated on 4/17/24.*

McNARY PONDS: walleye, bass and trout.

Trout are likely to be the most active in the morning and late evening hours. Anglers should find success using PowerBait, worms or spinning lures. *Last updated 5/3/23.*

MORGAN LAKE: rainbow trout and bass

Morgan Lake opens for fishing on April 22. It will be stocked about the same time and should provide some good trout fishing afterward. Follow this [link](#) for more information about recreation at Morgan Lake. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

UMATILLA RIVER: fall Chinook, coho, summer steelhead, trout, bass, walleye

With flows still low and water temperatures starting to finally cool, anglers should head to upper headwaters this Labor Day weekend in search of trout. Anglers should focus on deeper holes. If you catch a bull trout, recognized by its white spots, please keep it in the water and release it as quickly as possible.

The fall Chinook, coho and summer steelhead fishery on the Umatilla River opens Sept. 1, 2023. The bag limit is 3 adult fall Chinook salmon, coho salmon or hatchery summer steelhead in aggregate per day and jack salmon.

The fall fisheries will be monitored very closely by fisheries managers to make sure that enough fish are returning for the Umatilla broodstock programs, but returns should provide angling opportunities to harvest fall Chinook, coho and steelhead this year. *Last updated 8/30/23.*

WALLA WALLA RIVER:

Steelhead fishing is now closed and due to the very low returns over the past number of years the fishery will remain closed to protect the small number of wild fish that are still returning. *Last updated 5/22/23.*

WALLOWA COUNTY PONDS: rainbow trout

Stocked trout are available at local ponds including Marr Pond and Kinney Lake. Kinney Lake may be one of the best local trout fishing spots as it gets a healthy stocking of fish in the fall that grow all winter. Some fish may be available at other local ponds, but fishing at those sites will improve later in the spring as more fish are added.

This spring, surplus steelhead were released into Marr Pond. When fishing Marr Pond, anglers do not need to have a combined angling tag or Columbia Basin endorsement to fish for the steelhead in Marr Pond. Any steelhead caught in Marr Pond count toward the angler's trout limit and do not need to be recorded on a combined angling or hatchery harvest tag. *Last updated 4/2/24.*

WALLOWA LAKE: rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout

We have heard recent reports of anglers catching good sized kokanee that were up to 19 inches although most were smaller. Kokanee are deep and anglers may do best by jigging in 80 – 120 feet of water. As the year warms, many kokanee will move into shallower water and may be near the surface until the top layer of the lake warms in late spring. Trout anglers can do best near the south end of the lake whereas kokanee and lake trout will be more dispersed. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

WALLOWA RIVER: whitefish, trout, steelhead

Steelhead fishing has slowed in recent weeks, but fish will still be available until the season closure on April 30. Fishing for trout and whitefish can be good in the spring on the Wallowa River especially when flows are moderate and water clarity is good. Trout and whitefish can

be caught on a variety of baits, lures, and flies. Casting flies like woolly buggers and nymphs to pockets of slower moving water near shore can be good ways to catch trout and whitefish on the Wallowa River in the spring. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR: trout, crappie, bass

No recent reports. *Last updated 11/8/23.*

SNAKE FISHING

April 24, 2024

Best bets for weekend fishing

- Bass fishing has started to pick up in all three Hells Canyon reservoirs.
- Trout fishing has been good in Oxbow Reservoir

Announcements

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Updates by section

BROWNLEE RESERVOIR: crappie, bass, perch, catfish, bluegill, trout
Bass fishing has started to pick up in Brownlee Reservoir with warming water temperatures, and crappie are also available. As the water temperature warms, fishing for warmwater species will continue to improve. Trout fishing can be good in the spring as trout move into the Powder River arm heading upstream toward Eagle Creek.

Brownlee Reservoir levels can fluctuate greatly affecting which boat ramps are usable. Follow the links below to get up-to-date information on access along Brownlee Reservoir. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

Call the [Idaho Power Company](#)'s recording at 1-800-422-3143 to get information on [access at recreational sites](#) or see the following link for [Reservoir level information](#).

OXBOW AND HELLS CANYON RESERVOIRS: trout, crappie, bass, catfish, sturgeon

Trout fishing has been good so far this year in Oxbow Reservoir. As water temperatures have increased, bass fishing has improved in both reservoirs. Although early, a few catfish have already been caught by anglers. Like Brownlee Reservoir, fishing for warmwater species will improve as the weather warms during the spring. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

SNAKE RIVER below HELLS CANYON RESERVOIR: trout, bass, sturgeon, steelhead

Bass fishing will improve throughout the spring with warmer weather. Anglers can do well fishing jigs, flies, or lures near shore and in slower moving areas. Trout can be caught using similar techniques. Steelhead fishing will likely be slow throughout the rest of the season until the closure on April 30. Fishing for spring Chinook will open on April 22, but catch rates will likely be really low until more fish arrive later in the spring. See the 2024 fishing regulations for specific details on the spring Chinook season in Hells Canyon.

Sturgeon fishing can be good in the Snake River downstream of Hells Canyon Dam. All sturgeon must be released unharmed and cannot be removed from the water.

Especially during the cooler months, bull trout may be encountered in the Snake River downstream of Hells Canyon Dam. All bull trout captured must be released. *Last updated 4/3/24.*

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

No recent fishing reports. *Last updated 11/8/23.*

COLUMBIA FISHING

April 24, 2024

- Spring Chinook are starting to pass over Bonneville in decent numbers. There should be some good fishing opportunities above the dam before fishing closes.
- Effective April 1 – May 2, 2024, spring Chinook angling will be open from the Tower Island powerlines upstream to the Oregon/Washington state line above McNary, plus bank angling only between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island powerlines. See regulation updates for details on open season dates, daily bag limits, and other regulations.
- All other permanent rules for the Columbia River Zone, as stated in the 2024 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.

Announcements

Initial Columbia River spring Chinook seasons set

2024 spring-summer forecast

Fish consumption advisories

The Oregon Health Authority has issued consumption guidelines for parts of the Columbia River due to high levels of mercury and/or PCBs. Fish with these chemicals look, act, smell and taste like any other fish, so caution is important.

- [Bonneville Dam fish advisory](#)
- [Safe fish choices for pregnancy and young children](#)

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Find Columbia River regulation updates for salmon, steelhead, shad and sturgeon by clicking the Regulation Updates button.

SALMON, STEELHEAD AND SHAD

Lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam):

Closed for salmon and steelhead angling. No Report.

Bonneville Pool (Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam):

Weekly checking showed no catch for 13 bank anglers.

The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to John Day Dam):

Weekly checking showed one Chinook kept for 12 bank anglers.

John Day Pool (Columbia River above John Day Dam and John Day Arm):

No report.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam):

Closed for retention. No report.

Bonneville Pool:

Closed for retention. No report.

The Dalles Pool:

Closed for retention. Weekly checking showed no catch for one boat (two anglers); and no catch for two bank anglers.

John Day Pool:

Closed to retention. No report.

Walleye

Lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam):

No report.

Bonneville Pool:

No report.

The Dalles Pool:

Weekly checking showed 36 walleye kept and 10 walleye released for 14 boats (32 anglers); and no catch for two bank anglers.

John Day Pool:

No report.

MARINE FISHING

April 24, 2024

Announcements

E-tagging tips for anglers

It's important for anglers to tag their salmon, halibut and steelhead immediately, which means you'll need to know how to navigate the MyODFW app outside of cell phone range. Here are some [tips for e-tagging in the field](#).

For the latest regulations, including in-season changes

See the Regulation updates section above.

Saltwater News Bulletins

Be among the first to know about in-season changes! You can subscribe to receive [emails and text message alerts](#) for marine topics that interest you. It's easy to unsubscribe at any time. Your contact information will remain confidential. Three different lists of interest to ocean enthusiasts are available: bottomfish, halibut and ocean salmon.

Ocean salmon

The ocean Chinook salmon season (all-salmon-except coho) opened March 15 from **Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.** and will be open through May 15. The daily bag limit is two salmon, except closed to retention of coho. Minimum size limits are 24" for Chinook and 20" for steelhead.

Recommended salmon seasons are not official until final approval by the National Marine Fisheries Service (expected by May 16).

See the [season details here](#) (dates, places and other regulations). To check the quota status, visit the Ocean Salmon Management Program [catch index](#) page.

Pacific halibut

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission finalized the 2024 recreational Pacific halibut seasons and regulations on April 19. See the [season details here](#).

The **Columbia River Subarea** will open May 2.

The **Central Coast** and **Southern Oregon Subareas** will open May 1.

More information can be found on the [sport halibut](#) page.

Bottomfish

A few reminders:

- Cabezon is currently closed but will reopen on July 1, 2024 with a daily sub-bag limit of one fish and a minimum length of 16 inches.
- Retention of quillback rockfish and yelloweye rockfish remains prohibited.
- Click 'Regulation Updates' above to see what's new for 2024 or visit the [sport bottomfish seasons](#) page.

Port by port reports:

- **Depoe Bay:** Fishing was good when the ocean conditions came down later in the week. Anglers saw near limits of rockfish while the lingcod bite was a bit slower.
- **Newport:** A few good days allowed anglers to get out and target bottomfish. Limits of rockfish and lingcod were observed.

The **offshore longleader fishery** gives anglers an opportunity to catch more fish and to distribute effort away from nearshore species.

NEW for 2024: The daily bag limit for the longleader fishery is 12-fish per angler. [Learn more about the gear and the fishery.](#)

Bottomfish fishing resources:

[What can I keep and how many?](#) Keep up with in-season regulation changes.

Know what you've caught with some [helpful rockfish identification tips](#) (including online quizzes and video).

[Waypoints](#) for fathom lines and other restricted areas.

Shore and estuary fishing

Daily bag limits, seasons and licensing requirements for shore-based anglers are the same as for boat-based anglers.

There are plenty of rocky or sandy fishing sites up and down the coast where shore anglers can drop a line for saltwater fish. [Read about how and where](#)

Lingcod and many other bottomfish species are available year-round to shore anglers fishing in rocky areas. A common setup for lingcod is a jig head with a rubber swim bait – it’s simple but effective. Also pack a measuring device for lingcod: the minimum legal size is 22 inches.

Surfperch are available in the surf year-round along sandy beaches and rocky shores, with the best fishing (and safest fishing) occurring when swells are small. Learn about ocean [surfperch fishing](#).

Want more opportunities that don’t include a boat? Check out the [crabbing and clamming recreation report](#) for updates on crabs, clams, mussels and more!

When fishing from shore or inside estuaries and bays, it is important to check the tide. Many fish that swim into estuaries and bays, including salmon, surfperch, and Pacific herring, tend to come in with the tide. Catch of these species is more likely to occur closer to slack tide. Additionally, the accessibility of some areas can be completely dependent on the tide. Do not allow the incoming tide to become a safety issue.

CRABBING AND CLAMMING

April 24, 2024

Always check for closures at the [ODA Shellfish Safety page](#) before harvesting shellfish, which includes clams, crabs and mussels.

Announcements

Mark your crab buoys

Crabbers must mark all surface buoys with the owner’s full name or business name and at least one of the following: phone number, permanent address, ODFW ID number, or vessel identification number. Remember to always maintain gear to ensure lines and buoys are in good working condition. See details [here](#).

Bay clams

With the arrival of spring, bay clamming opportunities increase with early morning low tides. As negative tides switch from night to daytime, clammers should use caution when visibility is low. Monitor the weather forecast and the swell and surf advisories before going out to make sure you can safely clam.

Check out the [Where to Clam articles](#) for places to find bay clams. You can also get more clamming maps [here](#).

Beaver State Podcast: [Bay clamming with Mitch Vance](#)

Take a bay clamming trip with Mitch Vance, ODFW shellfish program leader, to learn about different clams and some of the challenges to be ready for when you clam.

Mussels



Mussels, like clams, are filter feeders and those who like eating clams are likely to find mussels just as delicious.

Mussels attach to rocks and other permanent habitat in the intertidal zone, so it is best to go looking for them during a low tide. When harvesting, wear gloves and use a twisting motion to pull mussels off rocks. Be careful when harvesting by the ocean and watch for sneaker waves. Each harvester will need a shellfish license and their own bucket. Learn more [here](#).

Always call the ODA shellfish safety hotline at 1-800-448-2474 or [ODA shellfish closures](#) website before harvesting for the most current information about shellfish safety closures.

Razor clams

Please check the regulation update section above for those areas of the Oregon coast that are open for razor clamming. Always call the ODA shellfish safety hotline at 1-800-448-2474 or [ODA shellfish closures](#) website before harvesting for the most current information about shellfish safety closures.

Spring and summer harvesting of razor clams can be a rewarding endeavor. Unlike the fall and winter, low tides are in the mornings and visibility is much better. Typical to the Oregon coast, the spring and summer brings better weather, which allows harvesters to see razor clams "showing" more readily.

Harvesters will still need to make sure to monitor swell and surf advisories as well as predicted wind prior to harvesting. Combined seas greater than 10 feet and winds greater than 20 mph will make harvesting difficult for all, including the most experienced harvester. Spring and summer harvesting can be greatly improved if harvesters actively "pound" to make clams show.

See this [article](#) for more information on razor clams, including how to harvest.

Clatsop Beach

Clatsop Beach clammers should expect a moderate abundance of razor clams 3 to 4 inches with a few larger ones available. Targeting the largest "show," greater than a nickel in diameter, will greatly increase the odds of harvesting a larger clam.

Clammers should plan to be on the beach at least two-hours before low tide to ensure plenty of time for a successful harvest. Any low tide that is negative is sufficient to harvest clams on Clatsop Beach if the seas are less than 10 feet. With lots of smaller clams available, clammers need to remember to keep the first 15 they dig, regardless of size or condition.

Clatsop Beach low tides can be found [here](#).

Other Beaches

Other areas such as Indian Beach (Cannon Beach); Cannon Beach; Cape Meares Beach (Tillamook); Agate Beach (North of Newport); North Beach and South Beach (Newport); Waldport Beach; North Umpqua Spit (Winchester Bay); Bastendorff Beach and North Spit (Coos Bay); Whiskey Run (Bandon); and Meyers Creek Beach (Gold Beach) will also have razor clams.

Oregon State Parks have tide tables post on their [website](#).

Crabs

Crabbing in **Newport** and **Waldport** has been poor to fair.

When there has been a lot of rain, crabbing in bays is typically not good since the surge of fresh water from the rivers forces the crab to retreat to the saltier water of the ocean.

Shore and dock crabbing can still be a great activity as the weather improves. A good tool to try is the "castable folding crab trap." Usually attached to a fishing pole, these traps are great for kids because they are lightweight and can catch crab within minutes. No heavy pulling or long wait times! They are available for purchase at most local stores. Happy crabbing!

Some crabbers in estuaries may also encounter non-native European green crab in their catch. While they look similar to Oregon's native shore crabs, identify them by the three prominent bumps between the eyes and 5 spines down each side of their body (carapace). They are not always green and color is not a good identifying feature. **The daily catch limit for European green crab is 35 per person per day.** European green crab can be any size or sex. Learn more about this species.

Want to know more about the invasive green crab and how you can help? Check out ***Invasive European green crabs threaten Northwest shellfish industries*** produced by the Oregon Field Guide on PBS.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

NW WILDLIFE VIEWING

April 10, 2024

Tillamook County

No recent viewing report.

Clatsop County

Birds

Ft. Stevens offers many viewing opportunities, including forest, wetlands, grasslands, dunes, seashore and river. Best viewing for pelagic birds, beach-foraging shorebirds and gulls would be with a spotting scope from the viewing platform near Parking Lot C. The viewing bunker a short walk from Parking Lot D offers views of Trestle Bay, with more waterfowl, marsh-foraging shorebirds and salt marsh passerines present. Several duck species use Coffenbury Lake.

Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area

Elk viewing continues to be good at Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area. The best viewing has been in the mornings between daylight and noon and again in the evenings. As the days get longer and weather warms, elk will start to use the timbered areas more in the middle of

the day. Most "branch" bulls have shed their antlers and spikes will continue losing their antlers through the end of April. New antler growth can be seen already.

Good places to look for elk are the Fishhawk Tract along Hwy 202 and the Beneke Track along the first 1.5 miles of Beneke Road.

Migratory species that are returning to the wildlife area include violate-green swallows, tree swallows, mallards, and wood ducks, as well as many songbird species. Band-tailed pigeons should be arriving soon. Swallows can be seen gliding over the open fields and checking out nest boxes. Wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and mallards have been seen in the shallow pond areas, in fields with standing water, and along creeks. Many different songbirds can be seen visiting the view area bird feeders.

Other wildlife to watch for include: coyotes in the fields, bald eagle perched in tall trees near the creeks, and turkey vultures soaring overhead. Listen for pileated woodpecker calls in the mornings or pacific tree frog croaking in the evenings.

Brochures with maps are available at the main viewing area kiosk. Remember that areas posted as "Wildlife Refuge" are closed to public entry. Posted portions of the Beneke Tract are closed to public entry Aug. 1 through March 31. (See Big Game Hunting Regulations for exceptions.)

A parking permit is required to park at Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area. Find out [how to buy a parking permit](#).

Lincoln County/western Lane County

Several species of waterfowl use the estuaries such as pintails, widgeon, mallards and teal. Many different waterfowl species can be seen resting along the edges of these waterways as well. Some good places to check out are the mouth of the Salmon River, Devils Lake, Siletz Bay, Yaquina Bay, Alsea Bay, Yachats River mouth, multiple lakes around Florence and the mouth of the Siuslaw River.

Brown Pelicans have been seen in high numbers in all of the Mid Coast estuaries and coastlines.

Red crossbills have been abundant on USFS lands these past couple of weeks. Listening in the forest is the best way to locate these birds.

SW WILDLIFE VIEWING

April 10, 2024

Coos and Curry counties

Coquille Valley Wildlife Area (CVWA)

Coquille Valley Wildlife Area (CVWA) in Coos County is open to public access. Permits for access are required and are available, free of charge, at the kiosk located in the parking lot along North Bank Road. You must access CVWA through this point. Please fill out the upper half ("A" half) of the permit and deposit it in the slot located on the post of the kiosk. Sign and carry the lower half ("B" half) with you while you enjoy CVWA. At the end of your visit please fill out the B half and deposited it in the same slot.

CVWA, both Winter Lake and Beaver Slough Tracts, are open to seven-day-a-week access from Feb. 1 through Aug. 31. From Sept. 1 through Jan. 31 Winter Lake Tract is open to public access Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays while Beaver Slough Tract remains open seven days a week.

Coos County

Birds

The Oregon Coast is a great place to look for migrating birds. Viewing hotspots include the various rock islands near Bandon, Cape Arago, Coos Bay and the Coquille River estuary. Learn more about these and other birding hotspots [here](#).

Spring is here, even if the weather doesn't seem spring-like. Many songbirds are becoming quite vocal as they realize the breeding season is upon them. Also, many of these birds are migrating right now. They are headed to northern nesting areas. Some of these migratory songbirds are referred to as Neotropical migrants. They migrate from tropical and sub-tropical wintering areas to northern nesting areas annually. April and May are good times to see these species as they move through Oregon. A few examples of Neo-tropical migrant birds are Olive-sided flycatcher and Western tanagers. The composition of bird species can change weekly during the migration, so it is worth multiple trips to see who is "in town."

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Keep an eye (or an ear) out for black oystercatchers — an [Oregon Conservation Strategy Species](#) with an orange bill that can be found near several rocky coastal destinations including the islands near Bandon, Gold Beach, and Cape Arago. These birds are very active and vocal with a sharp, shrill call that can be heard from quite a distance.

Are you looking for a new birding challenge? Consider adding Allen's Hummingbird to your Oregon life-list. This species returns in March from its wintering grounds in central Mexico to breed along the California and Oregon coast south of Reedsport.

Key identifying traits include a male's greenish-bronze back feathers, which are typically more orange on some Rufus hummingbirds. These species can be easily confused, though adult male Allen's have a distinct notch on the second tail feather out from the center. Consider attracting these birds to your yard to get a better look—you can learn more native pollinators and habitat for hummingbirds [here](#).

Marine mammals

Pupping season for harbor seals is in the spring. Females will give birth to their pups on rocks and beaches along the Pacific coast. The young animals stay with their mothers for a

period of months before moving off to learn how to hunt on their own. Frequently mothers with young pups will “park” the young ones on beaches while the mother goes off and hunts. Young harbor seal pups are not capable of staying in the water for extended periods like adults are. Anytime a harbor seal pup is on the beach alone it is best to assume it is there resting, warming up and waiting for mom to come back and feed them. Leave the pups where they are and observe them only from a distance.

Lots of sea lions and seals are using the Simpson’s Reef haul out on Cape Arago Hwy. Now is a great time to visit lookout at Simpson’s Reef, which offers a great view of these animals.

In the past several years there has been a few elephant seal pups born at Simpson Reef. These babies are occasionally seen from the observation platform at Simpson Reef. Elephant seal pupping in Oregon is a relatively new thing. While there are some records of an occasional pup being born here, it has only been in the past five, or so, years that pupping is happening regularly. If you encounter an elephant seal or any other seal or selion on a beach stay well away from it and observe from a distance.

Gray whales, the most commonly seen species on the west coast, were the first marine mammals to be recovered through the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Significant declines occurred historically due to commercial overharvest before federal protections were established. The gray whale population in Oregon was removed from the Federal ESA in 1994, although gray whales are still listed as Endangered by the State of Oregon, and are included as a Sensitive Species in the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#). Threats today include boat collisions, entanglement and other disturbances.

Gray whales have one of the longest known mammal migrations, traveling from the Bering Sea south to calving grounds in Baja California, Mexico. In mid-February through the early summer, whales pass through Oregon with their young, often passing close-by along the coast. In southern Oregon, whale-watching hot spots include Harris Beach, Cape Ferrello, Battle Rock, Face Rock, Shore Acres, and Umpqua Lighthouse. You can learn more about when and where to spot gray whales on Oregon State Park’s [Whale Watching website](#).

Big game

Black bears become active in the spring after emerging from their winter dens. These animals are most interested in feeding on grass and the tender tips of brush where new growth is occurring. Generally, bears are attracted to south facing slopes where forest openings provide ideal conditions for grass and brush to grow. Look for clearcuts, slides and meadows on south slopes and bears may be in the vicinity.

Douglas County

Big game

Columbian white-tailed deer once occurred across northwestern Oregon. Only two small populations remain, and the Umpqua Valley is a great place to come see this unique western population of what is better known as an eastern deer species. Recovery efforts in the Umpqua Valley resulted in removal of this population from the federal Endangered Species Act in 2003.

This time of year, Columbian white-tailed (and black-tailed) deer can be found throughout much of the greater Roseburg area. Visit them at the North Bank Habitat Management Area,

or look for herds on private agricultural lands and fields, where they often occur in strong numbers.

Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area is a good place to watch elk as several herds are currently spending most days in the fields near observation points. Dean Creek is also a good place to see a variety of birds including waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds.

Birds

Acorn woodpeckers are a [Strategy Species](#) in the Klamath and Willamette Valley Ecoregions, but the abundance of oak habitats in southwestern Oregon provide an important refuge these birds. As year-round residents of Douglas County, acorn woodpeckers can be found living in groups and defending granary trees. Birds drill holes into granary trees, which they then use to store insects and acorns which provide food through the winter. Common locations to find acorn woodpeckers include Roseburg at River Forks Park, North Bank Habitat Management Area and Whistlers Park.

The website www.UmpquaBirds.org is a great resource for birding opportunities in Douglas County. Visit the website to download seasonal lists of birds expected to occur in coastal, cascade, and valley habitats within the region. You can also visit umpquaaudubon.org to sign up for upcoming birding events or to look for presentations about the region's avifauna.

The Oregon Coast is a great place to look for migrating birds. Viewing hotspots include the various rock islands near Bandon, Cape Arago, Coos Bay and the Coquille River estuary. Learn more about these and other birding hotspots [here](#).

Keep an eye (or an ear) out for black oystercatchers — an [Oregon Conservation Strategy Species](#) with an orange bill that can be found near several rocky coastal destinations including the islands near Bandon, Gold Beach, and Cape Arago. These birds are very active and vocal with a sharp, shrill call that can be heard from quite a distance.

Are you looking for a new birding challenge? Consider adding Allen's Hummingbird to your Oregon life-list. This species returns in March from its wintering grounds in central Mexico to breed along the California and Oregon coast south of Reedsport.

Key identifying traits include a male's greenish-bronze back feathers, which are typically more orange on some Rufus hummingbirds. These species can be easily confused, though adult male Allen's have a distinct notch on the second tail feather out from the center. Consider attracting these birds to your yard to get a better look—you can learn more native pollinators and habitat for hummingbirds [here](#).

Marine mammals

Lots of sea lions and seals are using the Simpson's Reef haul out on Cape Arago Hwy. Now is a great time to visit lookout at Simpson's Reef, which offers a great view of these animals.

In the past several years there has been a few elephant seal pups born at Simpson Reef. These babies are occasionally seen from the observation platform at Simpson Reef. Elephant seal pupping in Oregon is a relatively new thing. While there are some records of an occasional pup being born here, it has only been in the past five, or so, years that pupping is happening regularly. If you encounter an elephant seal or any other seal or selion on a beach stay well away from it and observe from a distance.

Gray whales, the most commonly sighted species on the west coast, were the first marine mammals to be recovered through the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Significant declines occurred historically due to commercial overharvest before federal protections were established. The gray whale population in Oregon was removed from the Federal ESA in 1994, although gray whales are still listed as Endangered by the State of Oregon, and are included as a Sensitive Species in the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#). Threats today include boat collisions, entanglement and other disturbances.

Gray whales have one of the longest known mammal migrations, traveling from the Bering Sea south to calving grounds in Baja California, Mexico. In mid-February through the early summer, whales pass through Oregon with their young, often passing close-by along the coast. In southern Oregon, whale-watching hot spots include Harris Beach, Cape Ferrelo, Battle Rock, Face Rock, Shore Acres, and Umpqua Lighthouse. You can learn more about when and where to spot gray whales on Oregon State Park's [Whale Watching website](#).

Pond turtles – There's an app for that!

Northwestern pond turtles are one of five reptile species in the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#). They are the only native species of turtle in Southwestern Oregon. From April through June, turtles emerge from winter hibernation and travel to summer breeding habitat where they are often observed basking on logs and rocks in ponds and rivers.

In urban and suburban areas, invasive red-eared sliders have become increasingly widespread from introductions of pet turtles. Red-eared sliders are a common species in the pet trade, and are illegal to own in Oregon due to concerns about the health of native turtle populations (ODFW accepts surrenders of red-eared sliders year-round; contact your [nearest ODFW office](#)).

Partners at Western Oregon University are working with ODFW to track populations of pond turtles and invasive red-eared sliders in Oregon. If you would like to contribute a turtle sighting to our OregonTurtles community science database, you can visit this [website](#) to access the reporting tool.

Jackson and Josephine counties

Birds

On the first Wednesday of every month, birders can join Rogue Valley Audubon Society for a field trip to learn more about birds on Denman Wildlife Area. You can learn more about this opportunity on the chapter's website, [here](#).

Quail: As spring progresses, keep an eye out for the two species of quail that live in southwest Oregon. If you see a ground bird with a long straight head plume and chestnut-colored throat and flanks, then you're looking at a mountain quail—a species that typically lives at higher elevations.

Unlike mountain quail, California quail have a curved head plume and the feathers on their chest give them a scaled appearance. The California quail, also referred to as the valley quail, is typically found in the lower elevation valleys, and can be more common than the mountain quail in agriculture and suburban areas near thick brushy cover.

Yellowlegs: If you find yourself on a mudflat, look for greater and lesser yellowlegs. Yellowlegs are medium-sized shorebirds with bright yellow legs. They can be seen foraging

actively in shallow water areas, taking long strides and reaching down to snatch invertebrates. It can be hard to tell the greater and lesser yellowlegs apart by plumage alone. Greater yellowlegs are larger in overall size than lesser yellowlegs, with a slightly upturned bill that is longer than their head. They have a longer neck, larger and blockier head and bill, and bigger chest than lesser yellowlegs. Calls and songs can also be very useful for telling these birds apart.

Turkey vulture: Spring brings trees budding, bees buzzing, flowers blooming, and birds chirping. Along with all the hustle and bustle of spring's arrival, turkey vultures begin making their first appearances. Turkey vultures are a large dark-brown colored bird with a bright red head. They are widespread over open country, woods, deserts, and foothills scavenging for carrion.

Unlike most birds, turkey vultures have a well-developed sense of smell allowing them to smell carrion from over a mile away. Although their feeding habits can seem repulsive to some, they are one of the environment's best defense at clearing carrion before it rots and potentially spreads disease. On crisp early mornings, as the sun rises, they can sometimes be seen perched on a branch or rock with their wings spread, to increase their body temperatures after the cool night.

Bald eagle: While adults are rather distinct, juvenile bald and golden eagles can be difficult to distinguish during their first winter. Bald eagles go through several plumage stages, transitioning from fully dark brown, to mottled brown and white, to full adult plumage of a blackish-brown body with a white head and tail. Bald eagles don't acquire their full plumage until they're approximately 5 years old. If you've seen a brown eagle lacking a white head and tail, be sure to check your field guide to compare it with golden eagle plumage. Bald eagles (our national emblem since 1782) are year-round residents of the Rogue Valley. Recently a juvenile has been observed diving on waterfowl in the Whetstone Pond at the Denman Wildlife Area.

Lewis's woodpeckers: These are year-round residents of the Rogue Valley. Look for this [Strategy Species](#) in areas with abundant large snags and open canopy. Unlike other woodpeckers in North America, this species forages on aerial insects (flycatching), making short bouts of flight from elevated perches to catch prey.

Amphibians

Salamanders are a group of tailed amphibians with long bodies and short limbs. They often prefer habitats with damp conditions, which allows them to "breathe" better through their skin. Wet and rainy days (typically late fall through spring in Oregon) are the best time to look for salamanders, as the additional moisture from fog and rain allow for increased surface activity. To find salamanders, look in cracks or search under bark, rocks or logs. If you move any debris during your search, remember to put it back where you found it when you're done—salamanders are sensitive to disturbance and many salamanders are also [protected](#) in Oregon.

iNaturalist

iNaturalist is used to share and gather information on various plants and animals around you. The information provided by users generates data for science and conservation. This is a very popular, and free, tool used by both nature lovers and scientists alike. If you're interested in learning about what plants or animals have been observed in your area, or if you'd like to submit wildlife observations to support conservation efforts in Oregon, you can

access the platform via the website or through an app. Visit: <https://www.inaturalist.org/> for more information, or join [ODFW's Wildlife Conservation project](#).

Hiking opportunities

Lithia Park

Ninety-three acres of forested canyonland, located in the heart of Ashland-Lithia Park provides miles of trail systems to explore that are friendly to all experience levels. Within the park is a Japanese garden, a formal rose garden, duck ponds, picnic areas, fountains, and so much more. Deer and other wildlife can be seen as the park meanders along Ashland Creek. Bring your binoculars for bird-viewing opportunities. No dogs are allowed in Lithia but there are dog parks located nearby.

Table Rocks

The two Table Rocks of southern Oregon provide excellent hiking opportunities. The Upper Table Rock Trail is located off Modoc Road and is a slightly shorter hike, whereas the Lower Table Rock Trail is located off Table Rock Road and is longer, yet a slightly less steep climb. Both of these trails provide a good opportunity to see a variety of native wildlife, and to hear vocal species like northern flicker and acorn woodpeckers. Both hikes offer excellent views of the surrounding Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges if you hike to the top of the trail.

Jacksonville Forest Park

The Jacksonville Forest Park is located just outside of the historic town of Jacksonville. This is a 1,100-acre park with over 30 trails provided access to scenic forests, creeks, and sunny oak woodlands. The park provides excellent opportunities for hikers (and bikers and equestrians) of all skill-levels. The city of Jacksonville offers a digital map to help users stay on-trail, available [here](#).

Rogue Gorge and Natural Bridge

Located roughly 52 miles northeast of Medford, in the beautiful Upper Rogue Wild and Scenic River the Rogue River Gorge Trail and Natural Bridge are waiting for exploration. The 3.5-mile paved loop trail guides you along the basalt lava tubes where the Rogue River gouges its way through. Enjoy being out in nature while viewing and listening to the vocals of local songbirds and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

Denman Wildlife Area

Below the fourth pond and to the north, you can access the Denman Horse Trail (2.5 mile) with great views of the Upper Table Rock. While a daytime encounter is unlikely, keep an eye out for mammal sign (scat, scrapes, trails and tracks) to learn about how deer, fox, bear, beaver and muskrat use the important riparian habitat along Little Butte Creek. Waterfowl are also common on Little Butte Creek, especially near the confluence of the Rogue River.

An interpretive trail guide is available from the Denman Wildlife Area office; call ahead to ask for a copy or to get a map of other trails on with wildlife area (541-826-8774). With the wet season settling into the Rogue Valley, please remember to use caution on the slippery

trails within the wildlife area. A pair of waterproof boots might be beneficial on your next visit.

Recently a pair of Osprey have been observed on the Denman Wildlife Area, over Whetstone Pond, busily building a nest on the west nesting platform. Osprey search for fish by flying and hovering over water surfaces, watching and waiting for prey. Once prey has been sighted, they make a steep and swift dive, plunging into the waters below, talons first, to break the water surface tension, allowing them to make such extreme dives safely.

The covered viewing station on Whetstone Pond off East Gregory Road provides a bit of relief from the unpredictable spring weather and offers a great opportunity to view waterfowl, egrets, raptors and songbirds. The viewing station was installed by Oregon Hunters Association and can be accessed from a paved, ADA-accessible pathway that also extends into the pond for up-close viewing access.

A parking permit is required to park at Denman Wildlife Area. Find out [how to buy a parking permit](#).

It is illegal to dump domestic waterfowl and poultry. Domestic ducks and geese compete with native/migratory ducks and geese for nesting habitat and food sources, and domestic waterfowl have the potential of introducing disease into the wild populations. The Denman Wildlife Area staff would also like to make you aware that feeding the birds on the wildlife area is not permitted. Feeding waterfowl can cause the spread of disease as both migratory and domestic birds congregate in large quantities when being fed.

WILLAMETTE WILDLIFE VIEWING

April 10, 2024

Corvallis area

EE Wilson Wildlife Area

There are lots of deer, shorebirds and waterfowl to see on the wildlife area – look for goose, mallard, hooded merganser and wood duck broods. Wildlife viewing remains good for waterfowl and shorebirds. Neotropical migrants in the area include yellow-breasted chat, American goldfinch, various swallows, warblers, thrush, kinglet and common yellowthroat.

Note: Dogs are required to be on a leash inside the wildlife area boundary. Rifles and pistols are prohibited year-round. Find directions to [EE Wilson Wildlife Area](#).

A parking permit is required to park at EE Wilson Wildlife Area. Find out how to buy a parking permit.

Eugene area

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Observant visitors may catch a glimpse of black-tailed deer and furbearers including beaver, otter, mink, red fox and coyotes. Some of the unusual and special bird species to be on the lookout for include white pelicans, black terns, purple martins, band-tailed pigeons, yellow-headed blackbirds, osprey and bald eagles.

Throughout the year look for waterfowl, shore birds, wading birds, songbirds, raptors, reptiles, and amphibians. During summer, visitors may also see western pond turtles basking on logs, branches, and rocks in sunny areas of rivers, off-channel ponds, and other wetlands. Please report sightings of turtles [here](#).

An elevated viewing platform in the Fisher Butte unit just south of Royal Avenue is open year-round. A second viewing platform is located 1/4 mile north of the Fisher Butte unit parking lot on Hwy. 126.

A parking permit is required to park at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. Find out [how to buy a parking permit](#). Maps of the wildlife area can be found on the [ODFW website](#).

Portland area

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area

The Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Eastside units and Westside, Oak Westside and Oak Island units will reopen on April 16. However, the Eastside will remain closed until May 1 to protect wintering waterfowl and to minimize any human impact on the birds. Island and North units close Oct. 1 through April 15, 2024. Rentenaar Road, Eastside Viewing Platform, Columbia River Beaches and Raccoon Point remain open for viewing.

Also open is Warrior Rock Lighthouse trail along the Columbia River. It starts at the end of Reeder Road and combines rich community history as well as a great bird-viewing hike. Parking permits are required for the entire wildlife area.

Viewing opportunities are fewer as wintering waterfowl have started to migrate north to their summer breeding grounds and usually moved on by tax day. The largest birds grabbing star status are raptors, including bald eagles, northern harriers, red tail hawks and American kestrel. Adult eagles are becoming more active at their nest sites and osprey pairs are present and nesting. A few shorebirds have been seen. They relish the food and cover provided by the ODFW managed wildlife area. Binoculars are recommended!

[Sauvie Island Wildlife Area](#) is located on Sauvie Island, only 10 miles north of Portland off Hwy. 30. A parking permit is required for the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area and can be purchased at ODFW license vendors or online at [MyODFW.com](#).

CENTRAL WILDLIFE VIEWING

April 10, 2024

Crook County

There are red-tailed, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks, northern harriers, American kestrels, prairie falcons and golden eagles throughout Crook County and they're usually associated more closely with open/agricultural areas. Bald eagles and osprey, on the other hand, are more closely associated with water bodies. Look for northern goshawks throughout the Ochoco National Forest, and for ducklings and goslings in rivers and lakes.

Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Area

The Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Area offers access to view a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, coyotes, otter, beaver, raptors, shorebirds and waterfowl. Maps of the wildlife

area are available at the Prineville ODFW office, at Prineville Reservoir State Park office and the [ODFW website](#). Vehicles must remain on open roads, designated by a green dot, and cross-country motorized travel is prohibited.

Wasco/Sherman/Hood County

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. Bighorn sheep lambs are beginning to be born and can provide an awesome viewing experience if you can locate them. The best spot to view sheep is from the BLM access road just downstream and across the river from Sherars Falls (along Hwy 216). Focus your efforts near large cliff complexes for best viewing. You can also see sheep from The Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area access trail on the east side of the river by hiking up from the mouth of the river. Sheep can be seen as low as river mile 7 or 8.

The Deschutes River can also provide great viewing opportunities for a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and upland birds including goldeneye, bufflehead, mergansers, mallards, geese, bald eagles, great blue heron, chukar, and pheasants.

The John Day River Canyon also is home to bighorn sheep but access is a bit more limited. The easiest place to access the canyon is at Cottonwood Canyon State Park. Hike up or downstream from the access point to look for sheep.

Oak woodlands throughout Hood River and Wasco counties provide food and cover for many wildlife species. Acorns from these trees are a particularly important food source for western gray squirrels and deer. Woodpeckers such as Lewis's woodpeckers, may be found scouring live and dead oak trees for insects found in the wood.

Black-tailed deer and mule deer can also be found throughout the district. Deer can easily be seen scattered throughout agricultural fields and within lower elevation winter range grassland habitats. Towards the end of April, deer will begin migrating up to higher elevation summer range habitats where they will remain for the next six months. Keep an eye out and you may be able to catch them migrating from low elevation private lands up to higher elevation forested public lands.

You can see a variety of common raptor species throughout the Mid-Columbia district. Many birds are beginning to migrate back to their spring/summer ranges. The Columbia River Gorge is a great place to view nesting raptor species. Osprey have started to arrive from their wintering areas and are working on nests to prepare for the breeding season. Bald eagles and Peregrine falcons are also common breeding species and can be observed nesting in suitable habitat along the river. Peregrine falcons use large cliff faces for nesting while bald eagles generally build their nests in trees. Other species that may be found nesting within the district include red-tailed hawk, golden eagle, American kestrel, northern harrier, prairie falcon and Swainson's hawk.

A variety of songbirds are also beginning to show up to their summer breeding grounds providing ample opportunities to go birding throughout the Mt. Hood National Forest, White River Wildlife Area, and the Deschutes and John Day River Canyons.

White River Wildlife Area

Photography opportunities are good in the wildlife area. Deer and elk have been seen near agricultural fields, south facing slopes and open water ways. If you're traveling on or near the wildlife area, be alert for big game animals, especially deer.

The wildlife area is also home to many other game and nongame species. Look for wild turkeys foraging, skunks, coyotes, the occasional river otter and muskrat in waterways, and black bear or cougar as they move throughout the wildlife area.

There are many chances to see bald eagles and golden eagles on the wildlife area. You can spot other raptors such as red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, osprey and northern harriers hunting their prey. Rough-legged hawks have been seen in the area too. Look for birds perched on powerlines/poles, fences and trees.

Visitors area still seeing geese and ducks in the area. Ponds and waterways are full so waterfowl can be seen in several locations.

Lewis' woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers, flickers, western meadowlarks, Steller's jays, scrub jays, gray jays, Townsend's solitaire, horned larks, golden-crowed kinglets and robins are all at home on the wildlife area.

A parking permit is required to park at White River Wildlife Area. Find out [how to buy a parking permit](#).

Current road and weather conditions: Roads in the area are very wet and muddy. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended for many of the open green dot roads. Many of the seasonal roads are closed Dec. 1 through March 31. The Wildlife Area lands north of Forest Rd 27 are closed to all public access from Dec. 1 through March 31. Look for maps with road information at entrances to the wildlife area or click here [WRWA Map](#).

The weather forecast includes rain, snow and some dry periods with the high temperatures in the high 40s and low temperatures in the low 30s. Be prepared for unexpected weather like snow and ice, carry chains, a shovel and warm, dry clothing.

Campfires are allowed only in designated campsites. Firewood cutting is closed for the season.

Reminder: WILDLIFE AREA PARKING PERMIT required. Display your required parking permit when visiting the wildlife area. If you are using ELS, you must print out your parking permit and display it. Camping in the wildlife area is only allowed in designated camping areas. Please pack out your trash. Only street legal vehicles are allowed in the wildlife area, no ATV's or snowmobiles. WRWA headquarters 541-544-2126.

SE WILDLIFE VIEWING

April 10, 2024

Harney County

Raptor and waterfowl viewing opportunities are available across the county. Species include but are not limited to ferruginous hawks, prairie falcons, and eagles. Resident raptors such as northern harriers and red-tailed hawks are easily observed perched around open agricultural areas.

Wet spring conditions are also giving rise to waterfowl viewing opportunities in the county. Various goose and duck species can be found wading the dugout ponds that are currently filled with water. Look to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl viewing amongst other bird species.

As the snow begins to melt this spring, keep an eye out for deer, elk, and antelope beginning their migrations towards summer range. Try viewing these species from a distance by utilizing binoculars and a spotting scope.

Bighorn sheep viewing opportunities include Hwy 205 along Catlow Valley and along the East Steens road.

Klamath County

The Link River trail below Upper Klamath Lake, Lake Ewauna and the Wood River wetlands are excellent places to view many species of wildlife including deer, river otter, muskrat, mink and a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds.

Lower Klamath and Tule Lake NWR are good places to view raptor species such as eagle, hawk, falcon, and owl. Drought conditions have impacted the refuges but there are still some good viewing opportunities for raptors.

Klamath Wildlife Area

updated Nov. 6, 2023

Miller Island Unit

- The Miller Island Unit is located 6 miles south and west of Klamath Falls. Miller Island Unit is closed to all access from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m.
- Jan. 1 – Jan. 31: Open to public use daily; open to hunting during authorized game bird seasons.
- All other days are closed to all entry, except public roads, parking areas, boat ramp, designated birding trail and designated dog training area.
- Overnight camping is not allowed on the Miller Island Unit.

A **Wildlife Area Parking Permit** is now required to park on the Wildlife Area. Cost is \$10 daily or \$30 annually. Free with purchase of hunting license; just be sure to put it on your dashboard. Find out [how to buy a parking permit](#).

Waterfowl

Flocks of Canada geese are scattered around the area.

Southern migrating waterfowl continue to move through the area. Duck species currently on the area include mallard, northern shoveler, gadwall, canvasback, redhead, American green-winged teal, Northern pintail, American wigeon, ruddy duck, wood duck, ring-necked duck, scaup, bufflehead, common goldeneye, and common and hooded mergansers.

Shorebirds, waders and other waterbirds

Great blue herons are readily observed on the area. American bitterns are also present but can be difficult to find. Other shorebirds may still be present, but their numbers are declining as they migrate out.

Virginia rails and soras can be heard throughout the area but can be difficult to spot. American coot can be found scattered throughout Miller Island.

Eared and pied-billed grebes can still be found on the area.

Ring-billed gull numbers fluctuate between very few sightings to very common. Other gull species can be occasionally observed.

Raptors

Look for great horned and barn owls at dusk. Red-tailed hawks, northern harriers, cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned, rough-legged, American kestrels, and prairie falcons are foraging throughout the wildlife area. Eagle numbers are low, but several can usually be found scattered around the area.

Peregrine falcons can occasionally be seen but are rare sightings.

Upland Game Birds

California quail and ring-necked pheasant are scattered around the old homesteads and the headquarters area.

Songbirds and other passerines

Eurasian collared and mourning doves are scattered over the area.

American and lesser goldfinches, house finches, mountain chickadees, American robins, yellow-rumped warblers, western meadowlark, black-billed magpies, common raven and Northern flickers continue to be a common site throughout the area. White-crowned and golden crowned sparrows are also becoming common sites on the wildlife area.

Marsh wrens and song sparrows can be found in dense stands of tall emergent hard stem bulrush and broad-leaf cattail and are very numerous. Red-winged, brewers and Yellow-headed blackbirds can still be found, but their numbers are declining and will continue to do so with fall migrations.

Mammals

Dusk is the best time to spot beaver and muskrat. Dusk is the best time to spot beaver and muskrat. River otter, mink, long-tailed weasel, coyotes, striped skunk, black-tailed jackrabbit, mountain cottontail, California ground squirrels and raccoon can also be found using the Wildlife Area. Deer numbers continue to remain good.

Visitors might also spot river otter, mink, long-tailed weasel, coyotes, striped skunk, black-tailed jackrabbit, mountain cottontail, California ground squirrels and raccoon using the wildlife area. Deer numbers continue to remain good.

If you have any questions, please contact Klamath Wildlife Area at (541) 883-5732.

Lake County

This time of year, viewers looking for waterfowl in Lake Co may find Canada geese and some dabbling duck species on open waters near Valley Falls and in the Warner wetlands, with compositions changing daily due to spring migration. Some of the summer residents such as cinnamon teal have begun showing up in the past week or so. Summer Lake Wildlife Area remains Lake County's best viewing opportunity for waterfowl in winter.

Shorebirds have started to arrive in the County and will increase in numbers as the weather continues to warm and birds move north. The earliest arrivals such as killdeer are already here.

Unique raptor species, such as the rough-legged hawk and Ferruginous hawk may be found in Lake County at this time of year. These species summer very far north, often inside the Arctic circle, and use this landscape during winter. These birds are on their way out of the county, with species such as Swainson's hawks taking their place for the summer breeding period. Other common raptor species present include red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, prairie falcons, northern harriers, bald eagles and golden eagles.

Great horned owls, barn owls, and short-eared owls can also be heard and seen at night.

You will find the most diversity of passerine species in riparian areas. As with other classifications of birds, passerine composition changes daily as birds use the county as a stopover for further travel or settle in for the summer season. The earliest migrators have begun to arrive in the county, with species such as sage thrashers, sagebrush sparrows, and a few vesper sparrows occupying the sagebrush sea.

Mule deer

Most of the mule deer are currently occupying winter ranges on low elevation sagebrush steppe, or adjacent agricultural lands. Migration towards the summer range has begun and will continue as the weather warms, and the higher elevations become snow-free. Motorists are reminded that often these wintering areas are associated with high-speed highways that present a real threat to both deer and driver. Please be aware of deer attempting to cross the road, especially at night.

Mule deer that spend the summer in the surrounding forested big game management units migrate to traditional wintering grounds near the towns of Silver Lake, Fort Rock and Christmas Valley, Paisley and Lakeview to escape harsh winter conditions at higher elevations. Some mule deer that migrate to North Lake County come from as far away as Crater Lake in the Cascades.

Pronghorn

Pronghorn are currently undergoing their migration back towards their summer ranges in the high desert such as Hart Mountain, west Beatys Butte and Warner.

Pronghorn antelope have horns instead of antlers like mule deer and elk. Both buck and doe pronghorn antelope have horns. The outer sheath is shed annually by December as the new horn grows in underneath. This new growth will be complete by July the following year. A prominent prong or point on the horn can identify buck pronghorn antelope. In addition, the buck's entire nose appears black, and all bucks have a visible black cheek patch.

Doe pronghorn antelope generally do not have a prong or point, and the horn is usually less than 5-inches long. A doe's nose is much lighter colored, and a doe will not have a visible

black cheek patch. If you see a group of pronghorn, remember to check behind the group. The dominant buck is often following well behind.

Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep can be found on many of the canyon rims in Lake County.

Look for sheep on rims along Hwy 395 from the Christmas Valley Highway junction south to the Hwy 31 junction. Abert Rim just above Abert Lake along Hwy 395 offers good viewing. Hadley Butte, near Paisley, also offers viewing from Hwy 31 and the Summer Lake Hot Springs. Viewers wishing to observe bighorns should bring binoculars or spotting scopes, as sheep are generally found in steep rocky terrain and must be viewed from a distance.

Malheur County

Many species of ducks are migrating through and returning to the county. Mallards, wood ducks, wigeon, green-winged teal, golden eyes, mergansers, bufflehead are all present. Ducks are easily found on major water bodies, streams, and reasonably secluded small or seasonal water bodies.

The Snake River corridor provides numerous opportunities to see multiple bird species associated with the river and adjacent agriculture areas, including red-tailed, northern harrier and rough legged hawks. Recent flooding along the Owyhee River will increase locations for waterfowl and wading bird viewing opportunities along the river and bordering agricultural fields into the coming month.

Consecutive seasons of productive late summer forage and a mild 2023-2024 winter are producing more big game on the landscape. Relatively dry spring road conditions make for improved ungulate viewing over the previous 5-6 years. ODFW reminds recreationists that spring is a vulnerable period in ungulate life cycles as nutritional food sources are just becoming available and animals continue to recover from winter and carry pregnancies to full term. Please exercise caution and patience in not pressuring or displacing ungulates from their natural behavior and habitats this time of year.

Summer Lake Wildlife Area

Updated April 10, 2024

Facilities and Access

Wildlife Area Parking permits are required for all users of Summer Lake Wildlife Area. The cost is \$10.00 daily or \$30.00 annually and permits are valid on all ODFW Wildlife Areas. Daily parking permits can now be purchased at the Summer Lake Store. Find out [how to buy a parking permit](#). Maps and other information can be found at [summer-lake-wildlife-area-visitors](#).

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.

- Wildlife Viewing Loop is open through early fall of 2024. Refuges are currently open to foot traffic.
- Access roads to campgrounds remain open, year-round. Windbreak Dike, Gold Dike, Bullgate Dike, and Work Road are currently open to vehicle travel, through March 14,

2024. Roads are marked with current access regulations. Parking is only allowed in designated parking areas.

- Non-motorized travel on spur levees or lateral dikes is permitted, as is cross-country travel.

Game bird hunting seasons are now closed. Viewing opportunities may be reduced by occasional winter conditions. However, spring migrants will continue to increase as weather improves.

The Schoolhouse Lake Wildlife Viewing blind provides an excellent opportunity to see a wide variety of waterbirds.

Waterfowl

Early migrants such as northern pintail and American wigeon have mostly already passed through. Other dabbling species, such as mallard, gadwall, northern shoveler, and green-winged teal can be found scattered throughout the wildlife area. Many mallards have formed pair bonds.

Diving duck species present include bufflehead, canvasback, ring-necked ducks, ruddy ducks, lesser scaup, common goldeneye, and mergansers (common and hooded), as well as small numbers of redhead.

Canada geese remain widely distributed across the wildlife area. White-fronted geese, as well as small numbers of snow geese are present, but will diminish in the coming weeks.

A few resident and non-breeding trumpeter swans remain widely scattered across the wildlife area. These birds are part of restoration efforts and will be neck-collared with green collars and white alphanumeric symbols. Wintering trumpeter and tundra swans have left the area for northern breeding grounds.

Shorebirds, wading birds, and other waterbirds

Shorebirds numbers are still low but will slowly increase in the coming weeks. Visitors may see small numbers of killdeer, Wilson's snipe, dunlin, and greater yellowlegs. Other species will slowly increase as spring migration continues.

American bittern, black-crowned night-herons, and great blue herons can be found throughout the wildlife area. American coot are widely scattered across the wildlife area and courtship displays can commonly be observed. Virginia rail and sora can be found throughout the wildlife area. White-faced ibis, American avocets, and black-necked stilts are increasing in numbers.

Four species of grebes can be found on the wildlife area (Clark's, eared, pied-billed and western). Look for them in large open bodies of water such as Ana Reservoir, North Bullgate Refuge and North Levee Impoundment. Numbers have increased in recent weeks.

Ring-billed gulls have returned and can be observed on the nesting island in the East Link Unit. Terns are starting to be observed and will increase in the coming weeks. Double-crested cormorants and American white pelicans can also be observed.

Raptors and others

Northern harriers, rough-legged hawks, and red-tailed hawks are common this time of the year. Swainson's and ferruginous hawks, American kestrel, peregrine and prairie falcons can occasionally be found. Bald and golden eagles are also found on a regular basis, since both species frequently hunt the waterbirds on the wildlife area. Red-shouldered hawks have been consistently observed near the Headquarters Complex. Osprey have recently been observed near Ana Reservoir.

Great horned owls remain widely scattered across the entire wildlife area, especially in the trees at campgrounds. Short-eared owls can sometimes be found in early morning or evening hours. Barn owls can sometimes be observed, as well.

Upland game birds

California quail and ring-necked pheasants can sometimes be observed near Headquarters and north end upland areas.

Songbirds and other passerines

Eurasian collared doves remain numerous and can be observed at Headquarters Complex and other areas. A few mourning doves have been seen recently.

American robins, mountain bluebirds, loggerhead shrikes, Steller's and scrub jays are in varied numbers across the wildlife area, especially around Headquarters and old homestead sites. Black-billed magpie and common raven are also common throughout the area, as are Northern flickers. Recently, varied thrushes have been observed with the flocks of robins, and Townsend's solitaires and Say's phoebes have been increasing.

There are very good numbers of marsh wrens and song sparrows in the dense stands of hardstem bulrush and broad-leaved cattail along dikes and levees throughout the wetlands. Other sparrow species have been slowly increasing.

Large numbers of red-winged and brewer's blackbirds can be found throughout the wildlife area. Western meadowlarks can be found scattered in good numbers throughout the area, as well. Yellow-headed blackbirds have been increasing in numbers in recent weeks.

Swallows have been increasing in numbers and will continue to do so. Most swallows present are tree and cliff swallows, but other species have been observed recently and will continue to increase in numbers.

Most migrant passerines are just starting spring migration. Recent sightings have included flocks of mountain chickadees and evening grosbeaks near the Headquarters Complex, and lesser goldfinches feeding in cattails along the HQ Road. Sightings of other birds will increase as spring continues.

Habitat

Seasonal marsh areas are well flooded and some wetland plants are beginning to grow. Summer Lake proper is increasing in size and will continue to grow for the next several weeks.

Upland habitat is in good condition.

For assistance and additional information, contact wildlife area staff at 541-943-3152.

NE WILDLIFE VIEWING

April 10, 2024

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.

Take the Snake River Road between Richland and Huntington to see bald and golden eagles along the Snake River.

There are deer throughout the valley. Early in the morning and late in the afternoon are good times to view wildlife. A drive through the foothills of the Baker valley and through the Keating valley can turn up good numbers of deer.

Elkhorn Wildlife Area

Elkhorn Wildlife Area is known for the Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer herds that frequent the area during the winter. There are two good viewing sites. The Anthony Creek site is located about eight miles west of I-84 on North Powder River Lane. From I-84 take the North Powder Exit (Exit 285). About 150 elk can be seen here on any given day. From the overlook on Auburn Road, watch hundreds of elk and mule deer. It is on the south side of Old Auburn Road, which branches off Highway 7 about six miles south of Baker City.

Grant County

Bighorn sheep can be spotted from the South Fork Road near Jackass Creek. Early mornings or late afternoons are your best chances for catching them out on the rocky outcrops.

Mountain goats can be spotted in the Strawberry Mountains above little Strawberry Lake for those willing to make a couple mile hike. If you would like the chance to spot one from a car, the vehicle roads end, near High Lake, is a good place for viewing. Also, goats can be viewed from Vinegar Hill in the Desolation Unit.

Union County

Deer and elk are moving onto their summer range now and will not be as visible on the valley floor. There are still some resident deer and elk that can be observed, dawn and dusk are the most productive times of the year for this.

Turkeys can be seen in the foothills of the valley and throughout our lower elevation forested areas, with the toms strutting around with the hens.

Waterfowl species can be seen throughout the county, especially near Ladd Marsh. Snow geese, White-fronted geese, and multiple species of dabbling ducks are all abundant. Sandhill Cranes have also arrived to begin nesting.

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area

Raptors are numerous around the area and include red-tailed hawk and northern harrier. Both Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks are present in the area and rough-legged hawks are here for the winter.

Note: 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. All visitors also need a parking permit to park on the wildlife area. Find out [how to buy a \\$10 daily or \\$30 annual parking permit.](#)

Umatilla County

Some areas you may consider viewing wildlife in Umatilla County include Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge, McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, and the below listed state wildlife areas. Trails in the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness are also a great place to go hiking and see wildflowers, elk, black bear and mule deer.

Columbia Basin Wildlife Areas

Willow Creek and Coyote Springs wildlife areas are both nestled between Interstate 84 and the Columbia River, and have excellent viewing for wetland and riparian obligate bird species. Many species are raising their broods and can be seen along the water's edge. The upland areas of savanna and shrub steppe also host a variety of bird species. Willow Creek has an ample deer herd, and you'll see evidence of beaver activity on the Willow Creek delta area of the wildlife area.

The Irrigon Wildlife Area has riparian and wetland habitat and hosts a number of bird species associated with each habitat. One can see a number of waterfowl and wading bird species in the pothole pond areas. Currently, ducks and geese are pairing off and it won't be long before we see the first goslings for the season. Painted turtles are also common in the pond areas, and when the weather warms up, a stealthy person can spot turtles sunning on the banks and floating debris. White pelicans are commonly found along the Columbia River as well. Numbers of geese and ducks are growing along the Columbia River and will be commonly trading back and forth along the river.

Bridge Cr Wildlife Area

Reopened April 15. Bridge Creek is a great place to view elk. Bighorn sheep can also be seen on the south end along the breaks of the North Fork John Day River. Bridge Creek is winter range for elk and mule deer, and the majority of deer and elk wintering there will eventually migrate uphill as snow continues to melt.

Wallowa County

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 turnouts when stopping to watch these animals, as there will be other traffic on the road. There are white-tailed deer throughout the Wallowa Valley on or near agricultural lands. Visitors can see elk at the Wenaha Wildlife Area at Troy or while driving the Zumwalt Rd. through the Zumwalt Prairie, please respect road and area closures.

Various waterfowl species are visiting Willowa Lake and a number of the open-water ponds, ditches and streams. You'll spot raptor species in the upper valley, east of Enterprise and Joseph, also along the Zumwalt and Crow Creek roads.

MARINE WILDLIFE VIEWING

The Oregon coast is a great place to come and view a variety of wildlife. Enjoy the great diversity of life: from giant whales and barking sea lions, to majestic bald eagles and diving pelicans, to showy Harlequin ducks and flocking shorebirds, to the tiny anemones and crabs inhabiting tidepools. There is always something new to discover. Visit our [wildlife viewing map](#) for locations to visit and view wildlife along the Oregon coast. Maximize your viewing of coastal creatures by bringing binoculars for close-up views.

Beach Safety: http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/Pages/beach_safety.aspx

Whales, orcas and porpoises

Whales migrate along the Oregon coast on their way to their feeding grounds and breeding and calving grounds. Peak times to view them are late December through late March to early April. In addition to migratory animals, there are approximately 200 resident gray whales that live nearly year-round off Oregon. Gray whales, humpbacks, orcas, and sperm whales can all be seen off the coast. For descriptions, visit our [Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises](#) page.

Look for whales as they surface to blow a spout of 6-12 feet high, depending on the sex. Gray whales usually surface to breathe 3-5 times before making a deep feeding dive when you can spot their tail flukes. The best time to view whales are on calm days when you won't confuse whale spouts with whitecaps. While you can see whale spouts with the naked eye, use binoculars for the best viewing. A map of [best places to see whales](#) (and additional information for whale watchers) is available from Oregon State Parks.

Pinnipeds – harbor seals, sea lions and elephant seals

The easiest marine mammals to observe are harbor seals and sea lions. Often seen in bays lounging on piers, tideflats, or sandbars, these animals can be entertaining to watch. Good locations for viewing include the South Jetty of the Columbia River, sandbars in Netarts Bay, near the mouth of the Siletz River, Yaquina Bay between the jetties and along the bay front, sandbars and beaches near the mouth of Alsea Bay, Cape Argo, Rouge Reef, and Simpson Reef. For descriptions, visit our [Seals and Sea Lions](#) page. Remember to stay away from seals and sea lions as they can become aggressive and are protected by the Marine Mammal Act.

A rarer sighting are [Elephant seals](#) which can be seen at Simpson Reef on Shell Island at Cape Arago State Park.

It is normal for seal pups to be left alone for long periods of time while the mother is out hunting and they often will not move when approached. **Please remember to stay away from them.** If they are in a high traffic area, please call your local State Park so signs can be placed around the animal to tell others to stay away.

If you think a marine mammal is in trouble, please call the Marine Mammal Stranding Network at 800-452-7888.

Birds

The bays, jetties, spits, and beaches are great places to see a variety of birds. At the coast, you can spot birds of prey, waterfowl, seabirds, songbirds, and shorebirds. The diversity of birds is highest during spring and fall migrations. Check [ebird](#) and [Audubon Rare Bird Alerts](#) for lists of recent sightings. Bird viewing tips are available from the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#). Another great resource for birders is the [Oregon Coast Birding Trail](#) website, which includes self-guided itineraries for any area of the Oregon Coast and a species checklist. For descriptions of birds species, visit our [bird](#) page.

Ducks, geese, and pelicans

Huge rafts of waterfowl can be seen in the estuaries and bays during spring and fall migrations. Common species during migrations include surf scoter, bufflehead, American widgeon, northern pintail, ring-necked duck, Brant, merganser, canvasback, redhead, greater and lesser scaup, goldeneye, green-winged teal, and ruddy duck. Some less common species include long-tailed duck (in Yaquina Bay), Harlequin duck, brown pelican, Eurasian widgeon, white-winged and black scoters, and an occasional Eider.

Birds of prey

Birds of prey are common at the coast. Bald eagles sometimes perch on the beach, on a mudflat, in the bay or the tops of large trees. In the spring and summer, you might see osprey catching fish in the water and roosting on a nest built on a platform near the water. Peregrine falcons also nest near water on cliffs or bridges over estuaries. Places to see peregrine falcons include Cape Meares and Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

Seabirds

Don't forget the seabirds! There are some common murre and pigeon guillemots in the bays but you're more likely to see them on rocky islands or in the ocean by cliffs with nesting areas. From May to August, tufted puffins nest on islands at Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach and Face Rock in Bandon. Remember to bring binoculars or a spotting scope to see them. A great time to check out the coast for offshore pelagic seabirds is after a large storm. Check out the [U.S. Fish & Wildlife's Seabirds of the Pacific Northwest](#) guide for information about Oregon's seabirds, where to view them, and birdwatching etiquette.

Shorebirds

During spring and fall, shorebirds gather in flocks along the coast as they migrate. Jetties and beaches are good places to look, as well as in the bays during mid-low tide as they feed at the water's edge. If you go out at peak low tide, the birds may be too far out to ID depending on the tide. Some species you're likely to see include whimbrel, marbled godwit, semi-palmated plover, dunlin, sanderling and western sandpiper. The black oystercatcher and western snowy plover are less common and protected resident species.

Black oystercatchers are easily identifiable with their distinctive black plumage, pink legs, long orange-red bill, and an orange red eye ring framing a bright yellow eye. Nevertheless, they can be difficult to spot since they nest on rocky shores. These monogamous, territorial birds return to the same spot each year and are indicators of a healthy rocky intertidal community. Look for oystercatchers on rocky shores that are inaccessible to ground predators and where there is little human disturbance.

These "sensitive" birds are best viewed from afar. An easily disturbed bird, especially during the nesting season, oystercatchers are listed as sensitive by the state and federally listed as a species of concern. The best chance to see them are near Cape Meares, Depoe Bay, at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, Seal Rock State Park, near Cape Perpetua, and many other rocky intertidal areas along the coast.

The western snowy plover is a small shorebird that prefers sandy beaches with little vegetation and is both state and federally listed as Threatened. They are relatively small and can blend into their surroundings with their pale brown and white or buff coloring, so it is possible to unknowingly approach them when walking along the beach. They nest above the high tide line in the sand, leaving them susceptible to a variety of predators and human disturbance.

Habitat alteration by human development, non-native European beach grass that conceals predators, and disturbance by unleashed dogs and motor vehicle use on beaches are the greatest threats to this tiny and important bird. In areas where they are nesting, state and federal land management agencies may close certain sections of beach or put special restrictions in place (e.g. no dogs, leashed dogs, access on wet sand only, etc.). For more information about closures, visit Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's [Beach Seasonal Recreation Restrictions](#) page. Please obey all closures and follow activity restrictions to help save this struggling bird. If you see a western snowy plover outside a known protected area, please avoid that area of the beach and contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (541-867-4558) or your local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office.

Songbirds

As you explore around the bays, jetties, and beaches, keep an eye on the shore-side in bushes and trees and also on the ground for various songbirds like kinglets, chickadees, sparrows and warblers. Western meadowlarks are often seen on jetties and spits as they migrate. Other species that are common around the bay include great blue heron, belted kingfisher and cormorants.

Tidepools and beach combing

The Oregon Coast offers excellent opportunities for learning about and observing flora and fauna along shorelines. Here in the intertidal, the tides rise and fall twice daily. Be sure to consult a tide table to know if tides are incoming or outgoing when you visit and always keep an eye on the waves to have a safe, enjoyable experience. Also be aware of King Tides happening in November.

Beaches

In addition to the many types of birds that frequent Oregon's shores, take a look for other inhabitants at the beach. Check the wrack line where the water deposits shells, algae and kelp, and driftwood that are food and homes to a large variety of unassuming actors. Beach hoppers, beetles, mussels, and gooseneck barnacles are just some of the animals you'll find here. During the spring and summer, look for mole crabs under the sand. About the size of your thumb, mole crabs camouflage well but often leave tracks and divots and make small holes. Other tracks at the edges of the waterline are made by olive snails, which plow through the sand in search of food. Their colorful shells come in greys, purples, and pinks and have cultural significance to native peoples.

Looking for ancient life? Wave action also reveals fossils of shelled animals at several locations, including Beverly Beach, Fogarty Creek State Park, Seal Rock, Cape Blanco, and Arcadia Beach.

Tidepools

Rocky shores are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. You'll find all kinds of wonderful creatures – gumboot chitons, giant green anemones, and ochre sea stars, for

example –along the rocky shoreline. The Oregon State Parks' [tidepools website](#) has information on where and when to explore, what you can expect to see, and safety tips. Watch your step! Did you know that barnacles can live up to 10-15 years, or that limpets (cone-shaped snails) are some of the most important grazers on rocky shores? Take care to minimize your impact as you explore Oregon's rocky shores. Remember to leave things where they are for others to enjoy and to ensure these communities and important habitats persist.

Marine Protected Areas

Oregon hosts seven Marine Gardens, five Marine Reserves, and other marine protected areas. Marine gardens provide education and recreational experiences along beaches and tidepools. With the exception of single mussel and razor clam harvest at Cape Perpetua, marine gardens are "no take" areas. Check the [Coast Explorer](#) for a list and description of the marine gardens and the opportunities they provide. Oregon's Marine Reserves prohibit fishing, but are open to many recreational activities including SCUBA diving, wildlife viewing, and tidepooling. Learn more about these opportunities at ODFW's [Oregon's Marine Reserves](#).

BIG GAME HUNTING

NW BIG GAME HUNTING

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Cougar ([check current harvest numbers](#)), coyote

Announcements, resources

Big game harvest statistics

You'll find links to population, harvest and point summary reports that can help you decide what hunts to apply for.

Shed hunt responsibly

Deer and elk shed their antlers at a time when they're not finding a lot of nutritious food and need to be conserving energy so they can migrate to summer ranges a bit later in the year. Follow these [tips to help protect vulnerable animals](#).

Please report elk with hoof disease

If you see elk showing signs of elk hoof disease, including lame or limping elk or elk with damaged, injured, missing or deformed hooves, please report it using this [online form](#).

Coyote and wolf ID

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. [Test your ID skills](#).

Please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online reporting](#) system.

District updates

NORTH AND MID-COAST (Saddle Mt., Wilson, western Trask, western Stott Mt., western Alsea, north Siuslaw wildlife management units)

Black bear: Black bear season is open through May 31. Damage information shows bears are distributed throughout Saddle Mt Unit, with higher densities in the western half of the unit.

The late February and early March snows are still lingering in the higher elevations limiting access. There are some warm sunny days in forecast that should provide some productive conditions and may help melt snow to open up more area. As in most years, general bear activity should improve as weather patterns move away from freezing snaps and become more stable.

Cougar: The most productive way to hunt cougar on the north coast is to use a predator call. By mimicking the sound of a cougar's prey (elk, deer, etc.), a cougar can be enticed into entering an area. They are normally very cautious when approaching, so keep an eye out and bring a buddy to help.

Also, watching deer and elk in clearcuts is another productive way to hunt cougars as they are often seen hunting these game species.

WILLAMETTE UNITS (Scappoose, eastern Trask, Willamette, Santiam, McKenzie, N. Indigo wildlife management units)

Black bear: Black bear season continues through May 31. The snowpack is variable this year in the Willamette Basin, so hunters may have some difficulty accessing certain locations until early to mid-May, especially on north facing roads and slopes.

If you want to get out early, start along riparian corridors at lower elevations and focus on south and southwest facing slopes. The key to early success is to target days with some sun and mild weather.

Cougar: A productive hunting technique is to use predator calls to mimic a distressed prey species, but don't be afraid to switch up your sound and experiment with something different. Cougar vocalizations have been known to entice other cougars into range as well. Approaching cougars can be difficult to see when you are predator calling so hunting with a partner is advised.

SW BIG GAME HUNTING

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Cougar ([check current harvest numbers](#)), coyote.

Announcements, resources

Big game harvest statistics

You'll find links to population, harvest and point summary reports that can help you decide what hunts to apply for.

Shed hunt responsibly

Deer and elk shed their antlers at a time when they're not finding a lot of nutritious food and need to be conserving energy so they can migrate to summer ranges a bit later in the year. Follow these [tips to help protect vulnerable animals](#).

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Coyote and wolf ID

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. [Test your ID skills](#).

Please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online reporting](#) system.

District updates

COOS COUNTY (west Tioga, west Powers, north Sixes, southwest Siuslaw)

Black bear: The SW Oregon Spring bear hunt (722A) opened April 1 and will run through May 31. Black bear populations are relatively high in SW Oregon with densities generally increasing as you move toward the coast. That said most places within the hunt area with proper habitat will have bears using it.

In the spring bears tend to start concentrating their feeding activities on grass and tips of vigorously growing shrubs. So, they are drawn to forest openings on south slopes where grass and shrubs can be found growing most vigorously in the early season.

Usually, boars and sows without cubs are the first to move out of the dens and begin actively feeding in the spring. Later sows with cubs will become much more active and visible. Hunters need to take the time to observe any bear they are considering harvesting long enough to verify that they are without cubs before taking a shot. In the spring cubs are very small. Many are smaller than a house cat. While cubs rarely go far from their mothers they can be difficult to see because of their small size.

Cougar: Cougars are difficult to locate in Coos County. Most cougars are taken incidentally during deer and elk seasons by hunters who have also purchased a cougar tag.

The most productive way specifically to hunt cougar may be to use a predator call.

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.

DOUGLAS COUNTY (Dixon, S. Indigo, NW Evans Creek, Melrose, SW Siuslaw, E. Tioga and NE Powers Units)

Black bear: Black bear season continues through May 31. In general, lower elevations tend to green up first so hunters should focus their efforts there during the early part of the season, and then move up in elevation as the snow melts. Early in the season, focus on bear foraging evidence and tracks. After a couple weeks, bear digestive tracts will become more active and scat will serve as another indicator of bear activity.

Cougar: Look in areas adjacent to agriculture and within areas of higher concentrations of deer. When fresh tracks are found, set up and call with either mouth or electronic predator calls.

Cougars are abundant throughout with indicators pointing to stable or increasing numbers. Hunting cougar is a challenge because these animals are very secretive, but harvest success is greatest adjacent to private land with high deer populations using a predator call.

Coyote: 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 (Applegate, Chetco, Evans Creek, Rogue, portions of Dixon, and Sixes)

Spring Bear: Spring bear season continues through May 31.

Spring bear controlled hunts began April 1 and now is a great time to get outdoors to set up game cameras in hopes of observing emerging bears and recording their daily habits/routines. The cooler weather in the past couple months have kept the bear activity in the area low. As the temperatures begin to rise, bear activity will increase.

The southwest Coast Range had extensive snow events this winter but most of it should be melted off (except higher elevations in Siskiyou mountains) by the April 1 opening date. Due to heavy snow and ice, a lot of roads will be blocked by trees and branches. Be prepared to traverse alternate routes due to road blockages. Green-up is starting in the creek bottoms now and will progress to higher elevations and clear cuts as the season warms up and goes into May.

Cougar: Season is open statewide year-round or until zone quotas are met ([see zone quota page](#)). Hunting cougars can be a great way to extend your season now that other seasons have come to an end. Cougar hunting is more of an opportunistic hunt as cougars are primarily nocturnal. If a person is willing to spend the time, a successful harvest during daylight hours can be accomplished.

Tracking in the early spring months, when the ground is muddy, can be a great strategy for locating cougars. Following up with game cameras in areas where tracks have been observed can provide information on what time of day/night cougars use the area. Game cameras give the hunter an idea of the best time of day to sit, in a safe spot, as cougars are very quiet and stealthy, and use predator calls. Be prepared to sit for an extensive amount of time, as still as possible, to keep movements to a minimum.

If you are successful in harvesting a cougar, call the Central Point office at 541-826-8774 to schedule an appointment to check in your harvest.

Western gray squirrel: Western gray squirrel hunting is open in that portion of the Rogue unit south of the Rogue River and South Fork Rogue River and North of Hwy 140. See page 68 of the 2024 Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations for more information.

Coyotes: Coyotes are opportunistic predators who are always on the hunt for food. Scout areas with decent populations of rabbits, ground squirrels, and other small game animals.

Coyotes are found in nearly all habitat ranges, including rural areas and farmed fields. Areas around meadows, brush piles, and ditch banks can be a great place to search as these types of habitats are home to a multitude of prey species. Remember to ask for permission to hunt on all private lands.

Predator calls are very useful when used in conjunction to a known prey base. Set up in a high vantage point, upwind of your target, when calling as coyotes have sharp eyesight and a keen sense of smell. Being above them will make it more difficult for them to detect you. Remember to identify your target.

COLUMBIA BIG GAME HUNTING

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Cougar ([Check current harvest numbers](#)), coyote

Announcements, resources

Big game harvest statistics

You'll find links to population, harvest and point summary reports that can help you decide what hunts to apply for.

Shed hunt responsibly

Deer and elk shed their antlers at a time when they're not finding a lot of nutritious food and need to be conserving energy so they can migrate to summer ranges a bit later in the year. Follow these [tips to help protect vulnerable animals](#).

Please report elk with hoof disease

If you see elk showing signs of elk hoof disease, including lame or limping elk or elk with damaged, injured, missing or deformed hooves, please report it using this [online form](#).

Coyote and wolf ID

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. [Test your ID skills](#).

Please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online reporting](#) system.

District updates

HOOD RIVER, WASCO, SHERMAN COUNTIES (Hood, White River, Maupin, West Biggs Units)

Black bear: Spring bear season opened April 1 and will remain open through May 31. As temperatures begin to warm and vegetation is greening up, bears are becoming more active as they forage to regain body condition and begin to locate mates. During the early season, hunters should focus efforts on south facing slopes that have lush and abundant forage. Walking grassy gated roads can also be a good tactic to spot and harvest a bear.

Portions of the Hood and White River Units containing private timber and county forestland have high densities of bears and can provide a great opportunity to spot a bear. These lands are actively logged, providing openings in the forest that contain an abundance of food for bears. Setting up and glassing these clear cuts can provide a great opportunity to spot and stalk a bear. Past wildfire burn scars including the White River Fire, Boulder Fire, and Government Flats Fire also hold bears and may be worth checking out.

As cubs begin to emerge from their den and are more active, be diligent to look for cubs before pulling the trigger. It is unlawful to take cubs less than one year old or sows with cubs less than one year old.

Cougar: Cougar season is open year-round. Driving logging roads in search of fresh tracks can be an effective strategy.

Coyotes: 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 of the district. Look for them in early morning or evening and pay close attention to wind direction.

White River Wildlife Area

White River Wildlife Area is open for hunting. Please call the White River Wildlife Area Headquarters with any questions 541-544-2126

Coyotes: There are no seasons or bag limits on coyotes. Populations are good throughout the wildlife area. Be aware that bobcats, cougars and fox may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing/tags and season limitations exist for these species.

Cougar: Try using predator calls to increase your odds of success. Here are [10 ways to be a better cougar hunter](#). Check to make sure the zone you are hunting in hasn't reached the harvest quota before you hunt by clicking here [Cougar quota](#). White River Wildlife Area is in Zone A.

Cougar season is open in the White River Wildlife Area, Jan. 1 – Dec 31 unless the harvest quota has been met. Deadline to purchase your first 2024 cougar tag is Oct. 4, 2024. You may purchase an additional cougar tag if you purchase your general season cougar tag prior to the tag sale deadline.

Current road and weather conditions: Roads in the area are very wet and muddy. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended for many of the open green dot roads. Many of the seasonal roads are closed Dec. 1 through March 31. The Wildlife Area lands north of Forest Rd 27 are closed to all public access from Dec. 1 through March 31. Look for maps with road information at entrances to the wildlife area or click here [WRWA Map](#).

The weather forecast includes rain, snow and some dry periods with the high temperatures in the high 40s and low temperatures in the low 30s. Be prepared for unexpected weather like snow and ice, carry chains, a shovel and warm, dry clothing.

Campfires are allowed only in designated campsites. Firewood cutting is closed for the season.

Reminder: WILDLIFE AREA PARKING PERMIT required. Display your required parking permit when visiting the wildlife area. If you are using ELS, you must print out your parking permit and display it. Camping in the wildlife area is only allowed in designated camping areas. Please pack out your trash. Only street legal vehicles are allowed in the wildlife area, no ATV's or snowmobiles. WRWA headquarters 541-544-2126.

CENTRAL BIG GAME HUNTING

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Cougar ([Check current harvest numbers](#)), coyote

Announcements, resources

Big game harvest statistics

You'll find links to population, harvest and point summary reports that can help you decide what hunts to apply for.

Shed hunt responsibly

Deer and elk shed their antlers at a time when they're not finding a lot of nutritious food and need to be conserving energy so they can migrate to summer ranges a bit later in the year. Follow these [tips to help protect vulnerable animals](#).

Please report elk with hoof disease

If you see elk showing signs of elk hoof disease, including lame or limping elk or elk with damaged, injured, missing or deformed hooves, please report it using this [online form](#).

Coyote and wolf ID

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. [Test your ID skills](#).

Please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online reporting](#) system.

District updates

PRINEVILLE/OCHOCO WILDLIFE DISTRICT (Maury, Ochoco, Grizzly)

Black bear: Season continues through May 31.

Cougar: 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.

Coyotes: Offer an exciting hunting challenge. Both the Maury and Ochoco have sizeable areas of public lands that provide hunting opportunities. Hunters should use caution, and be properly equipped and prepared for whatever the weather might bring.

DESCHUTES DISTRICT (Upper Deschutes, Paulina, North Wagontire, Northwest Fort Rock, Metolius)

Black bear: Season continues through May 31.

Cougar: Found throughout the Deschutes District. Look for cougars wherever there are prey species. Predator calls are the most effective method of locating a cougar.

Coyote: Good numbers of coyotes can be found throughout the Deschutes District. Calling coyotes with distress type calls has been effective for hunters. Calling in the early morning and late afternoon produces the best results. It is important to choose areas with abundant coyote sign and little human activity.

SOUTH CENTRAL BIG GAME HUNTING

April 10, 2024

Open seasons

Cougar ([check current harvest numbers](#)), coyote

Announcements, resources

Big game harvest statistics

You'll find links to population, harvest and point summary reports that can help you decide what hunts to apply for.

Shed hunt responsibly

Deer and elk shed their antlers at a time when they're not finding a lot of nutritious food and need to be conserving energy so they can migrate to summer ranges a bit later in the year. Follow these [tips to help protect vulnerable animals](#).

Please report elk with hoof disease

If you see elk showing signs of elk hoof disease, including lame or limping elk or elk with damaged, injured, missing or deformed hooves, please report it using this [online form](#).

Coyote and wolf ID

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. [Test your ID skills](#).

Please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online reporting](#) system.

District updates

KLAMATH COUNTY

Black bear: Season continues through May 31. Snowpack is average due to late winter snow events. While much of the lowlands are snow-free, the foothills and higher up in the mountains may still have snow. Access will be limited in many areas early in the season, so look for warm weather stretches to open up new habitat as the season progresses.

Cougar: Cougar season is open year-round, and populations are healthy and distributed throughout the district in any area with a big game prey base. Most harvest occurs while hunters are pursuing deer and elk.

Predator calling or locating a fresh cougar kill can increase chances of success. Oregon does offer an additional cougar tag good all year throughout the state.

Coyote: Populations are currently low but distributed throughout the county. Fawn in distress calling may increase chance of harvest as fawns are typically born in June.

LAKE COUNTY

Black bear: Spring bear seasons have opened throughout the county. Much of the higher elevation forested lands are still snowed in, but portions of lower foothills are open. With warm temperatures on the horizon, look for more land to become accessible in the coming weeks. Much of Warner remain inaccessible, but portions of Silver Lake and Interstate have become snow-free or are in the process of doing so.

South facing slopes are great places to begin looking for bears, as they are the first to become snow free. Areas with new, green growth can also attract bears seeking the feed.

Cougar: Cougar populations are healthy throughout the district. Predator calls can be an effective cougar hunting method though bobcats and bears may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing and season limitations exist for these species. Hunters should be prepared for predators other than cougar to respond.

Coyote populations are generally low, but some hunting is available throughout the district. Be aware that bobcats and cougars may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing and season limitations exist for these species.

SE BIG GAME HUNTING

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Cougar ([Check current harvest numbers](#)), coyote, controlled spring bear

Announcements, resources

[Big game harvest statistics](#)

You'll find links to population, harvest and point summary reports that can help you decide what hunts to apply for.

Shed hunt responsibly

Deer and elk shed their antlers at a time when they're not finding a lot of nutritious food and need to be conserving energy so they can migrate to summer ranges a bit later in the year. Follow these [tips to help protect vulnerable animals](#).

Please report elk with hoof disease

If you see elk showing signs of elk hoof disease, including lame or limping elk or elk with damaged, injured, missing or deformed hooves, please report it using this [online form](#).

Coyote and wolf ID

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. [Test your ID skills](#).

Please report any wolf sightings or [wolf sign](#) to ODFW using the [online reporting](#) system.

District updates

HARNEY COUNTY (Silvies, Malheur River, Steens Mt, Juniper, portions of Beatys Butte, Wagontire, and Whitehorse)

Shed Hunting: Mule deer bucks and bull elk are losing their antlers. Mild winter conditions overall have made for less of a restriction to traditional winter ranges for our local ungulate populations. However, this time of year, deer and elk are in their most vulnerable period with lower fat reserves and less forage to replenish them. Energy expenditure is very costly for deer and elk during this time, and shed hunters can inadvertently push animals causing for excess energy expenditure and sometimes resulting in starvation or displacement.

Consider doing the deer and elk a favor by waiting to search for shed antlers until later in the spring. Shed hunters are reminded that once an antler detaches it legally becomes property of the landowner. Therefore, shed hunters need to get permission from private landowners to access their property and pick up sheds.

Learn more about [responsible shed hunting](#).

Black bear: Season continues through May 31 Bears in the Harney district can be found in the Silvies and Malheur River units. To find bears, follow the receding snowline where spring green up is beginning to accumulate and provide forage for bears emerging from their winter dens.

Cougar: Hunting is open year around. Populations are healthy and distributed throughout the district in any area with a big game prey base. Fresh snow can provide hunters success following fresh cougar tracks. Utilize predator calls above kill sites for as another advantage.

Coyote: Populations are good throughout Harney County. Be aware that bobcats and cougars also may respond to predator calls, and there are separate licensing and season limitations for these species.

Bear: Bears in the Harney district can be found in the Silvies and Malheur River units. To find bears, follow the receding snowline where spring green up is beginning to accumulate and provide forage for bears emerging from their winter dens.

MALHEUR COUNTY (Whitehorse, Owyhee and Beulah)

Black bear: The controlled spring bear hunt began April 1. In the Malheur District, spring bear can be found along the northern portion of the Beulah unit in the national forest and juniper woodlands below.

Cougar: Populations are healthy and distributed throughout the district in any area with a big game prey base. Deer are currently moving out of valley bottoms and dispersing widely across mid-elevations as spring green up enters full swing. Snowpack is not hampering or delaying migration into these transitional areas which represent the most likely places to find cougar. As a reminder, all harvested cougars are required to be checked in at an ODFW field offices within 10 days of the kill.

Coyote: Hunting is available throughout the district. Reproduction this year appears to be good which should enhance calling opportunities. Be aware that bobcats and cougars may respond to predator calls, and separate licensing and season limitations exist for these species.

NE BIG GAME HUNTING

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Cougar ([Check current harvest numbers](#)), coyote.

Announcements, resources

Big game harvest statistics

You'll find links to population, harvest and point summary reports that can help you decide what hunts to apply for.

Shed hunt responsibly

Deer and elk shed their antlers at a time when they're not finding a lot of nutritious food and need to be conserving energy so they can migrate to summer ranges a bit later in the year. Follow these [tips to help protect vulnerable animals](#).

Please report elk with hoof disease

If you see elk showing signs of elk hoof disease, including lame or limping elk or elk with damaged, injured, missing or deformed hooves, please report it using this [online form](#).

Coyote and wolf ID

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. [Test your ID skills](#).

Please report any wolf sightings or wolf sign to ODFW using the online reporting system.

District updates

BAKER DISTRICT (Sumpter, Keating, Pine Creek, Lookout Mt.)

Black bear: Season continues through May 31. Access to lower elevation areas should be better this year than normal. Look for bears in areas of early green-up. Usually south-facing slopes are the first to become snow-free and can be good places to glass for bears.

Cougar: 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.

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 DISTRICT (Murderers Creek, Northside, Desolation)

Black bear: Season continues through May 31. There is a fair amount of snow at higher elevations and access may be restricted during the early part of the season. Lower elevations have already lost most of their snow and should be accessible during the earlier parts of the season.

Cougar: 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.

Coyote: Numbers are good in most of the district. Coyotes may respond to distress calls. Try calling in the early morning and late evening.

HEPPNER DISTRICT (Heppner, Fossil, East Biggs, southern Columbia Basin)

Black bear: Season continues through May 31.

Cougar: 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.

Coyote: The 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 DISTRICT (Walla Walla, Mt. Emily, Ukiah, eastern portion of Heppner, northern Columbia Basin)

If you have questions about where to go hunting in Umatilla County, please call the Pendleton office at 541 276 2344.

Black bear: The district experienced slightly below average snowfall at higher elevations this winter and well below average snowfall at lower elevations (below 4000 ft.). Hunters

should expect limited access to higher elevation areas off of Hwy 204 in early to mid-season.

Cougar: 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 hunting near it, or by using predator calls. Some success has come from following tracks until the cougar is located.

Coyote: Numerous throughout the county and hunters should have good success calling. Remember to ask permission before hunting on private lands.

Columbia Basin Wildlife Areas (Willow Cr WA, Coyote Springs WA, Irrigon WA, Power City WA)

Big game hunting is permitted except at Coyote Springs WA. Use of rifles and handguns are prohibited at all times except Willow Cr WA. Please review the regulations for shot and weapon restrictions. Please be mindful of our neighbors and respect the safety zones.

Bridge Cr Wildlife Area

The wildlife area is **open**.

UNION COUNTY (Starkey, Catherine Creek, East Mt. Emily, southern portion of Wenaha, southwest portion of Sled Springs)

Black bear: While still early in the season, bears should be out of their dens and starting to move around a little more. Hunters should focus on green slopes and slightly timbered draws where lush green grass and other vegetation is present. Find a good knob to sit on and glass, glass, glass. Our district is seeing snow melt off very quickly, with access to most low and mid elevation spots very easy. The upper elevations will be accessible earlier than normal this season, but bears will not be very active in those spots until later spring when everywhere is full of forage.

Remember that all successful bear hunters must check in their bears within 10 business days of harvest. Call your local ODFW office to schedule an appointment.

Cougars: 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 and calling can be productive. Finding fresh snow has been a little difficult this year with the mild winter we have had, but that just means travelling around in the mountains may be easier. If we do get fresh snow, cutting fresh tracks and pursuing can be effective.

Coyote: Numbers are high 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

All lands north and east of Foothill Road are open to hunting weekends, Wednesdays and all federal holidays. Please refer to Big Game and Game Bird regulations for season dates and additional regulations.

Hunting equipment is limited to short range (shotgun, archery or muzzleloader) equipment only. Rifles and handguns are prohibited at all times.

The Glass Hill portion of the wildlife area is open seven days a week April 1 through Jan. 31. Please refer to the ODFW big game and game bird regulations for season dates.

The wildlife Area is closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. In addition, there is **no camping** on the wildlife area. Violators will be asked to leave and or will be issued citations.

Please call the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area with any questions 541 963 4954.

WALLOWA COUNTY (Wenaha, Sled Springs, Chesnimnus, Snake River, Minam, Imnaha)

Black bear: Spring bear continues through May 31.

Cougar: Populations 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. Please remember to check in your harvest at your local district office to help with population estimates.

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.

GAME BIRD HUNTING

WESTERN OREGON

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Eurasian collared dove, spring turkey (opens April 15)

District updates

For more information about the upcoming spring turkey season in your favorite hunting area, check out the [2024 spring turkey hunting forecast](#).

ALL DISTRICTS

Eurasian collared doves: These birds have no protections in Oregon, so there are no closed seasons and no limits to their harvest. Target Eurasian collared doves around agricultural areas where food sources are abundant.

Be sure of your identification before you hunt these birds which are larger and lighter than mourning doves with a distinctive band around the back of the neck. [Identify this species and its habitat.](#)

JACKSON, JOSEPHINE, CURRY COUNTIES (Applegate, Chetco, Evans Creek, Rogue, portions of Dixon, and Sixes)

Spring turkey: Spring turkey season opens April 15 statewide. Now is the perfect time to begin scouting for your upcoming hunt. This time of year, turkeys can be located on the

edges of open meadows and in the understory of oak savannahs scratching and feeding on freshly sprouting vegetation, insects, and acorns.

Knowing daily feeding schedules and routes can make or break your upcoming hunt. Turkeys roost up high in large trees at night. Trees with visible droppings on the branches and/or needles and at the trunk base can be a great indicator of a roosting spot. Often roosting trees are not far from areas where turkeys actively feed during the day.

EASTERN OREGON

April 10, 2024

Currently open

Eurasian collared dove, spring turkey (opens April 15)

District updates

For more information about the upcoming spring turkey season in your favorite hunting area, check out the [2024 spring turkey hunting forecast](#).

ALL DISTRICTS

Eurasian collared doves: These birds have no protections in Oregon, so there are no closed seasons or limits to their harvest. A hunting license is required on public land. Focus around agricultural areas where food sources are abundant.

Be sure of your identification before you hunt these birds which are larger and lighter in color than mourning doves with a distinctive band around the back of the neck. [Identify this species and its habitat.](#)

COLUMBIA AREA (White River, Hood, West Biggs, and Maupin Units)

Turkey: Youth spring turkey season opens April 13 and goes through May 31. The spring season for adults begins on April 15 and goes until May 31. Male turkeys are very vocal during this time as they attempt to advertise themselves and find a mate during the breeding season. Prepare to get an early start before sunrise to locate a gobbling male on the roost. Sneak into range, set up decoys, and begin calling to lure the turkeys in for a close shot.

The White River and Hood units both have an abundance of birds. Private timberland and county forests in the Hood and western portion of the White River can be a good place to look for birds. The eastern edge of the White River unit where the forest transitions into an oak/pine overstory can also be a great place to find birds. The West Biggs and Maupin Units have lower densities of birds with majority of the population residing on private lands. The Deschutes and John Day River canyons are a few areas turkeys can be found on public land within these units.

Klamath Wildlife Area

Miller Island Unit:

- The Miller Island Unit is located 6 miles south and west of Klamath Falls. Miller Island Unit is closed to all access from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m.
- Discharging firearms is prohibited except during authorized game bird hunting seasons or by special permit.
- All other days are closed to all entry, except public roads, parking areas, boat ramp, designated birding trail and designated dog training area.
- Upland game bird shooting hours begin at 10 a.m.
- Overnight camping is not allowed on the Miller Island Unit.

Gorr Island Unit:

Gorr Island is located four miles south of the Miller Island Unit in the Klamath River, accessible only by boat. Gorr Island is open daily with no wildlife area permit required during authorized seasons.

Shoalwater Bay Unit and Sesti Tgawaals Unit:

Shoalwater Bay and Sesti Tgawaals are both located on the west side of Upper Klamath Lake approximately 10 miles to the north and west of Klamath Falls. Shoalwater Bay and Sesti Tgawaals Units are both open for hunting daily with no wildlife area permit required during authorized seasons.

Hunting Information Miller Island Unit:

Miller Island harvest statistics can be found on the MyODFW website: [Klamath Wildlife Area](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Klamath Wildlife Area at (541) 883-5732.

Summer Lake Wildlife Area

The wildlife area is currently closed to all game bird hunting.

Summer Lake Wildlife Area harvest statistics and weekly bird counts can be found on the [ODFW website](#). Maps are available in the Headquarters lobby area.

Non-toxic shot is required for all game bird hunting and posted refuges are closed to hunting.

Please contact Summer Lake Wildlife Area at (541) 943-3152 for additional information.

LAKE COUNTY:

Turkey: Season opens on April 15, with youth weekend on the 13/14. Turkey populations are extremely low in Lake County, and only persist due to translocations of birds. No translocations occurred in winter 2023/24 due to the risk of High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI).

The wild birds that do exist are primarily located on the western side of the Goose Lake Valley in the Interstate unit.

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area

All hunting seasons have closed.

Please call the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area with any questions 541-963-4954.

UNION COUNTY

Spring turkey: Turkey season opens up on April 15. Hunters should focus their efforts early in the season following the green up band up slope. We had a fairly mild winter and access to most spots will be fairly easy, barring our upper elevations where turkeys will not be quite yet. Locating birds on the roost early in the morning and setting up close is a effective way to hunt them, with evenings also being productive.