

FISHRAPPER

Exploring the waters of Okanogan Country

April 17, 2019



**Okanogan
Valley, p. 2**

Highlands, p. 6

Methow Valley, p. 7

Nearby waters, p. 9

**Colville Indian
Reservation
waters, p. 10**

Ferry County, p. 13

**Selective
fisheries, p. 15**

Lake levels expected to be good

Spectacle, Conconully waters expected to be among top fish producers

By Al Camp
The Chronicle

Snow this winter means water for anglers hitting the Okanogan and Ferry County lakes.

Most waters have a general fishing season – they're open the last Saturday in April (April 27 this year) to Oct. 31.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Fish Washington" mobile app is one way to keep track of what fish and regulations apply to lakes, rivers and streams managed by the state.

It also features downloadable updates and offline capacity designed for those who may not have cell service in remote areas or on the water.

Some minor rule changes are expected in the department's annual fishing pamphlet this year. It comes out in mid- to late April.

"With the heavy snow load in February and March, area water bodies should have good water levels throughout the region," said Ryan Fortier, Okanogan County district fisheries biologist for the state. He said he expects good trout fishing this year as a result.

As of early April, there was no word as to when the North Cascades Highway would open, but as of April 9 clearing crews were fewer than 15 miles apart.

The state began clearing snow March 25 on both sides of the pass, which is used by many western Washington anglers to reach Okanogan County.

There are many popular lakes that should be ready for anglers for the general opener, including Spectacle, Alta, the Conconully lakes and Peerrygin.

Spectacle Lake near Loomis opens April 27 with kokanee, rainbow and brown trout.

"Anglers can usually expect to catch rainbows in the 10- to 14-inch range," said Fortier.

The Conconully waters have rainbows in the 10- to 13-inch range, along with larger carryover fish from last year, Fortier said.

"Alta is getting a lot of pressure on the kokanee fishery so may not be as good this year," he said.

"Bonaparte Lake has struggled to produce its traditional brook trout," Fortier said. "But the tiger trout sizes reported in the lake have been bordering on tall tales.

"We will try to do a more intensive survey this year to get an idea of what has changed and if the rumors of very large fish are true."

A few lakes are struggling, including Palmer for kokanee and Fish Lake for rainbows.

Fortier says Palmer Lake is not expected to have a kokanee fishery for another two years. While fry were planted there last year, it will take that much time for those fish to mature.

A bullhead population at Fish Lake



Al Camp | The Chronicle

Philip Cubby Barnaby, Omak, shows a string of fish he caught last year on opening day at Conconully Lake.

appears to be affecting trout size.

Salmon and steelhead regulations/seasons change during the summer, depending on counts over dams and federal agreements on the Columbia River.

Anglers must possess a current Washington freshwater fishing license, valid through March 31, 2019. Licenses can be purchased online at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>, by telephone at 866-246-9453, or from about 700 license dealers across the state.

License vendor locations can be found at the Department of Fish and Wildlife website, <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/vendors/>.

Anglers can dip their lines into 67 lowland lakes managed by the state in Okanogan County. They represent about 18 percent of the state's managed lakes. The county also contains 110 alpine lakes above 4,500 feet.

Ferry County sports about a dozen highland lakes that boot out nice fish once the waters warm up later in the season.

The Colville Indian Reservation, with a

season of April 14 to Oct. 31 unless otherwise noted, includes many lakes and creeks open to non-members that hold brook, brown, cutthroat, triploid, Lahontan cutthroat, rainbow and tiger trout, as well as bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish, kokanee and triploids.

See separate stories for Colville reservation and Ferry County prospects.

Okanogan County coverage is split into Okanogan Valley, Methow Valley, Highland and selective fisheries. A few nearby waters - including Jameson Lake near Mansfield in Douglas County and Banks Lake south of Grand Coulee in Grant County - also are included.

Best success comes by fishing lowland lakes early. As the weather warms, fishing improves at higher-elevation lakes.

Okanogan Valley

Beaver Lake — The 8-acre lake, which is open all year off Highway 20 west of Okanogan, received 500 fingerling cutthroats in September.

To reach Beaver Lake, a couple miles north of the Loup Loup Ski Bowl southwest of Okanogan, turn off state Highway 20 and go north past the ski hill to a trailhead. The lake, which is fun to fish from a float tube, is an easy hike of a couple miles.

Blue Lake — The 16-acre lake in the Limebelt north of Omak (west of Riverside) is open year-round and has been popular for big trout with a few brown trout thrown in, said Fortier.

The lake received fingerling plants of 2,000 triploid eastern brooks in June and 1,000 rainbows in September last year.

To reach the lake, travel west from Okanogan or Omak to Conconully Highway and head north to the sign pointing to the lake. The four-mile dirt road can be impassable in the spring due to rain.





Although there is no boat ramp, anglers can carry canoes or small rowboats to the lake at the south end or navigate a steep hill on the north end.

Columbia River — There is a year-round season for all game fish except salmon, steelhead and sturgeon.

The 2018 pre-season forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 67,300 adults to the Columbia River mouth. The overall return is expected to include 30,000 age-4 fish, 30,300 age-5 fish and 7,000 age-6 fish. If accurate, the projection would represent the 11th-highest return since 1980 and 89 percent of the

THE CHRONICLE
Essential Reading
For Okanogan Country

Fishraper 2019
© 2019 The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle
Owned and operated by Eagle Newspapers, Inc.
Publisher and ad manager: Teresa Myers
Managing editor: Brock Hires
Section editor: Al Camp
618 Okoma Drive P.O. Box 553
Omak, WA 98841
509-826-1110 or 800-572-3446
www.omakchronicle.com

Joe's Automotive Repair

At Joe's Automotive Repair, earning your trust is our highest mission.
Serving the community since 1987

204 N. Main St. • Omak • 509-826-1919 

average returns observed over the past decade.

The 2018 pre-season forecast for the Columbia River sockeye run is for a return of 99,000 adults to the Columbia River, including 25,700 Wenatchee stock and 72,600 Okanogan stock.

The forecast is 30 percent of the 2008-2017 average return of 327,800 fish. The Wenatchee component is forecast to be greater than the escapement objective but less than the 10-year average return of 68,100 fish. The return of Okanogan-origin fish is expected to be approximately 29 percent of the recent 10-year average (250,000 fish).

Colville tribal summer fisheries typically occur on the main stem Columbia River upstream of Wells Dam. In recent years, Colville tribal fisheries have used hook and line, tangle net and purse seine gear. Based on the preseason forecast and the sharing principles under the Upper Columbia Harvest Agreement, 50 percent of the harvestable fish available to fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam were allocated to the Colville Confederated Tribes. That amounted to 4,347 adult summer Chinook (including release mortalities).

Post-season, based on the actual run size, 50 percent of the harvestable fish available to fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam were allocated to the tribe, amounting to 4,884 fish. The 2017 catch estimates include 1,388 adult summer Chinook (904 released) and 4,329 sockeye.

Steelhead and salmon fishing often is open along specific stretches of the river for short seasons announced under emergency openers.

The river undergoes constant changes, so be sure to check the latest regulations at the state's website, wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations.

Any sturgeon caught must be released.

There are no size restrictions or daily limits for bass, channel catfish and walleye.

Walleye fishing is predominant from January to June. Walleye limits are different for Lake Roosevelt (above Grand Coulee Dam) than the rest of the river.

Walleye fishing has become popular on the stretch of river bordering Douglas County. Walleye can be caught below Chief Joseph Dam, as well as most of Rufus Woods Lake above the dam.

Rufus Woods is always the best place to fish in Okanogan County in mid-April as the triploids from the net pens are big and easy to catch for even novices, said Fortier.

New state access launches off the north shore should make it much easier for anglers, he said.

The river also has become a favorite for smallmouth bass, though largemouth bass also resides in its water.

There are good boat launching facilities at Brewster, Pateros and Bridgeport, which recently added a new launch with a parking lot and bathrooms.

Conconully Lake — The upper (Salmon Lake), with a general season of April 27 to Oct. 31, contains jumbo trout in the one-pound range along with rainbows in the 11- to 13-inch range with carryovers to 16 inches.

The 313-acre lake is also gaining in popularity for kokanee fishing.

Fortier expects the lake to be consistent again this year for both kokanee and rainbows.

Planting for the lake 15 miles northwest of Okanogan, includes rainbows — 2,500 catchable in April, 10,000 grow-and-take in October 2013, 125 jumbos in May and 15,000 fry in May — and kokanee — 25,000 fingerlings in May.

Conconully Lake includes a graveled state boat launch with toilets and a wheelchair-accessible dock. A fee is required to use the launch for boats on trailers.

A state park is in town next to Conconully Reservoir.

Conconully Reservoir — Anglers can expect rainbow trout averaging 9-11 inches with a few carryovers up to 16 inches at the 450-acre reservoir, which should be full of water this year.



Dee Camp | The Chronicle

Fish Lake is a popular choice with anglers.

The reservoir is located south of Conconully and is open the April 27 to Oct. 31.

There are a couple resorts and a state park.

The reservoir received the same plantings as the lake — rainbows including 2,500 catchable in April, 10,000 grow-and-take in October 2013, 125 jumbos in May and 15,000 fry in May — and kokanee — 25,000 fingerlings in May.

Conner Lake — Located near Forde Lake, this 25-acre lake (sometimes called Connors Lake) in the Sinlahekin was planted with 350 triploid eastern brook trout fry June last year.

The lake, which is open April 27 to Oct. 31, could also contain eastern brook that propagate naturally in Sinlahekin Creek.

Anglers can expect fish in the 9- to 13-inch range.

Travel south from Loomis five miles on Sinlahekin Road. There is a small, gravel boat launch, with the lake best fished with a small boat, canoe or float tube in May and June.

Access gets difficult in mid- to late summer due to growth of weeds and brush.

Fish Lake — This 102-acre lake, located four miles northeast of Conconully and open April 27 to Oct. 31, has traditionally been one of the county's more popular lakes but isn't expected to be this year.

"Fish Lake has struggled to produce solid numbers and size as the abundant bullhead need to be removed," said Fortier.

There are two public access areas with launches and toilets available.

The lake boots out rainbows in the 10- to 12-inch range with carryovers to 15 inches.

Fish received 3,000 catchable rainbows in April, and 200 jumbos along with 12,300 fingerlings last May.

Anglers can reach the lake by traveling either 4.5 miles northeast from Conconully on a dirt road past the upper lake and Sugarloaf Lake or going on Highway 97 for 5.5 miles from Riverside, then west on Pine Creek Road for about nine miles.

Forde Lake — The 9-acre lake in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area does not have a planting history from last season, which is normal due to containing naturally reproducing eastern brook trout in the 8- to 10-inch range.

The nearby 3-acre Reflection Lake was planted triploid eastern brook a couple years ago and could hold a few carryover tiger trout.

Forde, built as an impoundment pond in 1949 and

which could see higher water levels this year, is open April 27 to Oct. 31.

Although there is a small, public boat-launching area next to the road, the lake is best fished early before weed growth increases.

A small boat or float tube works best at the lake, located about six miles south of Loomis on Sinlahekin Road.

Green Lakes — The lakes with split seasons —

the larger lake at 45 acres and to the south nine-acre Little Green — were eliminated during the rule simplification last year so anglers are getting used to the selective gear restrictions year round on those lakes, enjoying being able to harvest two trout over 14 inches year round as opposed to only in winter, said Fortier.

The bigger lake was restocked with 1,700 catchable rainbows along with 9,600 fingerlings in April. Another 75 jumbos were planned for May.

The smaller lake received 250 catchable rainbows and 25 jumbos in May. There also 1,000 triploid eastern brook trout fry planted in May.

Both lakes, located about five miles northwest of Okanogan and Omak, are open to catch-and-release, selective gear rules fishing only from April 1 through Nov. 30. Electric motors can be used on both lakes during the selective gear rules portion of the season.

From Dec. 1 through March 31, the lakes switch to a "catch-and-keep" special winter season, without selective gear rules.

History at the upper lake finds fish in the 11- to 13-inch range with carryovers to 15 inches.

Big Green Lake includes a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access area with campsites and a concrete boat launch.

Little Green Lake normally boots out 10- to 11-inch rainbow trout and some carryover rainbows to 15 inches.

Both lakes are nestled in a steep valley where it gets dark an hour before normal.

The larger lake is somewhat disabled-accessible, though access is steep. The lower lake has a dirt path.

The lakes can be reached by following Salmon Creek Road northwest out of Okanogan for 4.5 miles, then a mile north on Green Lake Road. Anglers also can access the lake by taking Green Lake Road off the Conconully Highway about five miles northwest of Omak. Travel past Brown Lake to reach Big Green.

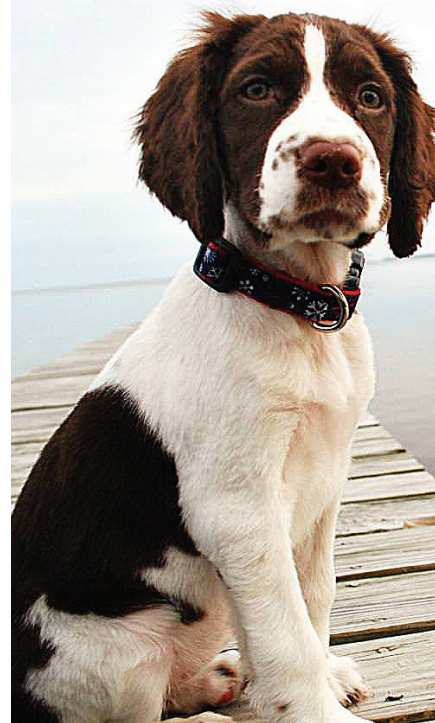
Alpine Veterinary Clinic

"Quality care for large and small animals since 1977"

Denise S. Krytenberg, D.V.M.

Jordan Bradley, D.V.M.

- Air conditioned boarding.
- In-house diagnostic lab.
- Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



509-826-5882

741 Riverside Drive
Omak





Dee Camp / The Chronicle

The west end of the Monse bridge provides access to the Okanogan River.

(Check with Okanogan County authorities before trying to access the lake via Brown Lake. As of April 9, the road was closed between the Green Lake boat launch and Conconully Highway because of water over the road.)

Jasmine Creek — This is a juvenile-only water open year-round in the south end of Omak. The creek runs from the Omak Fish Hatchery into the Okanogan River.

Anglers must be age 14 and younger to fish the creek, which holds a few rainbows.

Leader Lake — Leader, open year-round, is located seven miles west of Okanogan off state Highway 20.

"Leader Lake has continued to be a popular ice fishing lake," Fortier said. "WDFW will be evaluating the perch quality this year as sizes have been marginal for the past few seasons."

The popular, 159-acre lake should provide good fishing well April through June for yearling rainbow trout up to 14 inches and larger carryovers.

The lake received 4,000 catchable rainbows in April plus 100 jumbos and 2,000 fingerlings in May.

Department of Natural Resources campgrounds, with toilets, are at both sides of the lake.

Boats can be carried in or launched at a launching facility.

Okanogan River — The river flows from Lake Osoyoos near Oroville and the Canadian border south to the Columbia River near Brewster. It can be good for steelhead when an emergency opener occurs, which has been after approval from approximately October to early the following year.

Because steelhead are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, fisheries have been modified substantially for all fish species in the river.

A steelhead fishery is dependent upon run size that exceeds natural-origin escapement requirements.

There has been a summer Chinook season.

Check the state site, wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations, for latest changes in seasons.

Smallmouth bass is the best bet, with fish averaging 10-12 inches, though some can exceed three pounds.

There are no size restrictions or daily limits for bass, channel catfish or walleye.

Boat launches include a large one in Brewster on the Columbia, a rough launch at the west end of the Monse bridge and launches in Okanogan and Riverside. Most shorelines are privately owned, so float trips offer the best fishing opportunity.

Osoyoos Lake — Open year-round, the lake is located a mile north of Oroville and spans the U.S.-Canadian border. Of the lake's 5,723 acres, 2,036 acres lie in the U.S.

Anglers can expect smallmouth and largemouth bass, a few rainbow, kokanee and perch.

A few naturally occurring populations of rainbow trout up to 14 inches reside in the lake, as do kokanee in the 10- to 12-inch range.

The lake also offers good smallmouth bass fishing. Yellow perch can be caught through the ice if winter conditions get cold enough.

A boat launch is near the outlet to the Okanogan River. There also is a park with a boat launch at Boundary Point about four miles north of town off Highway 97.

Palmer Lake — The 2,100-acre lake open year-round contains a variety of fish including naturally spawning rainbow trout, largemouth bass (1-3-pound range), bluegill, yellow perch (6-10 inches best fished through the ice), crappie, pikeminnows along with a few burbot (freshwater ling, primarily a winter fishery) and a few channel catfish.

An effort to re-establish kokanee at the lake started with the planting of fry last year.

The fry was collected last year from Palmer strain of kokanee in Spectacle Lake.

Fortier expects the fishery in about two years.

Fish expected to spawn in Sinlahekin Creek a couple years ago were not found.

Fortier says Palmer lake is not expected to have a fishery for another two years.

Palmer, along with Washburn Island Pond and Leader Lake are some of the most popular for warmwater species in Okanogan County, said Fortier.

The lake is best fished in May and June.

Burbot anglers must comply with the statewide rule of one line with up to three hooks (unless other, more restrictive rules are in effect).

There is a U.S. Bureau of Land Management access site with concrete boat launch on the south end and a DNR launch site with gravel launch and camping areas on the north end.

There is one resort with cabins, RV spots and small boat rentals available.

Palmer, which offers one of the state's most diverse fishing experiences in a managed lake, is open all year,

although best fished in May and June.

See the introduction for news on the lake's kokanee.

Other fish in the lake include naturally spawning rainbow, yellow perch (6-10 inches), bass (1- to 3-pound range) crappie, pikeminnows and a few burbot (freshwater ling, primarily a winter fishery).

Perch fishing can be excellent through the ice in the winter.

Burbot anglers must comply with the statewide rule of one line with up to three hooks (unless other, more restrictive rules are in effect).

There is a U.S. Bureau of Land Management access site with concrete boat launch on the south end and a DNR launch site with gravel launch and camping areas on the north end.

There is one resort with cabins, RV spots and small boat rentals available.

Rat Lake — This 62-acre lake, located five miles north of Brewster off Paradise Hill Road, is under selective gear rules.

The split season at the lake was changed in 2018 to a year-round fishery with a limit of two trout more than 14 inches.

Trout in the lake are averaging 11-15 inches and fishing has been good.

Drive 3.5 miles north from Brewster up Swamp Creek, and then take a dirt road two miles north up Whitestone Creek.

There is a state concrete boat launch, but access may be a problem in winter since the road is not plowed.

Reflection Pond — The three-acre water, sometimes also referred to as Reflection Lake, is in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area six miles south of Loomis near Forde Lake.

It is open only to juvenile anglers under the age of 15, seniors age 70 and older, and anglers with a disability who have a designated harvester companion card.

The year-round lake was stocked with over one thousand rainbow trout in March.

Rock Lake — This open-year-round system of two lakes (five-acre upper lake and four-acre lower lake), which are on state land, is now managed for cutthroat and rainbow trout, which are a bit bigger in the upper lake than the lower lake.

There is a DNR campsite above the lakes with a short, steep trail leading down to the waters.

Fishing is best from shore or from a small raft or float tube.

The lakes are located 11 miles northwest of Okanogan. Drive west on state Highway 20, then north on Rock Lake Road.

Rufus Woods Lake — The 51-mile-long lake, which is open year-round, is a river reservoir behind Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River just upstream from Bridgeport.

It was stocked by the Colville Confederated Tribes

Fish and Wildlife Department in late March with more than 2,000 triploid rainbows that weighed in around 1.5 pounds each.

Another group of 10,000 smaller triploid rainbows were released a week later.

These fish can be identified by the absence of an adipose fin and some have plastic anchor tags. If you catch one with a tag, please contact the tribal Fish and Wildlife Department and provide tag number and information related to the catch (i.e. date, location, length, and the approximate size) or log in to www.cctfwishtags.com/report-a-tag to report a tagged fish electronically.

The information assists biologists in managing annual fish releases into Rufus Woods Lake.

Anglers enjoy fishing for triploid rainbows up to 12 pounds near net pens adjacent to the Colville Indian Reservation (downstream from Nespelem River) and Columbia River Road.

There is a two-trout fish limit and kokanee count as part of the trout limit on the water that forms the border between Douglas County and Colville Indian Reservation in Okanogan County.

Other species include walleye (best caught near Elmer City), kokanee, yellow perch and a few smallmouth bass.

It's illegal to fish for sturgeon.

Anglers should check wdfw.wa.gov for latest rule changes concerning the stretch of the Columbia River from Bridgeport to south of Pateros.

The state has an agreement with the tribe to accept tribal or state licenses if the angler is on the water. Anglers must have a state license if fishing on the Douglas County side from the shore.

On the Okanogan County (reservation) side, anglers can possess either a state or a tribal license when fishing from shore at marked, designated tribal fishing areas. Otherwise, a tribal license is required to fish from the shore on the reservation.

Consult the tribe's sport fishing pamphlet for all regulations concerning boundary waters and what licenses are required. Boundary waters include Lake Rufus Woods (Chief Joseph Dam pool), Crawfish Lake, Lake Pateros (Wells Dam pool), Washburn Island Pond, Okanogan River and Lake Roosevelt (Grand Coulee Dam pool).

Steelhead are unable to reach the lake because there is no fish ladder over Chief Joseph Dam.

Marked, designated launching areas include Seaton's Grove Corps of Engineers site two miles downstream from Elmer City, Bridgeport State Park near the lower end, and the Army Corps of Engineers' site upstream of Chief Joseph Dam on the Douglas County side.

Anglers can travel 22 miles south from Okanogan on Highway 97, then east for eight miles on state Highway 17 to a boat launch near Chief Joseph Dam.

Salmon Creek — Salmon Creek from the Conconully Reservoir to the Okanogan River is closed

BE PREPARED!



Cast Iron Cooking
Pots, Pans,
Dutch Ovens



Kerosene
First Aid
Kits



Fishing Gear
Knives
Flashlights



Camping
Supplies
BBQs & Utensils



85 N. Clark • Republic • 509-775-2952



Okanogan County Fly Fishing Club

Educating, Preserving and
Protecting our Waters



Find us on
Facebook

to protect spawning steelhead.

Salmon Creek's north and west forks, which flow into Conconully Reservoir, have a season that runs from Saturday before Memorial Day through Oct. 31.

Statewide minimum size and daily limits apply, as do selective gear rules. Bait is not allowed.

Schalow Pond — This seven-acre lake is located on a path (watch out for sunning rattlers) about a 10-minute walk from the Fish Lake parking area at the lake outlet.

The lake should be good for eastern brook trout carryover from last year.

Heavy weed growth during the summer makes it difficult to fish by midsummer at the lake, where float tubes work best. There's limited shore access.

Open year-round, the pond is 4.5 miles northeast of Conconully in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area.

Silver Nail Lake — The tiny, five-acre lake that is open year-round to juveniles only (14 years old and younger) and disabled anglers with a reduced fee license lies four miles north of Oroville off Highway 97.

It is best fished from a small boat or float tube for trout in the nine- to 10-inch range.

There is a state Department of Fish and Wildlife parking area. Boats will need to be hand carried to the lake edge.

Similkameen River — Located west of Oroville, this river extends into Canada and offers fair fishing for winter whitefish in a season of Dec. 1 to the end of February from Enloe Dam to the mouth.

There is no minimum size for whitefish, with a daily

limit of 15 whitefish only; whitefish gear rules apply.

The river enters the U.S. from British Columbia six miles north of Palmer Lake and flows about 18 miles south and east to Oroville, dropping over Enloe Dam before entering the Okanogan River.

Fishing is closed for all species from 400 feet below the dam to 400 feet upstream of the dam.

Steelhead fishing seasons are open through emergency regulation only as the fish are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Anglers should check the state Department of Fish and Wildlife's website for opening dates and restrictions.

When steelhead can be taken, the river is open from the Okanogan River to 400 feet below Enloe Dam. A steelhead fishery is dependent upon run size, which must exceed natural-origin escapement requirements.

A road from Oroville follows the river most of its length to Nighthawk. The Similkameen Trail runs from Oroville to the dam.

Sinlahekin Creek — Anglers with gumption and guts — rattlesnakes like to slither among the trees and willows — will find a few rainbow trout in this north-running stream.

The creek runs parallel to Sinlahekin Road from Blue Lake to Palmer Lake in the Sinlahekin Valley.

From Palmer Lake to Cecile Creek bridge, there is short season from the Saturday before Memorial Day through Oct. 31 for all game fish. Statewide minimum size and daily limits apply. Selective rules are in effect.

There is a whitefish season Dec. 1 to the end of February, with no minimum size and daily limit of 15 whitefish only. Whitefish gear rules apply.

From Cecile Creek upstream to all tributaries there is a season for all game fish from the Saturday before Memorial Day to Oct. 31. Statewide minimum size and daily limits apply.

Smith Lake — This 10-acre lake in the Chiliwist south of Malott can be accessed via Olema Road for small rainbows.

The lake was last stocked in 2017 but offers carryover rainbow trout.

It's best fished from a small boat or float tube for trout in the eight- to 10-inch range from May to June and September to October.

The lake is on DNR land.

Spectacle Lake — This 315-acre lake, formed as a reservoir for area orchards, currently is open April 1 to Sept. 30.

One of the more popular lakes in Okanogan County, Spectacle last year received 52,629 fingerling rainbows in June and 10,000 tiger trout fry in July.

The lake received 10,000 grow-and-take rainbows in October of 2013.

Anglers can expect rainbow trout in the 10- to 12-inch range with holdovers up to 15 inches at the lake nine miles northwest of Tonasket and 2.5 miles east of Loomis off Loomis-Oroville Road.

The lake also contains largemouth bass, bluegill in the 6- to 8-inch range (best fished May to July) and yellow perch.

There are two resorts with boat launching facilities, plus a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access site with a concrete boat launch and toilets.

Starzman Lakes — There are three, small lakes open year-round on U.S. Bureau of Land Management land near Brewster off North Star Road.

The middle five-acre lake and the upper eight-acre lake are best fished from a float tube or from shore.

The lower 4.3-acre lake contains largemouth bass and bluegill.

A poor access road often means having to hike to the lakes, which can be reached by going north of Brewster on Old Highway 97 for 1.5 miles and turning left to follow Starzman Creek eight miles to the south end of lower Starzman Lake.

Sugarloaf Lake — This six-acre lake north of Conconully Lake, which has been slowly rising its water level, has carryover triploid eastern brook trout in the 8- to 11-inch range.

Because water levels have been higher the last couple years, the fish are a bit bigger, in the 10-inch range.

There is a U.S. Forest Service campground with a gravel launch site for small boats. The campground is a favorite of fall deer hunters.

(Big) Tiffany Lake — This walk-in lake holds cutthroat trout, which cannot be kept and must be released if caught, and eastern brook, which can be found in the lake and its tributaries.

The 20-acre lake, which is fished hard early and open year-round, is about 12 miles northwest of Conconully.

Little Tiffany Lake, which is about four acres and holds cutthroats, which must be released, is 0.7 mile south of Big Tiffany.

Wannacut Lake — This 412-acre lake north of Whitestone Lake often lags warmer, lower-elevation lakes by a few weeks, but continues to be a good fishing lake for rainbow trout in the 10- to 12-inch range with a few carryovers up to 14 inches.

The lake, which currently has an April 27-to-Oct. 31 season, contains saline water (magnesium sulfate) that makes fish taste especially good.

Anglers can go north from Tonasket on the west side of the Okanogan River for 4.5 miles, then west for another 4.5 miles on Loomis-Oroville Road before going north four miles to the south end of the lake.



The Chronicle

Anglers can fish to 400 feet below Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River.

Coulee Playland
ON BANKS LAKE

Large bait and tackle shop
For Banks Lake, Rufus Woods
and Lake Roosevelt
Campground/Marina
509-633-2671
401 Coulee Blvd. East, Electric City

CHESAW TAVERN

Fish all day then
relax with us!

Weekend Breakfasts
Local Bison Burgers
& Brats

2045 Chesaw Road
Chesaw • 509-485-2174

Sunrise RV's
behind your next
adventure!

Keystone RV Company

CROSSROADS
Recreational Vehicles

Lance

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

Sunrise RV's

1004 Koala Ave., Omak
509-826-4678
www.sunriservs.com

Another route is 2.5 miles south of Oroville on the west side of the Okanogan River, then west three miles past Blue Lake to the north tip of Wannacut on Wannacut Lake Road.

The lake is best fished from a boat because of limited shore access.

A resort and public access with toilets and launch are available.

Washburn Island Pond — Among the weed beds, anglers are catching largemouth bass, bluegill (some good-sized ones) and channel catfish at this 130-acre diked area off the Columbia River five miles east of Brewster off state Highway 17.

"Washburn was stocked with largemouth two years ago and has produced some good sizes," Fortier said. "It also has bluegill and the occasional channel catfish."

Anglers are reminded to adhere to the statewide largemouth harvest size restrictions.

Boaters can have an internal combustion engine attached to their boat. Electric motors are OK.

"Remind people that internal combustion motors cannot be used," Fortier said.

The pond, located on the Colville Indian Reservation, currently has a season of April 1 to Sept. 30.

Anglers must possess both state and Colville tribal fishing licenses if fishing from shore on reservation property. A state license is required for fishing from a boat.

Statewide minimum size and daily limit rules apply.

Largemouth bass run up to a couple pounds at the pond 22 miles south of Okanogan. From Okanogan, travel south on Highway 97 to the truck weigh station and travel east on Highway 17 for about a mile to a southbound road to the pond.

A Douglas County Public Utility District boat launch has been upgraded, with toilets and parking available.

Washburn Lake — Expect a short hike to reach triploid eastern brook trout and tiger trout in this 13-acre lake located on Palmer Mountain two miles northeast of Loomis.

The lake, which is on U.S. Bureau of Land Management land, is open April 27 to Oct. 31.

There is a one-fish limit for fish that can reach 12-13 inches or larger if the lake does not kill off.

There is a BLM campground with boat access limited to craft that can be carried a short distance to the lake.

Go north and then west from Loomis on an unimproved road starting near the west end of Spectacle Lake.

Whitestone Lake — Open all year, this 173-acre lake is considered one of the most important warm-water fisheries in the county.

The lake is located about five miles northwest of Tonasket with largemouth bass biting well from May through July.

A trophy largemouth bass fishery has been established here for several decades, said Fortier.



Okanogan County Fly Club

Anglers prepare their gear for a day of fishing.

Channel catfish are stocked periodically as funding allows.

There is a largemouth bass slot limit with a daily catch limit of five fish less than 12 inches or over 17 inches. No more than one fish can be more than 17 inches.

Bass, which are best fished early, can reach the two- to four-pound range.

Bluegill in the 4-inch range are in the lake, too.

Drive north from Tonasket on the west side of the Okanogan River for 4.5 miles, then west for three miles to the lake.

There is a well-developed state Department of Fish and Wildlife public access that includes handicap access along with launch and toilets.

Camping is allowed.

Okanogan Highlands

Beaver Lakes — These lakes of 30 and six acres, which lie at 2,700 feet elevation, are open year-round and are located near Beth Lake.

They have been planted with cutthroat and brook trout in past years but haven't been stocked yet in 2019.

The lakes — the smaller is 1,100 feet east of the big lake — produce well early in the season for fish in the 10- to 13-inch range. Fishing, especially with a fly, picks up again in September and October.

Go east on state Highway 20 from Tonasket for about 18 miles, then north 12 miles past Bonaparte Lake.

From Oroville, drive east on the county road through Chesaw and take Forest Road No. 9480 to reach Beaver Lakes and Beth Lake. Signs along the way also will direct travelers to Lost and Bonaparte lakes.

The main Beaver Lake features a U.S. Forest Service campground and a gravel boat launch. Another

campground is at the smaller lake.

Beth Lake — This 13-acre lake that is open year-round is located a half-mile northwest of Big Beaver Lake.

The state has planted rainbows and Westslope cutthroat trout in the past. Carryover fishing is expected to be good this year.

Take County Road No. 9480 from Little Beaver to Beth Lake. There are a boat launch and Forest Service campground.

Bonaparte Creek — The creek, which flows from Bonaparte Lake to the Okanogan River through Tonasket, is closed from the mouth to the falls, about a mile upstream, to protect steelhead spawning and rearing. The closure is a cooperative effort with the Colville Confederated Tribes.

Above the falls, the creek carries the typical stream season of the Saturday before Memorial Day to Oct. 31.

Bonaparte Lake — This 159-acre lake that is open year-round is considered the most diverse state-managed lake in the county with kokanee, rainbow, eastern brook and tiger trout and lake trout, as well as smallmouth bass.

The lake will be stocked with triploid eastern brook trout in June.

Anglers can expect kokanee in the 10- to 13-inch range, brookies in the 10- to 12-inch range and tiger trout up to 15 inches.

The lake also holds smallmouth bass, rainbows and rare Mackinaw (lake trout).

The state encourages anglers to retain smallmouth bass to reduce their population and balance species in the lake.

Bonaparte currently has a five-trout limit, with only one trout being allowed over 20 inches.

The lake will have a new statewide kokanee daily limit starting July 1.

Bonaparte, popular in both winter and summer, is located about 20 miles east of Tonasket and north off state Highway 20.

There is a resort with cabins, camping and boat launch, plus a national forest campground with a boat ramp and fishing pier.

The lake also can be reached from Oroville via a scenic route through Chesaw. Follow signs to Bonaparte or Lost Lake.

Crawfish — Crawfish, which is open April 27 to Oct. 31, is partially on state land and partially on Colville tribal land (southern half) about 12 miles east of Riverside.

The state, which manages the water, planted 5,000 rainbow fingerlings and 3,500 triploid eastern brook trout in the past. Carryovers are expected to be good.

The state will stock Crawfish with triploid eastern brook trout in June.

A state license is required when fishing from a boat. A tribal permit is required when fishing from



**DOING THE
RIGHT THING
MATTERS.®**

Tires LES SCHWAB

TIRES • WHEELS • BATTERIES • BRAKES • ALIGNMENTS

Omak 509-826-0057 • Brewster 509-689-3215 • Oroville 509-476-3902 • Twisp 509-997-2026

Walmart
Save money. Live better.
SUPERCENTER
We have all your
fishing supplies:

- Licenses
- Bait
- Tackle
- Ice
- Poles
- Reels
- Food & Beverage
- Camping Gear

Open 24 hours • Seven days a week
902 Eng Road, Omak • 509-826-6002

Havoline
Chevron **Xpress Lube**
X Coffee PRESS
Our Specialty - Espresso Milkshakes
Omak Lube & Wash, Inc.
509-826-6097
701 Omache Drive, Omak
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

shore on tribal land.

Anglers can expect rainbows in the 10- to 12-inch range and brookies in the 10-inch range.

There is a U.S. Forest Service campground with a boat launch at the lake.

Internal combustion motors are prohibited.

The 80-acre lake at 4,475 feet elevation can be reached by traveling northeast 18 miles up Tunk Valley out of Riverside or by going north from state Highway 155 on the Lyman Lake-Moses Mountain Road to Crawfish Lake Road.

Fancher Dam Pond — This 20-acre reservoir that's open year-round offers rainbow trout about 11 miles northeast of Tonasket.

The lake will receive 500 rainbow trout in May.

The reservoir, which suffers from irrigation draw-down and sometimes winter kills, can be reached off Havillah and Swanson Mill roads.

Expect fish in the 10- to 12-inch range that can be reached with a small boat or float tube.

Long Lake — like nearby Round and Ell lakes, this 17-acre lake has suffered from low water levels.

Long will be stocked with rainbows in May.

Be prepared to carry a boat a short distance to the lake, where you expect rainbows in the 10- to 11-inch range.

Take Highway 20 east from Tonasket to Aeneas Valley Road, then east seven miles to the lakeshore. Less than one-quarter mile away is Round Lake. Access is available to both lakes, which lie on private property.

Lost Lake — This lake, which is open year-round, is located north of Bonaparte Lake.

Lost will receive 10,000 triploid eastern brook trout in June.

Internal combustion motors are prohibited. The state minimum size and daily limit applies. It's unlawful to use lead weights or lead jigs measuring one and a half inches or less along the longest axis.

The lead restriction is to protect nesting loons at the lake.

The 47-acre lake is best fished in the spring and fall. Warm, summer waters cause brookies to become night feeders at the lake located at an elevation of 3,817 feet.

A Forest Service campground with graveled boat launch is available at the north end.

Take Highway 20 east out of Tonasket for 15 miles to Bonaparte Lake Road, then north 13 miles to the lake.

Lost Creek — This is one of several creeks in the Highlands offering naturally spawning eastern brook in the six- to eight-inch range with a few 10-inches. Other Highlands creeks include Toroda, Bonaparte and Myers.

Anglers should check on when the creek opens, as it was not listed in the state's online pamphlet this spring.

The creek, which may hold a few rainbows, is mostly surrounded by private land. Anglers should get permission from landowners before fishing.

Lost Creek is located about 24 miles southeast of Tonasket on Aeneas Valley Road. The creek is a tributary of the San Poil River's west fork.

A road one mile west of Aeneas leads south up the creek for about 10 miles. There is a Forest Service campground about two miles up the creek.

Lyman Lake — This four-acre lake, which is located near the Aeneas Valley, will be planted with a couple hundred triploid eastern brook trout in June.

The lake, which can suffer from algae blooms, is located off Aeneas Valley Road on U.S. Forest Service property. A campsite is offered, along with shore access for small boats or float tubes at the lake, elevation 2,880 feet.

Molson Lake — The 20-acre lake, which is open year-round, can suffer summer kills.

Molson, which is located near Sidley Lake, will be planted with 1,2500 triploid eastern brook fingerlings in

June.

The lake, which has fish in the 10 to 12-inch range, can be reached by taking the Tonasket Creek Road for eight miles east of Oroville, then north five miles through Molson to the lake.

Myers Creek — Although access is limited because most of the creek travels through private land, local anglers enjoy fishing for rainbow and brooks up to 10 inches.

The creek, best fished in the fall on the lower end, does not appear in the state fishing pamphlet, so it's best to check locally to see if it is open.

Take Havillah Road, then Nealey Road from Tonasket northeast for about 20 miles. The creek runs adjacent to the road for several miles.

Round Lake — This lake of less than 20 acres, which has suffered from low water levels, is located next to Long Lake in Aeneas Valley.

The lake, which is open April 27 to Oct. 31, has been popular on opening day for rainbows in the 11- to 12-inch range.

It will be stocked with over 4,000 rainbows in May. Low water levels can make launching a boat difficult.

Round is reached by taking Highway 20 east from Tonasket to Aeneas Valley Road, then east seven miles to the lakeshore.

Sidley Lake — The 109-acre lake located near Molson at 3,675 feet is open year-round for rainbow trout that are in the 11- to 13-inch range.

The state will plant almost 8,000 rainbows in May.

A current daily limit of two trout and minimum size may change July 1 under the state's simplification plan.

The lake includes an aerator operated jointly by a local property owner, the Oroville Sportsmen's Club and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Sidley and nearby Molson (if it does not summer kill) are popular winter fisheries, and where an annual fishing derby is done through the ice in January.

"Sidley had another great ice fishing tournament this winter," said Fortier, who said fish were caught this winter at Sidley.

There is a state access site with a gravel boat launch.

Sidley, which has good shore access from a road that parallels the lake, is located one mile south of the U.S.-Canadian border and 0.7 mile from Molson.

From Oroville, take the Chesaw Road up Tonasket Creek for eight miles then north five miles on Molson Road through Molson and past Molson Lake.

Summit Lake — This 11-acre lake, located 5.5 miles southeast of Oroville near Mount Hull, will get 500 triploid eastern brook trout in May.

The lake, located at 4,320 feet, provides good fishing for fish of 10- to 13-inches through the summer.

There are several campsites at the lake, best fished with a float tube or pontoon boat.

Methow Valley

Alta Lake — The 187-acre lake pumps out rainbow and kokanee trout adjacent to a state park and near an 18-hole golf course.

This year's planting will include more than 4,000 rainbows in May and 125 in June.

Anglers can expect rainbows in the 11- to 13-inch range with carryovers up to 16 inches.

There is a state park with camping and a concrete boat launch, a private resort that can launch larger boats and an 18-hole golf course on the road to the lake, located two miles southwest of Pateros.

The lake, which is ideal for small boats and canoes, currently has a season that runs April 28 to Sept. 30.

Alta is reached by driving 1.5 miles west of Pateros on state Highway 153, then south about a mile.

Andrews Creek — Open from the Saturday before Memorial Day, which is May 26 this year, to Oct. 31, Andrews offers native rainbows.

The season could change July 1 with new



Doug Camp / Special to The Chronicle

Black Pine Lake offers fishing and spectacular scenery.

regulations, which have yet to be released.

There is a two-fish limit. Fish must be eight inches long.

Depending on the snowpack, the creek is best fished in late June.

Andrews is located 19 miles north of Winthrop on Chewuch River Road. The U.S. Forest Service maintains a campground next to the creek.

Aspen Lake — This shallow, six-acre lake, which is open year-round, is owned by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The semi-remote lake, 0.7 mile southwest of Moccasin Lake (a private lake), holds triploid eastern brooks, tiger and cutthroat trout.

Aspen will receive 500 triploid eastern brook trout fry in June.

Anglers, who can expect fish in the 10- to 11-inch range, can park at the end Frost Road and walk about a mile to the lake, which is best fished with tubes or from shore.

Big Buck Lake — The seldom-fished lake has a year-round season.

The lake received 350 legal rainbows in April, 500 fry in May and 35 jumbos in June so it is expected to have some decent holdover rainbows in the 16-inch range.

"Water levels remain high, producing much better growth than the past dry years," Fortier said.

The 20-acre lake is located due south of Moccasin Lake (a private lake) on state Department of Fish and Wildlife land. The easiest way to reach the lake is follow the same directions to reach Aspen Lake off the Twisp River Road.

Big Hidden Lake — The lake, located in the Pasayten Wilderness Area, is for those looking for a bit of an adventure.

"Much of the upper Lost

River and Hidden Lakes areas were burned during the Diamond Fire last summer," Fortier said. "Trails will likely be difficult to clear this spring. Time will tell how the fires impacted the fisheries."

Big Hidden, located about 34 miles northwest of Winthrop, annually produces decent-sized rainbows in the 10- to 14-inch class.

The 71-acre lake lies at about 4,300 feet elevation and sees a lot of action from backpackers and horse packers.

Travel about 20 miles from Winthrop on the Lost River Road past Mazama on the Mazama Road. A

WE HAVE YOUR TACKLE COVERED!

PROTECT YOUR GEAR!

- Lure & Tackle Covers
- Pole Wraps
- Tackle Sleeves
- Dodger & Flasher Sleeves



Mauk Fishing Stuff
FISHING TACKLE COVERS
MADE IN AMERICA!
www.LureSafe.com • 509-449-0605

one- to two-day hike to the lake starts at the head of Lost River at the Billy Goat Corral.

Black Pine Lake – This 19-acre scenic lake that is open all year is located on U.S. Forest Service property six miles southwest of Twisp at 3,900 feet.

“Black Pine performed well early, but dropped off quickly,” Fortier said. “I will investigate this spring to see if it was a fluke or if harvest rates have increased from the 2014-2016 period. It may require heavy stocking to mirror increased public use.”

Anglers can expect cutthroat in the 10- to 13-inch range.

The state planted 2,500 cutthroat fingerlings in September.

There is a Forest Service campsite at the lake with a dock and gravel boat launch.

A snowmobile will be needed to access the lake during the winter.

To reach the lake, travel northwest on Libby Creek Road, off Highway 153 south of Carlton, to Black Pine Lake Road to the lake. Alternatively, travel west on Twisp River Road out of Twisp to Poorman Creek Road, then southwest to the lake.

Chewuch (Chewack) River – This river that flows from the Pasayten Wilderness Area south past Winthrop and into the Methow River has a catch-and-release season for all game fish the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26) to Aug. 15. Internal combustion motors are prohibited.

Currently there is a whitefish season of Dec. 1 to a statewide closure at the end of February with no minimum size and a daily limit of 15 whitefish only, with whitefish gear rules applying.

Buck Lake (Chewuch) – The 15-acre lake receives a plant every other year so won't be planted in 2019.

It should have carryover Westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout from last year.

The lake, which has fish in the 11- to 12-inch range, is located on U.S. Forest Service land eight miles north of Winthrop within the Chewuch River drainage.

There is a gravel launch site and Forest Service campground.

Cougar Lake — There currently is a split season at this nine-acre lake that contains rainbow and cutthroat trout.

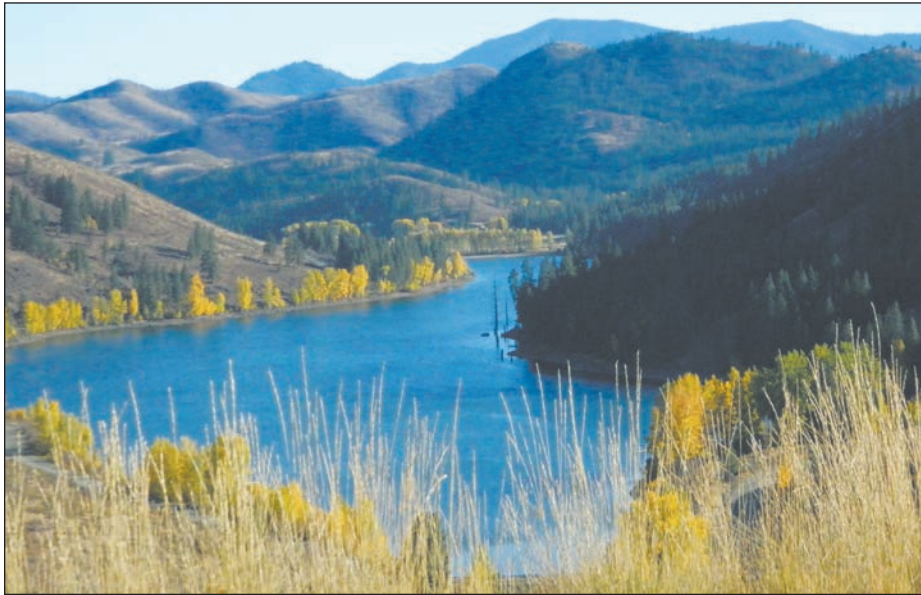
A catch-and-release season runs April 1 through Aug. 31, the same as for nearby Davis and Campbell lakes.

Check with the state for any future changes.

The 80-acre lake will receive 1,100 rainbows in May.

There currently is catch-and-keep season of Sept. 1 through March 31 with a standard five-fish limit.

Cougar, with a nearby campground, is located south of Winthrop in the Methow Wildlife Area at about 3,400 feet elevation. Cougar gets little pressure because only snowmobilers have access during winter months.



Dee Camp | The Chronicle

Patterson Lake, near Winthrop, nestles among the mountains and offers a variety of fish.

Travel 2.5 miles south of Winthrop on the Twisp-Winthrop Eastside Road, go east about a mile on Bear Creek Road to the Davis Lake turnoff, then north 1.5 miles and east for a mile on County Road No. 3514.

Crater Lakes — Open year-round, this high-mountain lake chain at 6,900 feet elevation includes a 15.8-acre lake managed for cutthroat.

Located in the Sawtooth Ridge area on the north side of Whiskey Mountain, Crater Lakes offer cutthroat to walk-in anglers.

Go northwest 18 miles on Highway 153 from Pateros to the mouth of Gold Creek. A Forest Service road follows Gold Creek for eight miles. A good trail of five miles leads to the lakes.

Dibble Lake — This five-acre lake on private land off Wandling Road near Twin Lakes Road is planted with catchable rainbows.

The shallow lake, which is open year-round, requires a quarter-mile walk from a parking area down a driveway to a public fishing area as agreed upon by the property owner.

The lake, which is best fished from a float tube, can contain trout in the 11- to 13-inch range, especially if they survive the winter.

Duffy Lake — The nine-acre, cutthroat trout lake that is open year-round is situated at 6,500 feet elevation where it is not ice-free until July.

Take Forest Service Road No. 4420 (old No. 338) for 10 miles west of Twisp up Oval Creek to the Oval Creek Trail. Hike 4.5 miles south, then cross country eastward for a mile.

Eightmile Creek — This creek, which contains a

fair number of eastern brook trout, is eight miles north of Winthrop and currently has two seasons, depending on what you fish for.

From Eightmile Creek to the Pasayten wilderness boundary (river mile 34.6), there is a whitefish season of Dec. 1 to March 31 with no minimum size and a daily limit of 15 whitefish only, with whitefish gear rules applying.

From Pasayten Wilderness boundary falls (river mile 34.6) upstream and all tributaries there is a game fish season of Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26 this year) to Oct. 31 with a five-fish limit and no minimum size for brookies, which are best caught in August and September.

Take the Chewuch River Road north for eight miles to the mouth of the creek.

Gold Creek — The creek south of Carlton off Highway 73 is closed under new simplified rules, Fortier said.

Foggy Dew Campground is at the junction of the north fork of the creek and Foggy Dew Creek.

Lost River — The river, which drains into the Methow River about five miles northwest of Mazama, is closed from its mouth to Monument Creek.

From Monument Creek to the outlet of Cougar Lake, there is a season from the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26 this year) to Oct. 31.

For Dolly Varden/bull trout there is a 14-inch minimum size and the fish may be retained as part of the trout daily limit.

For trout, there is a 14-inch minimum size and a two-fish daily limit.

For other game fish, statewide minimums and daily limits apply.

A well-marked trail starts just past the bridge for the lower portion of the river.

The upper section of the river is accessed on the same route as to Hidden Lakes, Fortier said.

Louis Lake — This 27-acre lake, which receives a lot of pressure, contains mostly cutthroat, although a few rainbows roam the water.

To reach the 5,300-foot elevation lake, travel 22 miles west of Twisp along the Twisp River to South Creek Campground, then hike two miles up South Creek to Louis Creek Trail and another three miles to the lake.

Louis Lake is open year-round, although ice usually is not off until June.

Methow River — The river provides good opportunities during selected seasons on selected portions of the river.

There has been a catch-and-release season for resident rainbow and cutthroat trout under selective gear rules the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26 this year) through Sept. 30 from Gold Creek to Foghorn Dam, a mile upstream from Winthrop.

A whitefish season runs on the stretch Dec. 1 to the end of February, with no minimum size and a daily catch limit of 15 whitefish. Whitefish gear rules apply.

There is a catch-and-release season with selective gear rules from the Saturday before Memorial Day through Sept. 15 from County Road 1535 (Lower Burma Road) bridge to Gold Creek.

There is a catch-and-release season with selective gear rules from the Saturday before Memorial Day through Aug. 15 from Foghorn Dam to the Weeman Bridge (eight miles upstream of Winthrop). Check the fishing pamphlet because there are different possession sizes and limits depending what you catch — eastern brook trout, all other trout, all other game fish.

Selective gear rules apply, with no internal combustion motors allowed on all tributaries not listed by the state under specific regulations for Okanogan County.

The last few years an emergency rule allowed for a steelhead fishery. The steelhead season or seasons depend on run forecasts exceeding natural production and hatchery brood stock requirements.

The river starts high on the east Cascade crest at the head of the Methow Valley and runs to the Columbia River.

There are several access areas along Highway 153, which intersects with Highway 20 south of Twisp, and parallels the river to its mouth. Five Forest Service campgrounds with toilets border the upper reaches of the Methow River above Mazama.

Patterson Lake — This 143-acre lake, which is open year-round, is a mixed-species fishery 3.5 miles west of Winthrop.

The lake will get 2,000 rainbow trout in October of



Spectacle Lake Resort

Great fishing!
Rainbow, bass,
blue gill, and perch.
Store • Fishing tackle
Licenses • Boat rentals
Cozy rooms with kitchens
Within Many Lakes
Recreation Area
509-223-3433
www.spectaclelakeresort.com
10 McCammon Road, Tonasket

Scholz Sporting Goods & Lee Frank Mercantile

Fish and Hunt Licenses,
Camping, Bait and Tackle, Poles,
CB Radios, Jerky & Smoking
Supplies, Archery, Ammo,
Game Calls, Camping Gear

Tonasket, WA • 509-486-2105



Proud supporter:
Bonaparte Lake Fish Day





Dee Camp | The Chronicle

Pearrygin Lake, in the upper Methow Valley, boasts a state park and plenty of fish.

2019. Anglers can expect trout in the 10- to 11-inch range.

The lake, which also contains largemouth and smallmouth bass, can be reached by following Patterson Lake Road from Twin Lakes.

There is a state access site, which includes public toilets, with a gravel boat launch plus a resort with cabins and small boat rentals.

Pearrygin Lake — This popular 192-acre lake, which has a season of April 28 to Oct. 31, will be planted with more than 60,000 rainbows in May, mostly fry but 1,300 of them catchables and 150 jumbos in June.

The lake, which has a resort, state park with hook-ups and a state boat launch, is located 1.5 miles northeast of Winthrop on a road from the center of town.

Toilets, campsites and a fishing pier are handicap-accessible.

Tungsten Lake — This small lake, which contains cutthroat trout, is located about 55 miles north of Winthrop. Anglers, starting at the trailhead at the end of the Chewuch River Road, will hike several days to the lake, located near Aspen Mountain.

Alpine lakes are open year-round unless listed in special rules. Anglers have best success in mid-summer after the ice is off.

Twisp River — A large tributary of the Methow River, the river is open for all game fish from the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26 this year) to Aug. 15 from its mouth to War Creek and all tributaries from the mouth to Twisp River North Fork.

There is a catch-and-release season for rainbows and cutthroat with selective gear restrictions being in effect, including barbless hooks and no bait.

For the Twisp River North Fork above the falls, the season is the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26 this year) to Oct. 31 with the statewide minimum and daily limit applying.

For the North Creek above the Twisp River Road bridge, the season is Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26 this year) to Oct. 31, with statewide minimum and daily limit applying.

Twisp River Road follows the river from Twisp for 25 miles upstream, with numerous campsites available.

Varden Lake — This small lake at 6,191 feet contains cutthroat trout.

A 5.2-mile trail with an elevation gain of 3,700 feet is in the Silver Star Mountain area west of Mazama.

From Winthrop take state Highway 20 west to Forest Road 5310-200 and park in the gravel pit. The

unsigned trail to the lake is about 200 feet on the right of the Cedar Creek Trail. The unmaintained trail climbs steeply uphill then follows the ridge top to tiny Mudhole Lake (no fish).

From there to Varden Lake there is no trail, just a scramble route to the top of the ridge (majestic view of Silver Star Mountain) and a steep descent to the lake.

Varden, which is off the beaten path and away from crowds, is best fished July through October.

War Creek — The creek is open from the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 26 this year) to Oct. 31 with the statewide minimum and daily limit applying.

Like all creeks in the Methow Valley watershed, War Creek contains small rainbow (6 to 9 inches).

This creek is only for hardy anglers able to fight through the brush to reach fish.

The creek joins the Twisp River at the U.S. Forest Service's War Creek Campground about 15 miles west of Twisp.

A road follows the creek for two miles and a trail runs parallel to the creek for another 10 miles to its headwaters at War Creek Pass.

Nearby waters

Look south to find a couple waters just outside Okanogan and Ferry counties, including Jameson and Grimes lakes in Douglas County and Banks Lake in Grant County.

Jameson is eight miles south of Mansfield



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Steamboat Rock rises from Banks Lake, one of the waters near Okanogan County.

and offers campsites, toilets and boat launching at both the north and south ends.

The 457-acre lake is best fished from the opener in April to early July then again in October.

The lake was not stocked this spring.

Travis Maitland, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife district fish biologist, said Jameson has good carryover rainbow trout available from last year.

Located at 1,785 feet, Jameson is 20 miles west of Coulee City off Highway 2 and north on Jameson Road for 6.5 miles to a resort and about a half mile to an access area.

Grimes Lake, a selective fishery (see selective fishery story) is north of Jameson and opens June 1. It offers excellent fishing through June for Lahontan cutthroat averaging 18 inches.

The 26,888-acre, 27-mile long Banks Lake runs along Highway 155 south of Grand Coulee and north of Coulee City.

Banks Lake is managed for warmwater fish and contains smallmouth and largemouth bass, whitefish, black crappie, bluegill, burbot, carp, channel catfish and yellow perch, along with kokanee and rainbow trout.

It is known for its good walleye fishing and this past winter didn't disappoint walleye anglers.

A cooperative net pen rearing project between the state and local communities releases several hundred thousand rainbow trout each year.

Banks can freeze in the winter, providing an ice fishery.

There are around the lake a resort, a community park in Coulee City and Steamboat Rock State Park along with six state access areas.

Fishing closures and openings happen constantly throughout the years, so best check for any changes.

Winter Bucket List...

- Skiing
- Snowmobiling
- Ice Skating
- Snowball Fights
- Build a Snowman
- **NW Ice Fishing Festival**
January 18, 2020
Molson, WA

THE OUTDOORSMAN

WE HAVE LIVE BAIT!

FISHING GEAR
CAMPING GEAR
FLY SHOP
CLOTHING
FREE FISHING TIPS
CUSTOM KNIVES

Downtown Winthrop, WA
509-996-2649
www.theoutdoorsmanstore.net



Oroville Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 2140 · Oroville, WA 98844
 509-557-5165 · www.oroillevashington.com
oroillevchamber@oroillevashington.com

Like us



Reservation waters stocked; many are open

Anglers reminded that it's illegal to return live pikeminnows to waters

By Al Camp
The Chronicle

The Colville Indian Reservation includes nearly two dozen lakes and streams, most open year-round to the public, that are stocked by the tribe's fish hatchery near Bridgeport.

That hatchery, which opened about 30 years ago, produces at least 50,000 pounds of trout annually, said Jill Phillips, Colville tribal fish hatchery manager.

North Twin and South Twin lakes, which are some of the tribe's more popular fisheries, opened April 13 and will remain open until March 15, 2020.

A tribal free fishing weekend is Feb. 1-2, 2020.

Tribal regulations out last year run through March 2020 and can be found on the Colville Confederated Tribes' Department of Fish and Wildlife website: www.cct-fnw.com.

The tribal fish and wildlife website includes a downloadable stocking plan (numbers have been included in this story).

Phillips, talking to the Okanogan County Fly Club on March 14, said the tribe's triploid rainbows average six pounds but can go up to 10 pounds. The state's triploid planting program is up to five pounds.

For the larger triploids, anglers should consider trips to Bourgeau, Buffalo, Twin Lakes, Rufus Woods, Little Goose and Summit lakes.

An abundant wild kokanee population can be found in Buffalo Lake

Lake Roosevelt also contains a great kokanee fishery, with native kokanee larger than 22 inches frequently caught.

Largemouth bass more than nine pounds have been caught at Twin Lakes. Prime largemouth bass fishing opportunities exist on Buffalo, Rebecca and Twin lakes, as well as Washburn Pond.

Omak Lake is planted with large numbers of Lahontan cutthroat trout. While the average length of cutthroat trout caught by



Ernest Buchanan

Little Goose Lake offers extensive shoreline access.

anglers has been about 16-18 inches in recent years, trout longer than 25 inches are commonly caught.

The tribe's spotted Lahontan cutthroat of more than 30 inches during annual spawning.

Anglers need to be aware of special restrictions and regulations on Omak Lake, as a special catch-and-release only season does exist from April 1 to May 31, along with area closures.

Brook trout of good size can be had at McGinnis, the Twins and Summit lakes.

The triploid rainbow trout fishery on Rufus Woods Lake is frequently producing fish more than 10 pounds. Much of this catch can be attributed to the tribe's stocking strategy over the past several years.

Anglers should know the Sanpoil River is not open to non-tribal members on the reservation, nor are several other stocked lakes.

All non-members fishing from the reservation shoreline on Crawfish Lake, Lake Pateros (Wells Pool), Washburn Pond, Rufus Woods Lake (except at designated fishing areas), Columbia River above Grand Coulee Dam or the Okanogan River must have in their possession a valid reservation fishing permit.

All non-members fishing by boat on reservation boundary waters or from the shore of Rufus Woods Lake at a designated fishing area(s) must have in their possession either a valid reservation fishing permit or valid state fishing license.

Licenses can be purchased at 20 locations, including Big Wally's, Coulee City; Buffalo Lake Resort; tribal fish and wildlife offices in Omak, Nespelem, Inchelium and Bridgeport; Coulee Playland Resort, Electric City; Eich's Mercantile, Republic; Inchelium Store, Log Cabin Resort and Rainbow Beach Resort, Inchelium; Jackson's Chevron Service and Nespelem Trading Post, Nespelem; Keller Community Store; Lee Frank's Mercantile, Tonasket; North 40 Outfitters and Tribal Trails, Omak; Walmart stores in Omak and Colville; Country Lane Campground, Wilbur, and Fort Spokane Store, Davenport.

Tribal fishing and hunting permits also can be purchased online at <https://colville.nagfa.net/online/>.

Most tribal regulations match state regulations on boundary waters.

Reservation waters open to non-members include:

Bourgeau Lake — The 22-acre lake, located 4.5 miles south of Inchelium, offers catchable rainbows

and large triploids with a year-round season.

The lake where general limits apply is easiest to access during the spring using smaller boats or by ice fishing during the winter.

The lake was slated to get 400 two-pound rainbows in late April and 30 six-pound triploids between April and May.

Buffalo Lake — This popular lake, which contains abundant, self-propagating kokanee, large rainbow trout, largemouth bass and black crappie, could get even more popular with six-plus-pound triploid rainbow trout again being planted this spring.

Buffalo, which is open year-round, is targeted to receive 2,500 2.4-pound rainbows in mid-April and 250 of the large triploids between April and May.

"Everyone can get a lunker," said Phillips the big fish being available opening day.

The lake is scheduled to receive 8,000 fry (half-pound each) in October.

Kokanee are averaging 13-14 inches.

Bass average about two pounds, with tribal fish biologists observing bass bigger than eight pounds.

No more than two bass longer than 17 inches may be kept.

Non-members may fish for crayfish July 1 through Sept. 15. Only non-native northern crayfish have been found in the lake recently.

There are boat accesses at a public ramp and at Reynolds Resort, which also has RV hookups on the northwest end of the lake. Additional permitted camping sites are at the lake.

"Ice fishing is good at Buffalo," said Phillips.

Columbia River above Grand Coulee (Lake Roosevelt) — Tribal and state regulations are similar in this section.

Fishing for white sturgeon is prohibited on the river, above and below Grand Coulee Dam.

Above the dam in Lake Roosevelt (excluding the inundated and free-flowing reaches of the Sanpoil River), anglers can keep five rainbow trout that do not have an adipose fin. The harvest of rainbow trout with an adipose present is prohibited.

The rule change is meant to help conserve and protect native redband trout.

Any invasive northern pike that is caught must be dead before returning to the water or being transported.

There is a reward program for every northern pike head returned to drop off locations managed by the tribal Fish and Wildlife Department.

Anglers can reel in walleye (16, no size restriction), smallmouth bass (10, no size restriction), kokanee (6, no more than two unclipped may be retained) and Chinook (part of the trout limit and must be less than

ANDERSON'S GROCERY
A Family Tradition Since 1900

Whether the fish are biting or not — don't go hungry!

Daily Deli Specials
Full service deli and bakery

Open daily 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 711 S. Clark • Republic • 509-775-3378

If you can't get there, you can't fish!

Make sure your truck is in good working order.

Radiators • Engines • Drive lines • Rear ends

Bob Raymer's Machine Works
Over 45 years experience

Block boring and honing, head rebuild, drive line balancer

16 Barnhill Road • Tonasket • 509-486-0511



Al Camp / The Chronicle

An angler fishes the Okanogan River, one of several boundary waters.

24 inches).

The lake is stocked with triploid rainbows from 28 net pen rearing projects, including Keller Marina, Hunters, Kettle Falls, Hall Creek and Seven Bays.

The Colville and Spokane tribes, along with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, manage Lake Roosevelt. Lake Roosevelt runs from Grand Coulee Dam, which lies at the junction of state highways 155 and 174, and extends east and then north past Kettle Falls.

Columbia River from Chief Joseph Dam to Grand Coulee Dam (Rufus Woods Lake) – The portion of the river from Grand Coulee Dam downstream to state Highway 155 is closed to all fishing from boats.

Below the dam in Rufus Woods Lake, anglers will find walleye, smallmouth bass (general limits), trout (2 fish, no length limit), kokanee (part of trout limit), and several other game fish species.

Limits on walleye remain at eight, with no more than one longer than 22 inches and a minimum size of 12 inches.

Other game fish include burbot (ling cod). Burbot limits are consistent with state regulations – five fish with no minimum size and possession being two daily catch limits.

The lake stretches 51 miles downstream from Grand Coulee Dam to Chief Joseph Dam in Bridgeport.

It contains triploid rainbow trout, which are planted by the tribe and are frequently caught in excess of five pounds.

Anglers are asked to notify Colville tribal fish and wildlife if a northern pike is caught. It is prohibited to return northern pike to the waters alive.

There is one marked fishing site next to the main Pacific Aquaculture facility on Columbia River Road. Either a state fishing license or tribal permit is accepted if fishing from shore at this designated fishing access site.

Other areas, if fished from shore on the reservation side, such as at Bridgeport State Park, require a reservation license.

Either license works if fishing from a boat.

There are improved boat launch sites near Chief Joseph Dam and Seaton's Grove. There's unimproved access off Columbia River Road near the Timm Ranch and Coyote Creek.

Crawfish Lake — Crawfish lies partly on tribal

land and partly on state land. Its season matches the state's general fishing season from the fourth Saturday in April (April 27 this year) to Oct. 31. (See listing with Highlands waters.)

The tribe's regulations match state regulations, including not allowing internal combustion engines

The state manages the lake for rainbow and triploid eastern brook trout.

Duley Lake — This 110-acre lake, located east of Okanogan and eight miles south of Little Goose Lake on upper Cameron Lake Road, has an abundance of Lahontan cutthroat in the 10- to 18-inch range thriving in its spring-fed, shallow depths.

A small amount of fry are planted every other year.

A gill net check at the lake found many huge fish, said Phillips of the underused water.

Only boats that can be launched by hand are recommended.

The lake is open year-round. General limits apply.

LaFleur Lake — LaFleur Lake, which is open year-round, was to be planted with 400 two-pound rainbows in May and 20 triploid trout (about six pounds) between April and May.

This 25-acre lake, located nine miles north of Inchelium, sports a few small largemouth bass (up to two pounds) and rainbows.

The lake is best fished with smaller boats because of difficult launching conditions. General limits apply.

Lake Roosevelt — See entry for Columbia River above Grand Coulee Dam.



Be aware of the 16-walleye limit with no size restrictions, 10-bass limit with no size restrictions, rainbow trout regulations and a northern pike reward program.

Rufus Woods Lake — See entry for Columbia River below Grand Coulee Dam.

In March, the tribe released between 8,000 and 10,000 triploid rainbow trout that were about two pounds each. Of those, about 20 percent were tagged to help evaluate catch-and-release efforts, Phillips said.

Little Goose Lake — This small lake east of Okanogan, which is open year-round, can suffer from low water and may summer kill.

Little Goose is scheduled to receive 250 two-pound rainbows in early April and 20 of the large (six-plus pound) triploids between April and May.

The lake, which has extensive shoreline fishing access, is located nine miles east of Okanogan on Cameron Lake Road.

Only boats that can be launched by hand are recommended. General limits apply.

Lost Creek — Redband trout and small brook trout, which are not stocked, live together in the creek located in the north central part of the reservation and starting near the headwaters of Crawfish Lake northeast of Riverside. Fishing on Lost Creek is open from April 1 to Oct. 31.

The creek flows east, staying mostly in the reservation, and feeds into the west fork of the Sanpoil River north of the reservation's boundary. Some of the creek flows through private land, so anglers may need to get permission before fishing.

The creek, which falls under general limits, can be reached via state Highway 155 through Lyman Lake.

McGinnis Lake — Fishing is open year-round on this 115-acre lake located a mile south of Buffalo Lake and 9.5 miles southeast of Nespalem.

The lake was planned with 3,500 brook trout (0.8

pound each) in April.

Most brookies are in the one-pound range.

The best time to fish this brook trout-only lake, the only one like it open to non-tribal members on the reservation, is when it is cool — before June and after September.

Flies, such as a royal coachman, work well in the lake that includes carryovers exceeding 18 inches.

Larger boats can be launched at the improved access on the lake.

Okanogan River — The river, which forms the western edge of the reservation, contains bass, walleye, and channel catfish with unlimited catch limits.

Tribal and state regulations close the river to the taking of trout, salmon, and steelhead above the Highway 97 bridge (see listing with state waters). For other game fish, the season runs year-round upstream to the Highway 173 bridge at Malott, and from the first Saturday in June through Aug. 31 above the Highway 173.

A special steelhead, trout or salmon season may be opened by emergency authorization by several agencies, including the Colville Fish and Wildlife Department and state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Omak Creek — This off-limits creek located east of Omak is closed to non-member fishing because of a summer steelhead program.

Omak Lake — This 3,000-acre lake seven miles southeast of Omak offers great fishing for Lahontan cutthroat.

Anglers should be aware of several rules for the lake that's open year-round. There is a daily catch limit of three cutthroat with only one being more than 18 inches.

Special restrictions April 1 to May 31 call for catch-and-release only.

Also, the north embayment is closed to non-member fishing during the catch-and-release only season.



For the Catch of the Day
Our fish seasonings and
our fish smoking brines
put everyone else to shame!



Products available online or in the store
509-624-1490 • www.spokanespice.com
130 North Stone • Spokane



Fishing is permitted only from dawn to dark using only artificial lures and flies with barbless hooks. Bait fishing is not allowed.

The shoreline at the south end of the lake from Baines Beach south is closed to non-members all year.

The south end of the lake is open for boating and fishing only to non-members who access the lake's south end by boat from Mission (when the water is open; end of road past Paschal Sherman Indian School off state Highway 155), Cowpie or Nicholson (off Columbia River Road) beach launch sites.

Anglers are required to furnish creel census information, which is important to the tribe's management efforts.

A state record 18-pound Lahontan was caught in the lake in 1993.

The lake was planted with 72,000 Lahontan cutthroat (0.1 pound each) in March. Another 70,000 Lahontan cutthroat fry (3 grams each) will be planted in October.

Rebecca Lake — This largemouth bass lake is open all year and is located about eight miles north of Nespelem and 1.5 miles southwest of Buffalo Lake.

The lake is best fished with a small boat, but floating weeds can block the unimproved boat launch.

Internal combustion engines are prohibited.

Sanpoil River — The river itself from Boundary C to the north reservation boundary, including the West Fork and Sanpoil River, is closed to fishing. All tributaries to the Sanpoil River are closed.

The inundated reach of the river, which can be seen in a tribal fish regulation map, is closed from Feb. 1 to May 30.

Anglers can fish for smallmouth bass (no daily catch, possession or length limits), walleye (no daily catch, possession or length limits), rainbow trout (daily limit of 5 fish with no size limit for adipose fin-absent trout and catch-and-release only for adipose-present rainbow trout) and kokanee (daily catch limit of two fish with no size limit).

Fishing for white sturgeon is prohibited.

Walleye and bass are affecting the fishery by eating trout fry trying to escape to Lake Roosevelt. That leaves few to return when they are adults ready to spawn.

Anglers need to check demarcation lines and follow regulations carefully (check for regulation addendums on-line).

Stranger Creek — This tiny creek is closed to all fishing downstream from the Inchelium-Gifford Road.

The creek contains naturally spawning brook trout and some rainbow trout.

Anglers should get permission before fishing on private property bordering the creek. The creek is open from April 1 to Oct. 31.

Summit Lake — This small lake six miles east of Disautel and 11.5 miles northwest of Nespelem around 3,500 feet elevation is open year-round.

Rainbow and brook trout are found in the lake, which is planted sometime in April or May once the ice is off with 400 one-pound brook trout and 40 of the large (six-pound) triploid rainbows.

While shore access is plentiful, it is recommended that only hand-launched boats be used because of steep or muddy access.

"Brooks seem to survive better at the lake," said Phillips. "A lot of people fish it."

General limits apply.

Twin Lakes — These lakes (cover about 2,000 acres), the most popular within the borders of the reservation, are open from April 13 until March 15, 2020.

"There's not a lot of lakes in Washington where you can catch rainbow trout and largemouth bass, where a fish can hit the scales up to five pounds," said Phillips, who noted both lakes can be ice fished, too.

The lakes, located eight miles west of Inchelium, offer excellent largemouth bass fishing, with some bass exceeding eight pounds.



Dee Camp / The Chronicle

The sun sets over Lake Rufus Woods, the pool of the Columbia River backed up by Chief Joseph Dam.

There is a 10-bass daily catch limit at the lakes for bass less than 12 inches and a daily limit of two bass more than 17 inches allowed to be kept. No bass between 12 and 17 inches may be kept.

Rainbow and brook trout also inhabit Twin Lakes.

Each lake's rainbow planting schedule includes 7,500 (2.4 pounds each) in mid-April, 780 of the triploid rainbows (six pounds each) between April and May, and 11,000 rainbow (half pound each) in October.

The daily trout limit is five fish, no more than one of which is more than 20 inches.

There are two resorts and a public access at North Rocky Point and a fee access at Rainbow Beach Resort on North Twin.

Washburn Island Pond — The tribe co-manages this 130-acre pond with the state.

The pond includes largemouth and smallmouth bass up to a couple pounds and sizeable catfish.

A state rule change allows boat to have a combustion engine, but the use of the engine is prohibited (anglers don't have to take the motor off the boat to fish the lake).

The season runs April 1 to Sept. 30 at Washburn, located four miles east of Brewster off state Highway 17.

Anglers must possess a Colville tribal fishing license if fishing from shore. A tribal license or state license is required when fishing from a boat.

A boat launch area includes toilets and parking.

General limits apply.

Wells Reservoir — Often called Lake Pateros, the pool is formed on the Columbia River behind Wells Dam and extends to Chief Joseph Dam in Bridgeport. The reservoir is open all year with a few exceptions.

The tribe asks that those who catch a northern pike notify Colville tribal Fish and Wildlife Department.

It is prohibited to return northern pike to the waters alive. Salmon populations will be at greater risk if northern pike establish a population in the reservoir.

Closures include the taking of salmon and steelhead by non-members unless opened by emergency authorization of tribal fish and wildlife and state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The portion of Wells Reservoir from the Okanogan County shore between the base of Chief Joseph Dam and Highway 17 bridge is closed to all fishing.

The portion of Wells Reservoir downstream of Chief Joseph Dam from the boundary marker to the Corps of Engineers' safety zone marker is closed to fishing from a floating device.

Fishing for white sturgeon is prohibited.

Non-members may retain only adipose-clipped trout. All trout with intact adipose fins must be released.

Bass and walleye also live in the reservoir, where there is no limit on their catch.

Wilmont Creek — This small creek is closed to all non-members downstream of Silver Creek Road to protect spawning rainbows.

General limits apply upstream of Silver Creek Road, and the fishery is open from April 1 to Oct. 31.

The creek, 20 miles south of Inchelium, contains a few native redband rainbows and naturally spawning brook trout.

The creek, which gets little pressure from area anglers, is best fished after spring runoff.

Bigger fish, which start at 13 inches, can be found in backed-up water behind beaver dams.

The lower two-thirds of the creek borders private land, so anglers should seek landowner permission before fishing.

sunrise chevrolet
CHEVROLET • BUICK
Your friend in the car business!

We can get you to the fish!

Come in to catch a great deal!

- Sales • Tuneups • Full Service
- Parts • Brakes
- Detailing • Rentals • Spray-on Bedliners

If we don't have what you want, we'll get it!

www.sunrisechevy.net • 726 Okoma Drive • Omak
509-826-1000

When it's hot out, try Ferry County

Anglers can expect trout, bass, whitefish and mammoth tiger muskies

By Al Camp
The Chronicle

When temperatures heat up to triple digits at lowland lakes and create the summer doldrums, it's time to make the climb to Ferry County lakes.

The current fishing season for most lakes in Ferry County is the fourth Saturday of April (April 27 this year) to Oct. 31.

For streams the general season starts the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 25 this year) and runs through Oct. 31.

On July 1, the state will start a simplified rules and season, which have yet to be released.

Anglers in Ferry County can expect to find rainbow trout and eastern brook at lakes, whitefish in rivers, plus largemouth bass and big tiger muskies, along with trout, in Curlew Lake.

There are lead weight restrictions to protect nesting loons on Swan, Ferry and Pierre lakes. Lead cannot be used in flies at Long Lake, a fly fishing-only lake.

Several high-elevation lakes lie within the Colville National Forest.

Major lakes within the county are:

Curlew Lake — The 989-acre lake that's open year-round continues to boot out rainbows along with largemouth bass and tiger muskies about four miles northeast of Republic along state Highway 21 North.

Early season fishing is best for rainbows, many of which have been net pen-raised.

Trout roam the lake in the 12- to 15-inch range, with 12 inches being common.

Much of the success at the largest lake by far in the county lies with the Curlew Lake Association, which raises rainbows in net pens releasing them in the fall.

The state planted 105,000 rainbow fingerlings and 23,000 kokanee fingerlings, along with the 80,000 put, grow and take released from the Curlew Lake Association Net Pens in October.

"The Curlew Lake Association has done a spectacular job," said Bill Baker, state Department of Fish and Wildlife District 1 fish biologist. "It's one reason the trout fishing has been so good the last few



The Chronicle

Curlew Lake offers lunker tiger muskies and, often, deer grazing along the shoreline.

years."

Net pen trout enter the fishery by spring at around 10.5 to 11 inches. Fry plants generally begin showing up in the creel around mid-summer to early fall. Both contribute to carryovers, which are caught the following year at 14-plus inches.

"Yellow perch were illegally introduced to Curlew Lake around 2011, and the population has grown exponentially," Baker said. "While this illegal introduction is disappointing, as it will ultimately impact the trout population, there are currently lots of perch in the 9- to 12-inch range that available for anglers to harvest. WDFW highly encourages anglers to catch and keep them."

Curlew muskies must be released unless they are 50 inches or longer. There is a one-fish-per-day limit.

There appear to be a lot of muskies in the 40-inch range, said Baker, who said it was difficult to estimate how many were in the keeper class of 50 inches or more.

"If I was looking for large tiger muskies, that is the water I would go fish," Baker said. "We plant them every year with a relatively low-density stocking."

The plants have been just about every year since 1998, when muskies were introduced to control northern pikeminnows in the lake.

Muskie fishing picks up when the water gets warmer, from June to September.

The current state record muskie was caught by David Hickman of Richland on July 26, 2014. The record fish was 50.38 inches long and weighed 37.88 pounds.

Many anglers targeting muskies in Curlew are catch-and-release anglers not interested in harvesting the fish or seeking a state record, Baker said.

Largemouth bass fishing heats up later in the summer.

Curlew Lake State Park offers camping, picnicking and boat access.

The lake at 2,333 feet has three resorts.

Davis Lake — This 17-acre, high-elevation lake with a season this year of April 27 to Oct. 31 received 5,000 cutthroat fry in October last year.

Anglers can expect fish maxing out at 12-13 inches with the average being 9-10 inches.

Lake Ellen — Rainbow trout fishing should be good on the opener and for the first few weeks at this 78-acre lake located 14 miles north of Inchelium at 2,300 feet in the Colville National Forest.

The state planted 2,000 catchable-size rainbows and 2,000 put-and-take in April of this year, along with 5,000 fingerlings in May and June of last year.

The lake includes largemouth bass and green sunfish.

Anglers can expect trout in the 11-inch range with holdovers up to 20 inches at the lake open to fishing April 27 to Oct. 31.

There is a developed U.S. Forest Service campground.

Empire Lakes — Anglers can expect eastern brook trout fry plants at around eight inches on the opener, along with some carryovers of larger size at these three small Colville National Forest lakes totaling six acres. They are located 11 miles north of Republic at an elevation of 3,600 feet.

The lakes, which are remote and don't get a lot of pressure, were planted with 3,000 eastern brook fingerlings in May or June last year.

The lake, best fishing with a float tube, has a season is open to fishing from April 27 through Oct. 31 this year.

Ferry Lake — The 19-acre lake that's open year-round received 2,500 catchable rainbows in April and 25,000 fingerlings in May and June last year.

Anglers can expect fish in the 11-inch range on the opener. If the lake does not winter kill, carryovers can reach 14 inches.

There is a lead restriction, with no lead allowed in jigs and weights of less than 1.5 inches prohibited to protect nesting loons.

To reach the lake, go south for nine miles from Republic and west on state Highway 21 before heading up Forest Service Road No. 53/Scatter Creek.

The lake, located at 3,329 feet, includes a Forest Service campground.

Fish Lake — This tiny, four-acre lake received 450 catchable rainbows in the 11-inch range in April.

The lake, which is open year-round, is at 3,300 feet and located about a mile south of Ferry Lake on a county road.

Kettle River — The river, which contains rainbow and brown trout along with whitefish, has limited public access.

The Kettle is closed to fishing for all species except whitefish from Nov. 1 until the last day of February. All fisheries are closed from March until the Saturday before Memorial Day (May 25 this year) above the Lake Roosevelt boundary (Barstow bridge).

The river, which is accessible at the Midway bridge, offers "pretty decent" fishing for rainbow and brown trout once the season opens for them, Baker said.

Sturgeon fishing is closed at all times.

Children age 15 and younger can fish with bait from the Curlew bridge downstream to the Canadian border (a good stretch for browns).



Dave's Radiator Service

- Domestic and commercial
- Radiator repair and sales
 - Metal carports and buildings

Delivered and setup

253 Robinson Canyon Road, Omak
509-826-0750

Omak Marine

Boat Repair and Service



**ARCTIC CAT® • SNOWMOBILES
ATVS**

509-826-4711
128 Columbia St., Omak
www.omakmarine.com

LIAR'S COVE RESORT

Wanna go fishing?
Great Steelhead, triploid and bass
Stay on the lake at Conconully
RV, cabins, tent sites
Special Events
Book now!
Check liarscoveresort.com





509-826-1288 • Conconully
reservations@liarscoveresort.com



Check the latest regulations pamphlet for gear restrictions on whitefish.

Selective gear rules are in effect during the Saturday before Memorial Day through Oct. 31 season.

Lake Roosevelt — See entries with Okanogan County and reservation waters.

Long Lake — This 14-acre Colville National Forest lake, which contains cutthroat up to 17 inches, is located 11 miles southwest of Republic in the Scatter Creek drainage.

The state planted 14,000 cutthroat fingerlings in October.

Anglers are reminded that flies cannot contain lead to protect nesting loons.

This fly fishing-only lake at 3,250 feet is open this year from April 27 through Oct. 31.

The best time to fish is in the summer/fall after the cutthroat have fattened.

No motors of any type are allowed on the lake, which includes a Forest Service campground and boat launch.

Renner Lake — Fishing for eastern brook and brown trout should be decent at this 9.6-acre Colville National Forest lake.

Renner received a plant of 3,000 brook fingerlings last spring.

The lake, which is open this year from April 27 through Oct. 31, is two miles west of Barstow and six miles south from Orient at 2,525 feet.

Internal combustion engines are prohibited on the lake by county ordinance. Anglers can walk about a half-mile to the lake, which sports a small Forest Service campground and a primitive boat launch.

Swan Lake — The 52-acre lake sports smaller rainbow trout (25,000 fry planted May/June last year).

There is a lead restriction, with no lead allowed in jigs and weights of less than 1.5 inches prohibited to protect nesting loons.

Swan is located about 10 miles southwest of Republic in the Colville National Forest's Scatter Creek drainage just a few miles east of the Okanogan County line.

The lake, open this year from April 27 through Oct. 31, is at 3,641 feet elevation.

An improved Forest Service campground is on the east shore.

Trout Lake — This eight-acre lake does well in late spring for rainbow trout in the 10- to 11-inch range.

Internal combustion engines are prohibited by county ordinance on the lake eight miles west of Kettle Falls.

Trout is in the Colville National Forest at 3,200 feet elevation in the southeast end of Hoodoo Canyon.

The state planted 2,000 rainbow fingerlings in May/June last year at the lake, which is open this year



The Chronicle

The Kettle River is a popular spot for Ferry County anglers. A rail trail runs along part of the river.

from April 27 through Oct. 31.

There is a primitive boat launch at a Forest Service campground.

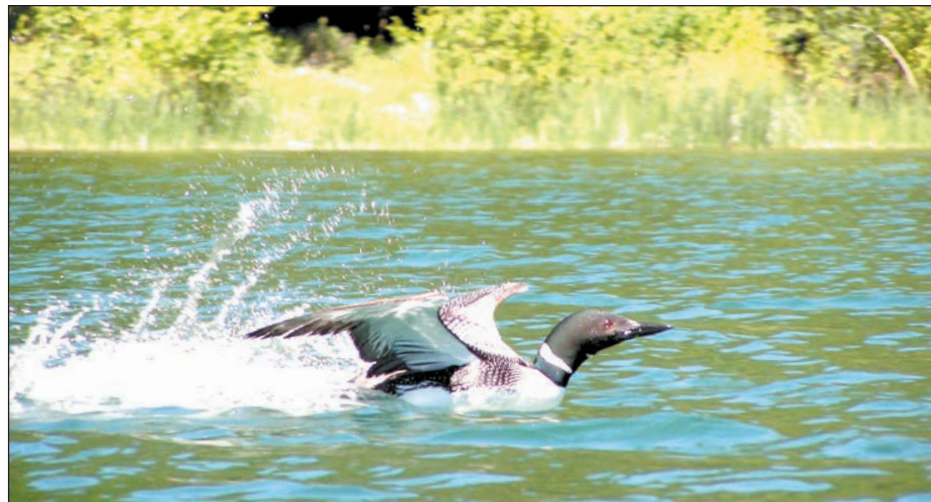
Ward lakes — These two small Colville National Forest lakes of seven total acres are located about 9.5 miles north of Republic at 3,625 elevation in the Bacon Creek drainage.

The lakes, which are open this year from April 27 through Oct. 31 and can sometimes winter kill, include eastern brook trout (1,000 fry planted May/June last year).

Anglers can expect fish in the 8- to 10-inch range and carryovers up to 12 inches.

Baker said success was similar to Empire Lakes.

Internal combustion engines are prohibited by county ordinance.



Norm Williams | Special to The Chronicle

Lead weights are prohibited in several waters to protect loons.



14th Annual King Salmon Derby

August 2-4, 2019

Skipper meeting Thurs., Aug. 1

1st Prize
\$1,500

King of the Pool Prize
\$2,000

9-14 1st Prize
\$550

1st All Youth Sockeye Derby
\$250
WDFW permitting

Sponsored in part by USI, VIP Insurance Agency, and North 40 Outfitters, Omak.

* Daily side pots and raffles all weekend long

* Seminar on Aug. 1st * Lots of cash and prizes

Youths 9-14 \$20 • Adults 15 and up \$50 • 8/U Free

Ticket sales are limited so register early at
BrewsterSalmonDerby.com

Selective gear lakes boast statewide draw

Chopaka, Big Twin, Aeneas are legend among anglers

By Al Camp
The Chronicle

Anglers travel from miles around to Okanogan County for a chance taking on some of the finest lakes for selective gear fishing in the state.

Names like Chopaka, Big Twin and Aeneas lakes are legend among fly anglers.

Chopaka (rainbows up to 18 inches) and Aeneas are the county's only fly fishing-only lakes.

Water levels have been slowly going up the last couple years, although Ell Lake remains a shadow of what it used to be.

Okanogan County's selective or fly fishing-only lakes include:

Aeneas Lake — This popular 53-acre lake about three miles southwest of Tonasket is a fly fishing-only lake open April 27 to Oct. 31.

There is no minimum size and a daily limit of one fish.

Motors, including electric ones, are prohibited. Anglers must use barbless hooks.

The water level at the lake remains relatively stable.

Car-top boats can be launched on a gravel access and toilets are available at a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access.

The lake is best fished with a pontoon boat, small rowboat or float tube. There is very limited shore access. Rattlesnakes can be found along the shoreline, especially to the north.

A plateau on the south end overlooking the lake is available for camping and offers panoramic views (especially powerful at sunset and sunrise) of the lake and surrounding hills.

Best fishing months are May and June, along with September and October.

From Tonasket, travel south a half-mile on county Highway 7 on the west side of the Okanogan River, then travel west 3.5 miles.

Big Twin — The popular, selective gear, 65-acre lake south of Winthrop benefits from a winter aerator program.

Rainbows can be landed in the 12- to 18-inch range at the lake, which has a one-fish limit.

The lake, which has a season of April 27 to Oct. 31, is best fished early and late in the season.

During hot, summer months, anglers can use



Dee Camp | The Chronicle

Aeneas Lake, near Tonasket, is a popular fly fishing-only lake open from April 27 to Oct. 31. Motors are prohibited, but car-top boats can be launched from a gravel access.

weighted lines to reach fish at the cooler depths.

Gas-operated motors are prohibited, but electric motors are allowed. Selective gear rules apply.

A state Department of Fish and Wildlife access area includes a gravel boat launch for smaller boats and a toilet.

There is a resort (a good place to check on fishing conditions) with camping and a boat launch.

Big Twin is two miles south of Winthrop off state Highway 20. There are marked turnoffs near Winthrop and Twin Lakes Road near Liberty Bell High School.

Black Lake — This underutilized, 66-acre lake lies at 4,000 feet and holds rainbow trout.

The lake, which is open year-round, can be reached on a 5.5-mile trail in the Pasayten Wilderness that starts on Lake Creek, off the Chewuch River Road about 20 miles north of Winthrop. It is not a fly fishing-only lake or a trophy-fishing lake, but rather a



Dee Camp | The Chronicle

Twin Lake, near Winthrop, is one of Okanogan County's selective fisheries.



25% off

LADOUX'S

APPLIANCE • ELECTRONICS



18 E. Riverside Drive • Post Office Box T
 Omak, Washington 98841
 509-826-0880



509-826-5004 • 2 East Bartlett,
 Omak
 Kevin Fletcher, Owner



**AC Service • All major engine, transmission,
 differential and exhaust work**
 Stop by or call us today

lake falling under the selective fishery rules where bait is illegal because of threatened bull trout.

Bull trout (Dolly Varden) must be released if caught and cannot be removed from the water.

Black usually is the first lake in the wilderness to become ice-free.

Two nearby lakes, Halfmoon (16 acres) and Kidney (13 acres) — contain cutthroat.

Blue Lake (Sinlahekin Wildlife Area) — The 186-acre lake, which falls under selective gear rules and is about eight miles north of Conconully, continues to be one of the best fishing lakes in the county for impressive trout in the 12-inch range with carryovers up to 15 inches.

Blue received several plants of rainbow trout in March and early April.

Internal combustion motors are prohibited, although you can use electric motors. There's a one-fish daily limit, no minimum size for trout.

It's unlawful to use lead weights or lead jigs measuring one and one-half inches or less along the longest axis. To get a fly down, use a weighted fly line.

Blue, which is open April 27 to Oct. 31, is four miles north of Fish Lake in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area.

There is a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access site with camping, toilets and gravel boat launch at the handicap-accessible lake that lies at an elevation of 1,686 feet.

To reach the lake, go north about 10 miles from Omak on U.S. Highway 97 then west on Pine Creek Road for about nine miles. Continue past Fish Lake and go another four miles north to Blue on Sinlahekin Road.

Blue Lake (near Wannacut Lake) — Selective gear rules apply to the 111-acre, alkaline lake, where you can land Lahontan cutthroats in the 12- to 18-inch range (up to three pounds) located a mile north of Wannacut Lake and three miles southwest of Oroville.

The lake, which is planed with Lahontan fingerlings

in the fall, has a one-fish daily limit and a season of April 27 to Oct. 31.

Internal combustion motors are prohibited, but electric motors are allowed.

A state Department of Fish and Wildlife access site with a campsite and graveled launch is available.

Buzzard Lake — The small, 16-acre lake is located five miles southwest of Okanogan on Buzzard Lake Road off state Highway 20.

Buzzard contains rainbows up to 16 inches.

The lake, which includes a selective-gear-only rule and one-fish limit, is open April 27 to Oct. 31.

There is a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access site with an unimproved boat launch and camping area.

The lake can suffer winter kill, although if fish make it to the next year you can expect carryovers up to 18 inches.

Campbell Lake — This 11-acre lake, which contains rainbow trout and currently has a split-season, is three miles east of Winthrop in the Methow Wildlife Area.

The lake will fall under new statewide regulations starting July 1.

Currently the lake is catch-and-release using selective gear rules April 1 27 to Aug. 31. Internal combustion motors are prohibited.

Best fishing usually is with a small boat or float tube.

Campbell received 800 rainbow fingerlings and 300 legal-sized fish in May.

To reach the lake, take Twisp-Winthrop Eastside Road from either Winthrop or Twisp before going east on Bear Creek Road and continue on Lester Road before taking a short road to the lake.

Chopaka Lake — Long considered one of the premier fly fishing lakes in the state, the popular 149-acre lake also provides some of the best camping scenery in the county.

Ryan Fortier, Okanogan County district fisheries biologist for the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, said he gets more calls about the lake than any other in the region, with anglers coming from all over the region.

The fly-fishing-only lake, located at the 2,900-foot mark on Chopaka Mountain about six miles north of Loomis, has a one-fish limit and motors of all kind are prohibited. The season runs April 27 to Oct. 31.

Chopaka received 4,000 rainbow fingerlings and 50 jumbos in May last year.

Rainbows, which munch on mayflies and are in the 12- to 18-inch range, are best fished when it warms up in the spring and again in the fall.

The first part of the road to the lake is steep and can be extremely rough in April. The road often is impassable to large trailers and recreational vehicles.

A state Department of Natural Resources campground at the lake offers 15 sites and includes picnic tables, fire pits, a fishing pier and toilets.

There also is a Bureau of Land Management campground and two small, graveled boat launches.

Davis Lake — This popular Methow Valley lake, located near Campbell and Cougars lakes near Winthrop, is open to catch and release; selective gear rules April 1 through Aug. 31.

Combustion engines are not allowed on the lake. Electric motors are allowed only during summer season.

A catch-and-keep season is Sept. 1 through March 31 without selective gear rules. The popular, 30-acre acre lake is fished intensely opening day. It's a favorite for many Labor Day weekend anglers.

Davis received 1,200 legal-sized rainbows in April and 3,000 fingerlings in May.

The lake, with fish in the 10- to 14-inch range, includes a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access site with a graveled boat launch.

Travel 2.5 miles south of Winthrop on the Twisp-

Winthrop Eastside Road, go east about a mile on Bear Creek Road before heading south a mile to the lake.

Eli Lake — This once-popular, eight-acre lake (formerly 21-acres) east of Tonasket should remain on a "don't fish" list due to low-water levels.

Last year the state did not plant the lake, which suffers from summer kill.

Selective fishery rules apply. Internal combustion motors are prohibited. There is a one-fish limit. The season is April 27 to Oct. 31.

There is a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access area, but boats or tubes must be carried to the shoreline. A camping area and toilet are available.

Take state Highway 20 east from Tonasket for about 12 miles, and then go south on Aeneas Valley Road for about five miles.

Grimes Lake — The private, 186-acre lake in northern Douglas County, is leased by the state and open to the public.

Selective gear rules apply. Internal combustion motors are prohibited, while electric motors are allowed.

The lake, which has Lahontans up to 18 inches, is located north of Jameson Lake and about five miles southeast of Mansfield. Access is via a rough, dirt road off Wittig Road south from Mansfield. Parking is limited for the opener.

Little Twin Lake — The 24-acre lake south of Winthrop has a season of April 27 through Oct. 31 for rainbows.

It is a selective gear lake (one-fish limit) with excellent rainbow fishing.

The lake, which sometimes winter kills, has a state Department of Fish and Wildlife access area, with toilet and a small, steep, graveled boat launch.

The lake is best fished with tubes or small boats carried to the lake.

Little Twin lies two miles south of Winthrop with marked turnoffs from state Highway 20.



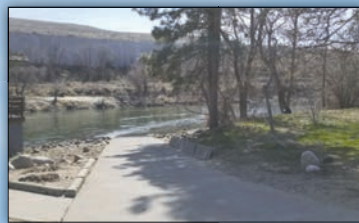
The Gateway to Great Fishing!

We have beautiful parks for camping and a public boat launch to access the Okanogan River.

Great fishing just minutes away: Leader Lake, Buzzard Lake, Green Lake, Rock Lake, Little Goose Lake, Duley Lake, Blue Lake, Hess Lake, Sugar Loaf, Conconully Reservoir and Conconully Lake.



Legion Park which borders the Okanogan River, is a beautiful park to relax and stay awhile.



Boat launch, public fishing access and RV dump, 51 Tye Street.



Public fishing access by the South Bridge. (Shown on right: Colville Tribes Fish & Wildlife fish counter)



Enjoy your fishing trip!
We invite you to Eat • Shop • Stay Awhile

City Hall • 509-422-3600 • okanogancity.com • okanoganchamber.org

100% funded by the City of Okanogan Hotel/Motel tax fund