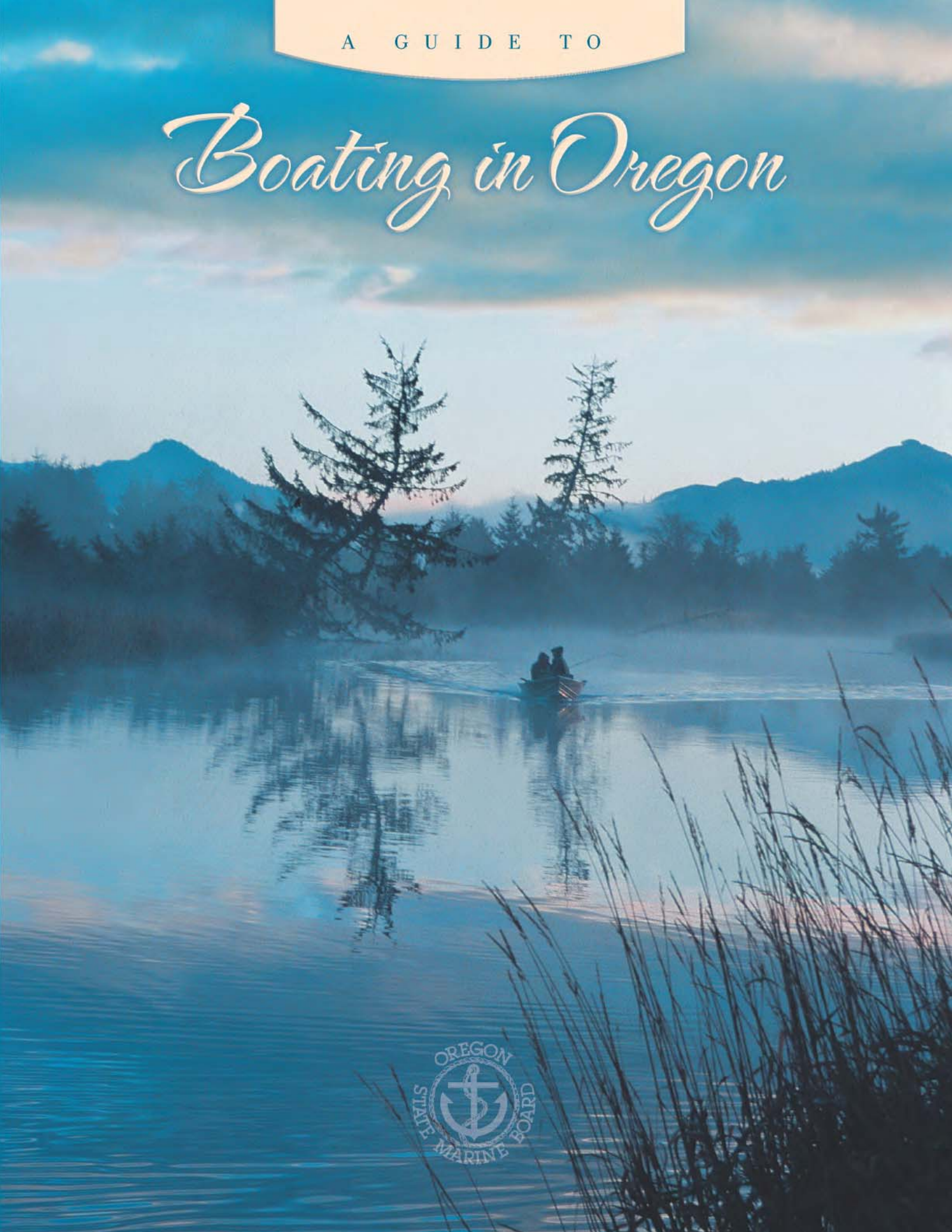


A GUIDE TO

Boating in Oregon







COME PLAY ON

Oregon's Waterways

Visitors to Oregon are often surprised at the number of boat trailers they come upon as they travel around the state. There's no question that Oregonians love getting out on the water. With all the first-rate waterways we have at our doorstep, it's no wonder!

Oregon boaters truly enjoy the best of all worlds. We have 400 miles of Pacific coastline to ply for salmon and Dungeness crabs, world-class whitewater rivers to run, and countless lakes and reservoirs for waterskiing, fishing, or just cruising about. For geographic diversity and scenic beauty, Oregon's waterways are second to none; it's hard to believe that Depoe Bay, Paulina Lake and Hells Canyon are all in the same state! Whether it's a paddle down the Owyhee River in eastern Oregon, a day with the family taking in the drag boat races at Dexter Lake near Eugene, or a morning by Buoy Ten on the Columbia trying to get your son or daughter into their first big chinook, Oregon's waterways are places where memories are made...memories you'll cherish for a lifetime.

We hope you can find a little extra time in the coming year to go out and play on Oregon's wonderful waterways. You'll be glad you did!

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THE Willamette Valley REGION

Flowing from its headwaters in the central Oregon Cascades and fed by abundant rainfall, the Willamette River helped carve out the fertile valley that drew the first white settlers to Oregon in the 1840s. For boaters near Oregon's population centers, it remains a source of great significance: Impoundments along the Willamette and its tributaries have created many fine reservoirs that are set close enough to the Valley's nearly two million residents to be accessible, but far enough away to provide a quality outdoor experience amidst the region's farmlands and foothills.

The waters of the Willamette region offer ample recreational opportunities. The Willamette River and its tributaries attract good numbers of anadromous fish, both chinook salmon and steelhead; spring chinook are an especially popular target for river anglers. Most of the reservoirs are stocked with rainbow trout, giving both new and seasoned anglers a great chance to catch their limit. Waterskiers, tubers and jet ski enthusiasts are welcome on most impoundments; one reservoir is even home base to high-speed drag boat racing. For paddling enthusiasts, the Valley is blessed with several "Wild and Scenic" rivers with enough white water to challenge the most seasoned rafters and kayakers.

If you like to boat and live in an urban area, it's hard to beat the many opportunities available in the Willamette Valley.

Willamette Riverkeeper

Flowing through the heart of Oregon's population centers, the Willamette faces many pressures. The river has a strong advocate in the Willamette Riverkeeper, a non-profit organization dedicated to enabling the Willamette to function more naturally, with cold, clean water that will provide a healthy habitat for fish and wildlife. Since its founding in 1996, Willamette Riverkeeper has initiated a number of programs to protect and restore the river. These include water quality monitoring, habitat restoration and river discovery education. Through these efforts, Willamette Riverkeeper strives to be the "Eyes, Ears, and Voice for the River."

Fishing on the Willamette River above the Oregon City-West Linn and I-205 bridges.

Big leaf maple trees cloaked in fog on the bank of the Willamette River.





PHOTO: OSMB

All ages enjoy fishing.

Free Fishing Weekend

Access to first-rate fishing is one of the great bonuses of living in Oregon. To help encourage newcomers to take part in angling, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife hosts a free fishing weekend each second weekend of June. No fishing license is required for freshwater fishing or shellfish harvesting during Free Fishing Weekend—plus, there are a number of programs around the state where kids young and old can receive instruction, and have an excellent chance of landing their first trout (thanks to heavily stocked ponds)! Visit the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife website (www.dfw.state.or.us) for details about Free Fishing Weekend programs near you.

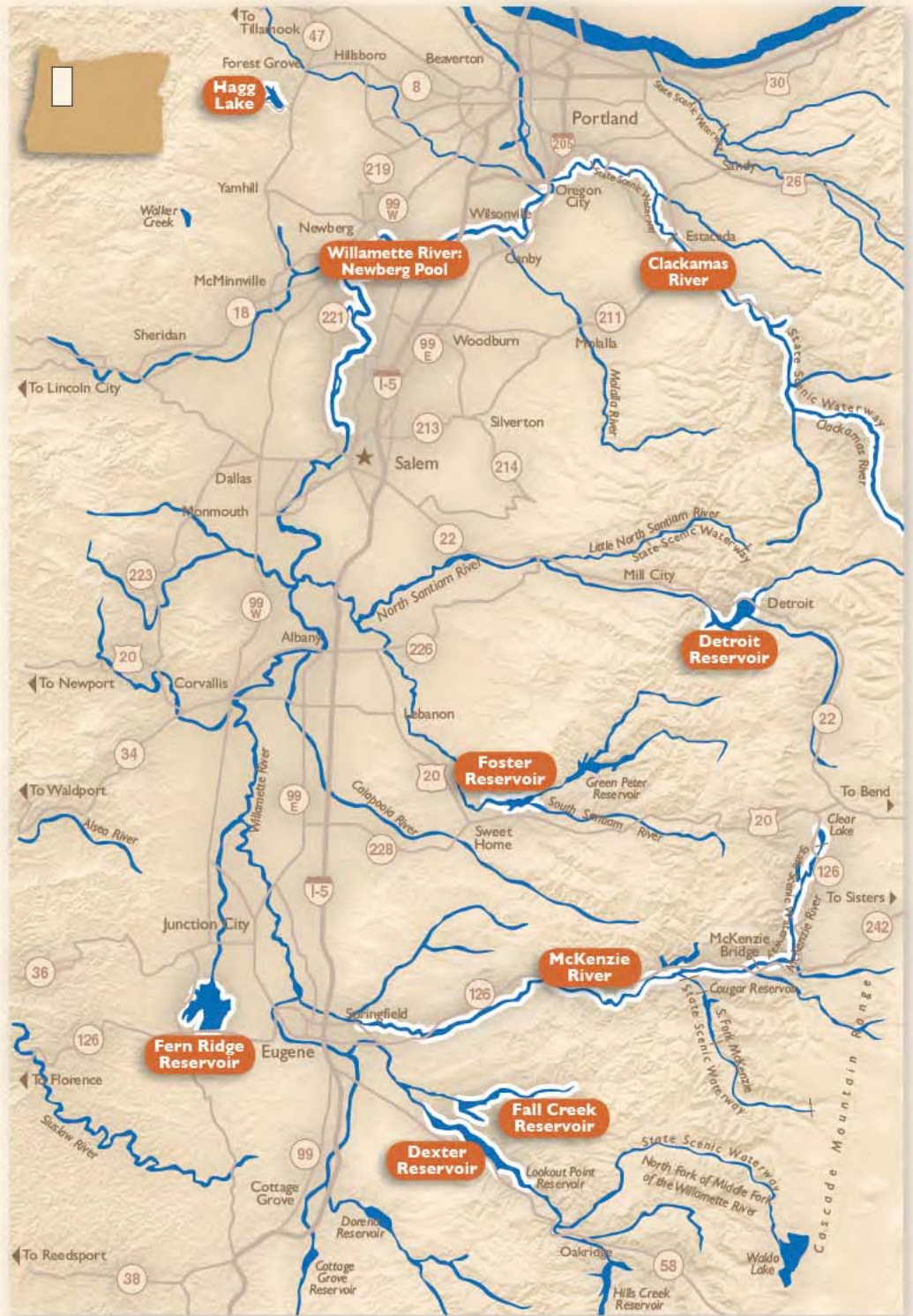


PHOTO: OSMB

Boating on Hagg Lake.

WILLAMETTE RIVER: NEWBERG POOL

The Newberg Pool—a 40-mile section of the Willamette River stretching from Newberg to Willamette Falls—offers boaters a calm, lake-like setting that’s made it a favorite for waterskiers, wake boarders and other action water sport enthusiasts. This stretch of the Willamette flows through a mix of farmland and urban settings, reflecting the river’s diverse uses. In the spring anglers congregate near Ash Island (just south of the Rogers Landing launch) as spring chinook salmon return to their natal streams. A highlight each spring is the Newberg Boat Club’s annual Memorial Day Boat Races, which date back to the 1940s. In the near future, the Newberg Pool will be an important part of the third leg of the Willamette River Water Trail.

CLACKAMAS RIVER

The Clackamas is an incredible resource for Portland area residents—after all, how many major metropolitan areas have a federally designated “National Wild and Scenic” river flowing through their backyard! The river’s upper stretches, where it flows through dense forests and basalt canyons, offers up white water rafting and kayaking opportunities to challenge the most expert paddlers. The lower river below Estacada is a great place for beginning paddlers to get a taste of river running. This stretch also attracts many anglers seeking chinook and summer steelhead in the spring, coho (silver) salmon in the fall, and winter steelhead from December through March. The last few miles above its confluence with the Willamette are one of Portlanders’ favorite fishing holes.

HAGG LAKE

This 1,200-acre reservoir is nestled in the foothills of the Coast Range, just west of Forest Grove. Hagg Lake has long been a favorite still-water retreat for Multnomah and Washington county residents. It reaches depths of over 100 feet and is well-stocked with rainbow trout, some reaching 7 pounds. Smallmouth bass and brown bullhead are also present. Many a young angler has landed his or her first fish at Hagg Lake! There are two boat launches on the lake, and several picnic grounds. If the fish aren’t biting, Hagg Lake also offers great waterskiing, personal watercraft riding and other boating pursuits. It’s also surrounded by

PHOTO: OSMB



Portland's waterfront.

15 miles of biking and hiking trails, where you might encounter the elk, deer, coyote or even bobcat that call these woods home. The mixture of habitats around Hagg Lake attracts a variety of bird life, including nesting pairs of bald eagles and ospreys.

FOSTER RESERVOIR

Just east of the city of Sweet Home, Foster Reservoir is a popular boating destination for mid-valley residents, providing a pleasing Cascade foothills backdrop for a variety of water recreation activities. Foster Reservoir measures over three miles in length and was created in the late 1960s by the construction of the Foster Dam on the South Santiam River. Foster offers good angling for stocked rainbow trout, kokanee and bass, and ample space for waterskiers and other on-the-water activities. In August of each year, the Oregon Jamboree takes place nearby—it’s a perfect occasion to mix some water fun with music! Three launch points are available on Foster Reservoir. Green Peter Reservoir and Clear Lake, two popular still-water destinations, are just a short drive to the east.

Fish on! Fisherman enjoy the popular Clackamas River at Clackamette Park where it flows into the Willamette River.

PHOTO: OSMB

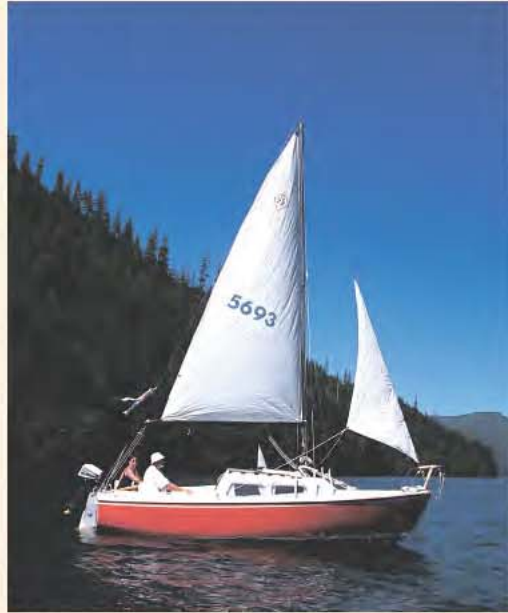


It's Hardly a Drag!

Drag boat racing is a close cousin to its land-based cousin, drag racing. In a drag boat race, two competitors race over a straight quarter-mile course (one difference—drag boats begin with a short rolling start). There are a number of different classes of boats that compete, determined by the size of the boat's engine, hull designs, and the type of fuel that's used. The fastest class—and hence for spectators the most exciting class—is the Top Fuel Hydroplane, which can cover a quarter mile in less than five seconds, achieving speeds approaching 250 miles per hour.

The World's Best Known Drift Boat

When New Englanders came west to Oregon, they brought along their boats—Banks Dories, designed for cod fishing on the Atlantic. Boaters soon learned that these dories, while well-suited for the ocean, were ill-suited for use on Oregon's shallow whitewater rivers. Soon the boats began evolving—deep displacement hulls were replaced with wide, flat bottoms, and the size of the rocker was increased. These lighter boats soon displaced the dories on rivers like the McKenzie, where fishing guides recognized the value of their greater maneuverability. In the 1930s, a woodworker named Torkel Gudmund 'Tom' Kaarhus began building boats in Eugene; he soon designed and crafted the first square-ended McKenzie Drift Boat. One of Kaarhus's associates, a fishing guide named Woodie Hindman, added his own touches to the design. Through the combined efforts of Kaarhus and Hindman, the drift boat that's used by thousands of guides and recreational anglers across the western United States was born.



Sailboat on Detroit Lake.

DETROIT RESERVOIR

Situated at the western edge of the Cascades 50 miles east of Salem, 3,500-acre Detroit Reservoir is one of Oregon's largest and most popular summer boating retreats. The reservoir was created in 1953 with the damming of the North Santiam River. It's over nine miles long with more than 32 miles of shoreline, and reaches depths of 400 feet. Detroit Reservoir has countless little coves to tuck into, making it a great spot for cruisers seeking seclusion. Rainbow trout and kokanee are the primary angler's quarry here; spots where creeks enter the lake are most productive. If you look up from your line from time to time, you're likely to spot ospreys or bald eagles, both of which call the lake home. Well-established as a recreational hub, the town of Detroit at the impoundment's eastern edge offers overnight visitors extensive services, including campgrounds, stores and restaurants. For boaters seeking a little extra adventure, there's a small boat-in campground on Piety Island.

Modern Drift Boat.



MCKENZIE RIVER

The McKenzie is one of Oregon's best-known rivers, revered for its beauty, accessibility and diversity. The upper stretches offer abundant whitewater challenges for kayakers and rafters, and excellent fly fishing for native redband trout, all against a backdrop of dense forest that includes many old-growth Douglas firs. It was on these upper stretches that the famed McKenzie drift boat with its "double-ended" design was created. Below Leaburg Dam the river flattens out, opening into a more leisurely series of pools and riffles, excellent for less seasoned kayakers and rafters. This middle section is quite popular with salmon and steelhead anglers, who target fish that cue up below the dam. Fly anglers and gear fishermen also ply the lower sections of the McKenzie before it joins the Willamette, launching jet boats from Armitage Park to explore promising waters up and down stream.

DEXTER RESERVOIR

Situated 15 miles east of Eugene in the town of Lowell, Dexter Reservoir is the last impoundment on the Middle Fork of the Willamette before it joins the Coast Fork to create the main stem of the Willamette. Steady water levels make Dexter a reliable choice for first-rate boating throughout the year, and South Valley residents flock here to take advantage of its wooded setting. At 1,025 acres, Dexter is 3.3 miles long and a mile wide at its widest point; it's regularly stocked with rainbow trout. Several times each year Dexter Reservoir is host to speed boat races sponsored by The Columbia Drag Boat Association; during some events, Alcohol Hydro craft can reach speeds of up to 230 miles per hour! At the other end of the speed scale, Dexter is also home to the Oregon Association of Rowers. Several access points are available.

PHOTO: OSMB

PHOTO: ALUMAVELD



PHOTO: STEVE TERRILL

The Home of Oregon Collegiate Sailing

For some, sailing means a lazy day, cruising from one secluded cove to another. For those who partake of competitive racing, hoisting a sail is akin to a good-natured battle! In addition to being the site of the Eugene Yacht Club, Fern Ridge Reservoir is also the practice grounds and home waters for the University of Oregon sailing team, which competes in the Northwest Inter Collegiate Sailing Association. Other competing schools include Lewis and Clark College, Linfield College, Oregon State University (whose team also practices on Fern Ridge), Portland State University, University of British Columbia, University of Washington, Washington State University and Western Washington University. Regattas include entries in the following divisions: Flying Juniors (FJs), Lasers and Santanas.

Wild lupine lining the shore of Fern Ridge Reservoir.

FERN RIDGE RESERVOIR

Fern Ridge Reservoir is nestled in the Coast Range foothills 15 miles northwest of Eugene. Created in 1941 by the damming of the Long Tom River, Fern Ridge is the southern Willamette Valley's largest impoundment at 9,000 acres. The lake is quite popular with sailors from Eugene and beyond, offering some of the best fresh water sailing in the Pacific Northwest. Anglers will find largemouth bass, cutthroat trout, crappie and catfish, with excellent fishing in the spring. Waterskiers flock here as well in the summer months. Extensive wetland habitat makes the reservoir a haven for over 250 species of birds, including both resident and migratory species; in fact, the southeast shore is a designated wildlife refuge. There are four boat launches on Fern Ridge, with several offering extensive services. NOTE: Fern Ridge is drained in the winter for flood control measures.

FALL CREEK RESERVOIR

Fall Creek Reservoir rests a few miles north of the town of Lowell (near Dexter Reservoir), and offers an uncrowded water experience. Fed by Fall Creek and Winberry Creek, this 1,852 acre reservoir boasts 22 miles of forested shoreline. A multitude of coves and inlets provide ample opportunities for solitude. Popular with jet skiers and waterskiers, Fall Creek Reservoir also offers good angling for stocked rainbow trout; bass and catfish are also present. Several nice campgrounds adjoin the lake including Cascara, a tent space tucked amongst a copse of Douglas firs. If you like to travel with your fifth wheel, there's an RV camp just across the road at Fisherman's Point. Five day-use areas are also available.

PHOTO: OREGON PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.



Fall Creek Lake.



THE
Coastal Oregon
 REGION

If you were to draw a straight line between Astoria and Brookings, it would cover nearly 400 miles. Add to that tens of thousands of acres of estuaries and more than a dozen major rivers draining to the Pacific, and you have a lifetime of boating opportunities waiting.

The Oregon coast—from the majestic rock formations of the northern section to the rolling dunes of the central coast to the great hillside bluffs of the south—presents a dramatic palette upon which to drift, motor, paddle or sail, a palette of blue and gold that's augmented with the deep greens of Douglas firs and Western Hemlock that cling to the shoreline. The coastal rivers—among them such renowned waters as the Rogue, the Umpqua, the Siuslaw and Siletz—are great producers of salmon and steelhead, drawing anglers from around the world. Many bays and estuaries are rich in clams and Dungeness crabs, and the offshore waters produce species ranging from ling cod to tuna to salmon.

As you move north or south, you'll find many welcoming towns along the way, from diminutive fishing villages to resort towns that cater to weekend sojourners. Whether you're seeking to catch dinner—or to capture memories that will last a lifetime—the Oregon coast is a fabulous place to take to the water.

**Dungeness Crabs—
 A Sea Bottom Bounty**

Dungeness crabs (Cancer magister) are perhaps Oregon's most popular crustacean.

They take their name from the Dungeness Spit (a shallow bay on the south shore of the Straits of Juan de Fuca), but are found in most coastal waterways of Oregon. Dungeness crabs have a broad, oval body covered by a hard shell, with four pairs of walking legs and a pair of claws. At four to five years of age, the crabs can reach a shell width of 6.5 inches and a weight of two to three pounds. (A 5.75" shell width is keeper size; only males can be kept.) Some Dungeness live as long as 13 years. Prized for their succulent meat, Dungeness are sought after by both commercial and recreational crabbers. Oily fish carcasses are preferred bait; once you've got the crabs aboard, the list of tasty recipes is endless.

Fishing boats below Yaquina Bay Bridge, Newport.

Crab traps and floats at Yaquina Bay.

PHOTO: STEVE TERRILL



North Coast



ASTORIA

Poised at the mouth of the Columbia, Astoria has a rich maritime history. It was here that fur traders financed by a wealthy New Yorker named John Jacob Astor established a trading post in 1811—the first American settlement west of the Rockies. The waters here can be difficult to navigate—indeed, records show that more than 200 shipwrecks have occurred at the mouth of the Columbia. (The Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria has excellent exhibits on shipwrecks and other elements of life on the Columbia.)

Thanks to improved charts and modern navigation equipment, boaters can feel more comfortable on these waters—though a healthy dose of caution is still advised.

In season, fishing can be quite good throughout the lower stretches of the Columbia. But come August, salmon anglers from far and wide converge upon Buoy 10—the famed fishing grounds at the mouth of the Columbia near Astoria (and Ilwaco, Washington) where returning fish congregate during tide changes. In 2006, upwards of 300,000 chinook salmon and over 100,000 coho passed Buoy 10 en route to their natal streams and hatcheries in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Fish and Wildlife Department officials estimate that 5,000 boats are on hand during August weekends during years when the fish return in good numbers. You won't be alone out there—but your odds of hooking up are quite good!

Steelhead—A Source for Frustration and Joy

Novelist Tom McGuane once said that the best steelhead fishermen have an IQ that's equal to the water temperature of a winter river. Anyone who's sought steelhead understands the joke! Steelhead, an ocean-going form of rainbow trout, require an immense amount of patience. Though they don't actively feed once they enter a river, they will on occasion strike a bait or fly...though more often, they won't. Steelheads' inscrutable nature, combined with their powerful fighting ability and streamlined beauty, lend them a mystique amongst the angling cognoscenti. An angler may log days on the river before feeling their vicious strike; most agree it's worth the wait. Steelhead are flesh and blood torpedoes; when you hook your first steelhead, you're really not sure what's hit you.

West Mooring Basin and the Astoria-Megler Bridge which spans the mouth of the Columbia River.





PHOTO: OSMB

Fishing Tillamook Bay.

NEHALEM BAY

Nehalem Bay is a wonderfully buffered estuary in Tillamook County, formed by the Nehalem River as it makes its way to the Pacific. When the area was first settled by Europeans in the 1800s, Nehalem Bay was twice its current size; water diversions to create farmland and topsoil runoff have shrunk it to its present dimensions. The calm waters of this forested bay are especially popular with kayakers, crabbers and birdwatchers. Nehalem Bay is a point of departure for off-shore anglers. In July and August, salmon anglers focus on the bay itself, targeting chinook returning to the river; coho (silver) salmon return to the bay a bit later.

TILLAMOOK BAY

Anglers from Portland, Salem and beyond know that Tillamook Bay means salmon. The bay seldom disappoints. Located 75 miles west of Portland, Tillamook Bay takes its name from the Chinook word for “land of many waters.” Indeed, this bay draws from five significant rivers—the Miami, Kilchis, Wilson, Trask and Tillamook. These five productive river systems explain the Bay’s prolific salmon returns (fall chinook, some eclipsing 50 pounds, are the chief draw). Crabbing is another popular pastime in Tillamook Bay. There’s also room for adventure—the sandy peninsula that separates the bay from the Pacific was once the site of Bayocean, a turn of the century resort town that housed the largest indoor saltwater swimming pool on the west coast. By the 1950s, Bayocean had been reclaimed by the sea. Remnants of this ghost town are still visible today.

Tillamook: Dairy Capital of the Pacific Northwest

Nothing finishes off a pleasant day on the water like a fresh ice cream cone. Boaters leaving Tillamook Bay are in luck. The lush Tillamook Valley is one of largest producers of dairy products in the Pacific Northwest, with over 140 farmers producing nearly 1/3 of dairy production for the state of Oregon. Milk produced here is considered especially high quality, and yields excellent cheddar cheese—the end product for almost 85% of the milk Tillamook cows create. Don’t worry—there’s plenty left over for that ice cream!



PHOTO: OSMB

Boats in the channel of Tillamook Bay.

Fishing boats in Tillamook Bay at Garibaldi.



ROSIE

POATHOUSE

DONNA L

APRIL

AQUARIUS
GARIBALDI, OR.



Central Coast

SILETZ RIVER

The Siletz is one of the coast's most dependable steelhead rivers. The river's pristine upper reaches make for excellent spawning and rearing habitat, enabling winter fish (available December through March) to reach 20 pounds and more. The Siletz also supports one of the coast's few summer steelhead runs, and healthy spring and fall chinook fisheries. Steelheaders tend to focus on the upper river around and below Moonshine Park, accessible by drift boat. Salmon anglers will fish the mellow tidal waters closer to Kernville to intercept chinooks while they're fresh, running upstream in flat bottom jet boats and drifting down or trolling. Fishing and crabbing opportunities are also available in scenic Siletz Bay, readily accessible from Highway 101.

Clamming Up

Crabs aren't the only game in town on the ocean flats of Oregon. A variety of clams—Horsenecks, Razors, Littlenecks, Pittocks and Cockles—are available to those willing to get their hands a little dirty, or at least sandy. The tools you need to get started are easy to come by—rubber boots, a heavy-duty shovel and a bucket; you might also want some sticks to mark spots where you locate clams. When you get to likely clamming spots, look for holes in the sand about an inch wide. Feel inside the hole for the clam's neck; if you hit paydirt, dig (or mark the spot so you can return after locating other beds). The best time for clamming is an hour or so before low tide.



Depoe Bay Harbor.

PHOTO: OSMB





Historic Yaquina Bay Bridge and South Beach Marina at Newport.

YAQUINA (NEWPORT) BAY

Newport is the center of tourism in coastal Oregon, and beautiful Yaquina (often called Newport) Bay attracts many water enthusiasts as well. This estuary drains the Yaquina River, and once attracted settlers for its rich oyster beds; today it is fishermen, kayakers and whale watchers who are drawn here. Yaquina Bay can offer excellent crabbing and clamming in season. Many anglers depart from here to fish offshore for tuna and halibut, as well as salmon. Whether they've found success or not, two of the mid-coast's great landmarks, Yaquina Head Lighthouse and the Yaquina Bay Bridge, beckon the fishermen back to port, making for a most scenic return.

ALSEA RIVER

Proximity to Corvallis and other southern Willamette Valley towns makes the Alsea a popular spot for anglers seeking fall chinook and winter steelhead. The Alsea is paralleled along much of its path to the Pacific by Oregon Highway 34; over 20 public and commercial boat ramps make it easy to get on the river. Alsea Bay, where the river enters the ocean at Waldport, is one of Oregon's top five crabbing venues. Remember—only mature male Dungeness crab measuring at least 5 ³/₄ inches across the back of the shell are harvested, and all females must be returned; there's no size limitations on red rock crabs.

Hatfield Marine Center

Many water enthusiasts spend a great deal of time wondering what fish and crabs are thinking and how they live. The scientists at the Hatfield Marine Science Center have spent years trying to answer some of our questions. Originally established as a marine laboratory for Oregon State University, the Center now includes researchers, students, and faculty from five colleges on its site on Yaquina Bay in Newport. The Hatfield Marine Center Visitor Center is unique as it's part aquarium and part laboratory, and focuses on showcasing scientific exploration of marine species rather than just the species themselves. It's open year-round.



SIUSLAW RIVER

Flowing 110 miles from the foothills of the Coast Range southwest of Cottage Grove to Florence, the Siuslaw River attracts south Valley residents in quest of anadromous fish. Chinook, shad, steelhead and sturgeon all make appearances here, with chinook and steelhead attracting the lion's share of angling activity. Most anglers target chinook in the tidal zones; the estuary has many public boat ramps. Steelheaders focus on the mid sections of the river. Sea run cutthroat are also plentiful in the system in August and September. Clamming on the lower river east of Florence is first-rate; crabbing can also be excellent, especially in August and September. Paddlers love the Siuslaw Estuary (just up from Old Town Florence), where kayakers riding the tide can encounter an abundance of bird life.

UMPQUA RIVER

Alongside the Rogue, the Umpqua is among Oregon's most esteemed fishing rivers. The two branches of the river—the North and the South—join northwest of Roseburg to form the mainstem of the Umpqua, which continues west to Winchester Bay where it enters the Pacific. Year-round fishing is available for a variety of resident and anadromous species—winter steelhead give way to spring chinook and shad, which in turn are replaced in the system by summer steelhead and fall chinook. Smallmouth bass and white and green sturgeon fill in any lulls between steelhead and salmon runs. Highway 38 parallels the river through the pastoral Umpqua Valley from Elkton to the coast, and numerous boat ramps are available.

WINCHESTER BAY

The fabled Umpqua River enters the Pacific at Winchester Bay, which is the home of Oregon's largest coastal fishing fleet. Fishermen here head offshore for halibut, salmon, rockfish, sturgeon, squid and shark; crabbers and clambers can find their prey in the bay.

The town of Reedsport, just to the west, provides ample services, as does the Salmon Harbor Marina, which boasts 550 moorage slips, making it one of the largest recreational facilities on the Oregon coast. The dunes area runs from Florence to North Bend—Winchester Bay is roughly in the middle of that 47-mile stretch.



PHOTO: ERIC W. VALENTINE

A sailboat is reflected in Winchester Bay.

Siuslaw River Bridge in Florence.

South Coast



COOS BAY

Coos Bay is a long and circuitous estuary fed by the Coos River among other tributaries; it's considered the best natural harbor between San Francisco and the Puget Sound. The bay's vast acreage gives anglers plenty of elbow room as they pursue fall chinook (July through October), coho (silver) salmon (October and November) and winter steelhead (December through March). Coos Bay also offers excellent canoeing opportunities through the South Slough Estuarine Reserve, the first federally designated reserve of its kind. Here, you can glide by oystercatchers, egrets, herons, and other birds as they stalk the estuary's mudflats. All services are available in the towns of Coos Bay, Charleston and North Bend.

Down in the Dunes

Between Florence and Coos Bay, the rugged coastline gives way to 47 miles of gently rolling dunes—the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. The mounds of cream-colored, ever-shifting sand were created over millions of years when sedimentary rock from nearby mountains began to erode and particles were carried to the ocean. The particles in time became sand and were washed inland by the tides. Jessie Honeyman State Park is an excellent spot to wander the dunes.



Coos Bay harbor.

PHOTO: OSMB

Sunrise painting the sky over fishing boats moored at Coos Bay in Charleston.



TOOSH

SILVER DOLLAR

MARY L

WASHINGTON

LUTE





The Rogue River.

ROGUE RIVER

Since the 1920s when western novelist Zane Grey helped make it famous in his articles for the sporting magazines of the day, the lower Rogue has been known for its prolific salmon and steelhead runs. Spring and fall chinook, as well as summer and winter steelhead, all make their appearances here; the fall chinook run, which can run as high as 200,000 fish, reaches its apex in September (it was here, a few miles east of Gold Beach, that the world record fly rod-caught chinook—71.5 pounds—was caught by Grants Pass angler Grant Martinsen, fishing from a small pram). Further up river, in the protected “Wild and Scenic” section, angling focus shifts to steelhead. Skilled oarsmen navigate the Class IV rapids in this section, such as Blossom Bar, to lead fishermen to the Rogue’s “half-pounders,” an immature form of steelhead that return to their natal river after just several months in the salt. The scenery on the Rogue is memorable; fall boaters venturing up river early or late in the day have an excellent chance of spying black bear against a vibrant background of gold and orange foliage. Access below Agness is limited to launches in the lowest sections of the river.

GOLD BEACH

Gold Beach is the gateway to the Rogue River, and to many offshore adventures. Thousands of fishermen visit Gold Beach each spring and summer to target returning chinook salmon in the estuary or offshore. In the estuary, it can be quite a circus, but excellent catch rates justify the crowds for many anglers. Bottom anglers enjoy consistent catches of ling cod and rock fish within a few miles of shore. Boaters (at a distance) can take in the Steller sea lion rookery on the Rogue Reef, or gaze at the many shorebirds that call this section of the coast home (Curry County is part-time home to more than 250 bird species).

BROOKINGS

Brookings is the last port before the California border, and boasts some of Oregon’s most compelling coastline. It includes Boardman State Scenic Corridor, a 12-mile collection of islands, beaches, coves and capes. A cruise along this stretch will expose you to 300-year-old Sitka spruce and spectacular rock formations. The Chetco River meets the Pacific at Brookings Harbor, which is a point of departure for both off-shore anglers and those pursuing salmon and steelhead in the estuary. Fishing for salmon peaks in late fall, for steelhead in February and March. The upper reaches of the river are limited to non-motorized craft.

Tales from the Rogue

“One time, I had some clients fishing in the lower Rogue, near Gold Beach. One of them hooked into a big fish, and the fish went right for the outboard of a nearby boat. I yelled, ‘Pick your motor up,’ as I was sure that fish would get tangled around the other guy’s outboard and break off. The guy tried to pick his motor up, and proceeded to fall overboard—and sure enough, the fish got tangled around the motor! Somehow we managed to fish the guy out of the drink, untangle the fish and land it. It was 42 pounds.”

Helen Burns
Oregon Fishing Guide

Zane Grey's Rogue River Footprint

Western writer Zane Grey loved the Rogue for its steelhead and salmon fishing, and kept a cabin on the river near Winkle Bar. In fact, the cabin remains standing today, and is listed on the register of national historic places. Grey was one of America’s most prolific writers, cranking out 57 novels, over 200 short stories, 10 non-fiction westerns, hunting and fishing articles and more than 100 screenplays. Before becoming a writer, Grey was a baseball player and a dentist. Though Grey passed on in 1939, his books still sell over 500,000 copies worldwide a year.



THE
Southern Oregon
 REGION

The presence of lovely mountain lakes set close to attractions like Crater Lake National Park, Ashland and the Rogue and Umpqua rivers has made southern Oregon a popular vacation retreat for many generations. During a vacation week at Diamond, Emigrant, Howard Prairie or Lost Creek lakes, a family can mix mornings fishing or waterskiing with afternoons hiking in a national park or taking in a play. For variety, it doesn't get much better!

Southern Oregon has long been a magnet for serious anglers. The North Umpqua River is legendary for its summer steelhead runs, though it does not easily yield its quarry. The Upper Rogue, the Williamson and the Wood are fabled trout fisheries, with the rainbows of the latter rivers sometime approaching double digit proportions. For many fishing in southern Oregon is synonymous with Diamond Lake, a still water set against magnificent Mount Thielsen; the beauties below the surface are rivaled by those above!

Off the water, southern Oregon offers an incredibly broad range of recreational activities. History buffs will find snapshots of Oregon's Victorian-era past in the town Jacksonville. Thespians will thrill to the productions of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. And hikers will find limitless trails among Crater Lake National Park, the Rogue-Umpqua National Forest and the Mount Thielsen Wilderness.

Wonderful Waterfalls

There are a number of waterfalls in the vicinity of Diamond Lake, attracting onlookers and artists to their mighty cascades. Susan Creek Falls, Toketee Falls or Watson Falls are three favorites. Watson Falls, which tumbles 272 feet, is the third highest waterfall in Oregon. Toketee (from the Chinook word for "graceful") may be the most photographed. The mist of the falls provides great relief on warm summer days.

PHOTO: DENNIS FRATES



Slack water on the Rogue River.

Rogue Wild and Scenic River.

Saving The Lake

When tui chub were illegally introduced to Diamond Lake in the 1990s, they rapidly proliferated, degrading the lake's water quality and its ecosystem. The only reliable solution for controlling the chub—and restoring fishable populations of rainbow trout to the lake—has been to destroy them. In September of 2006, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife teams descended upon Diamond Lake, armed with rotenone, a plant substance that's been approved as a fish toxicant by the Environmental Protection Agency. (Rotenone is not toxic to humans, bird or other mammals, and is not detectable within weeks of treatment.) Diamond Lake will be stocked with mature rainbows in the spring of 2007—by opening day, it should be ready for fishing.



PHOTO: DENNIS FRATES

Ponderosa Pine on the shore of Diamond Lake.



DIAMOND LAKE

Sparkling in the shadow of the craggy peaks of Mt. Thielsen and Mt. Bailey at an altitude of 5,000 feet, Diamond Lake is a favorite still-water retreat for Oregonians. Over the years, Diamond Lake's abundant rainbow trout populations have drawn anglers here. Those seeking a different experience can rent sea cycles or paddle boats.

The journey to Diamond Lake is part of the fun. From the west, you'll follow Highway 138 along the North Umpqua River, one of the most beautiful rivers the state has to offer; from the east (Diamond Lake is the headwaters of the North Umpqua) you'll pass very close to Crater Lake National Park, one of the wonders of the west. Though it may be tough to pull yourself away from the water, there are some splendid hikes in the vicinity of the lake through forests of Douglas fir, old-growth ponderosa, and groves of oak. Diamond Lake has extensive facilities, including lodging, five boat launches, a marina, horse stables and a paved bike path around the circumference of the lake.

EMIGRANT LAKE AND HOWARD PRAIRIE LAKE

A little east of Ashland, there are two splendid lakes dotting this generally dry (by western Oregon standards) landscape—Emigrant and Howard Prairie. Emigrant Lake is a 806-acre impoundment that offers good fishing for warm water species like crappie and bass; trout and salmon are sometimes added to the mix. Emigrant is popular with waterskiers, windsurfers and sailors as well. There's also an attraction you won't find at many other Oregon impoundments—a 280-foot twin flume waterslide (open Memorial Day through Labor Day).

A few miles further east along Highway 533 you'll find Howard Prairie Lake. Framed by 6,138-foot Brush Mountain to the east, 1,900-acre Howard Prairie is popular with power boaters and sailors alike; in fact, it's the home of the Rogue Yacht Club, southern Oregon's premiere sailing organization (the RYC hosts a free sailing day each summer where visitors at the lake's resort are invited to come aboard a member's boat for a cruise around the lake). The lake's population of rainbow trout draw a dedicated group of anglers. Howard Prairie has extensive marina service, food and lodging, and the surrounding hills offer hundreds of miles of hiking trails. With its proximity to Ashland and Crater Lake, Howard Prairie is a popular base for southern Oregon vacationers; in fact, it's regularly recognized as the top recreational area of its kind in the state!

LOST CREEK LAKE

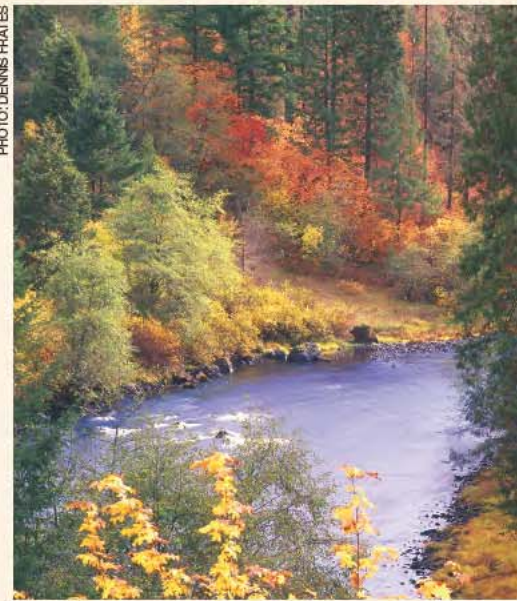
Lost Creek Lake is an impoundment of the Upper Rogue River, on the Crater Lake Highway northeast of Shady Cove. Its idyllic location in a heavily wooded canyon makes it a cool and scenic summer retreat, one that's enjoyed by waterskiers, kayakers and anglers alike. Those hoping to wet a line will find rainbow trout, smallmouth bass and landlocked chinook salmon. Thirty miles of shoreline provide many sheltered spots for whiling away a lazy afternoon; pedal and aqua boats are available for rent for those seeking a leisurely tour. Eleven miles of trails wind around the lake, making it easy for hikers and bikers to encounter the wildlife that call the woods home. Just downstream of the Lost Creek Dam is the Cole M. Rivers Hatchery, where spring chinook, coho, summer steelhead and winter steelhead are reared.

A boater begins her day at Lost Creek Lake.



PHOTO: OSMB

PHOTO: DENNIS FRATES



North Umpqua River.

The Legend of Crater Lake

Local Native Americans witnessed the collapse of Mount Mazama some 7,700 years ago and kept the event alive in their legends. One such legend of the Klamath People tells of two chiefs, Llao of the Below World and Skell of the Above World, pitted in a battle which ended up in the destruction of Llao's home, Mt. Mazama. The mountain's eruption led to the creation of Crater Lake. The Klamath Indians revered the lake and the surrounding area, shielding it from non-Native explorers until 1853, when three gold prospectors stumbled upon the lake. But gold was more on the minds of settlers at the time and the discovery was soon forgotten. Captain Clarence Dutton, commander of a U.S. Geological Survey party, was the next known Euro-American to visit Crater Lake. From the stern of his survey boat the Cleetwood, Dutton sounded the depths of the astonishingly blue waters with lead pipe and piano wire. His recording of 1,996 feet was amazingly close to sonar readings made in 1959 that established the lake's deepest point at 1,932 feet—which makes Crater Lake the deepest lake in the United States.



THE
Central Oregon
 REGION

From the alpine lakes that circle Mt. Hood and Mount Bachelor to the mighty Lower Deschutes River and immense Klamath Lake, Central Oregon offers a tremendous array of fresh water boating opportunities—perhaps more than anywhere else in the state. Combine stunning mountain backdrops, first-rate fishing and an average of more than 250 sunny days a year, and you can begin to understand why so many boaters choose to launch their vacations—and their craft—in this region.

Central Oregon is all about diversity. You can wade and fly-fish a little creek in the morning and slalom across a vast reservoir in the afternoon—with perhaps a bit of snow skiing or golf thrown in along the way, depending on the time of year you visit (if it happens to be May or June, you might get to play golf AND ski!) Move west of Highways 26 and 97, and you experience thick forests of lodgepole pine and Douglas fir, a definitively mountain environment. Move east of the highways, and the forests give way to rugged high desert environs, stands of sagebrush and juniper that out-of-state visitors don't usually associate with Oregon. When you use central Oregon as a base—be it Klamath Lake in the south, Bend or Sisters in the center or Madras and Maupin in the north—you get a taste of almost everything the state has to offer.

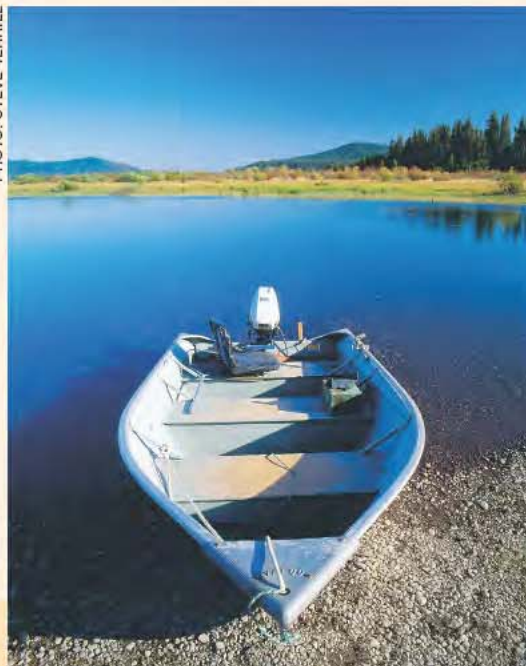
Timberline Lodge

Resting at 6,000 feet on the southern flank of Mt. Hood, Timberline Lodge is one of the gems of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The lodge was built almost entirely by hand by legions of skilled and unskilled craftspeople and dedicated in 1937 by President Franklin Roosevelt. Timberline Lodge National Historic Landmark is now one of Oregon's most highly visited tourist attractions. Several day hikes depart from Timberline, or you can ride the Magic Mile Sky Ride to the 7,000 foot elevation for even more spectacular vistas.

Evening light on Mt. Hood from Lost Lake.

Crane Prairie Reservoir.

PHOTO: STEVE TERRILL





THE LAKES OF THE MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

Mt. Hood is perhaps Oregon's most recognizable landmark, a monolith that's visible from miles in every direction. The geothermal upheaval that created this volcanic mountain also left many craters where alpine lakes would eventually form. These include Trillium, Clear, Laurence, Timothy, Olallie and Lost Lake. All of these lakes offer good trout fishing and incredible scenery, with the stately snowcapped peaks of Mt. Hood or Mt. Jefferson unexpectedly poking above the tree-lined shores as you round a cove. Most offer excellent camping facilities for weekenders from the Willamette Valley seeking an alpine respite; after all, some of the lakes are just an hour east of Portland. Off the lakes, many hiking opportunities are available, and history buffs can trace the last segments of the Oregon Trail which cuts across Mt. Hood National Forest.



Lake Billy Chinook.

PHOTO: STEVE TERRILL



White water on the Deschutes River.

LOWER DESCHUTES

The Deschutes River slices through the center of Oregon, flowing from humble beginnings at Little Lava Lake in the Cascade Mountains to its terminus at the Columbia River. The Lower Deschutes—the 100 miles from Pelton Dam to the Columbia—is a powerful, even imposing, river. The rugged, 2,000-foot tall basalt canyons and high desert environs that envelop the Deschutes augment its stark beauty; a river of such fecundity seems misplaced amidst such stark, sagebrush surroundings, a veritable oasis. The Lower Deschutes is revered by anglers and whitewater enthusiasts alike. The river's native rainbow trout and runs of native and hatchery-bred steelhead make it one of the west's most popular angling venues; drift boaters set forth from a variety of launches from Warm Springs in the south to Mack's Canyon in the north for single-day or multi-day floats. Jet boaters head upstream from the mouth to ply famed fishing holes like Steelie Flats. Rafters and kayakers celebrate the Deschutes for its many famed rapids with colorful names like Buckskin Mary, Box Car and White Horse.

LAKE BILLY CHINOOK

Lake Billy Chinook rests in a spectacular high desert setting south of Madras, encircled by high basalt cliffs and hillsides dotted with juniper and sagebrush. Formed by the construction of Round Butte Dam in 1964, the lake includes the canyons of the Deschutes, Crooked and Metolius Rivers; the inflows of these nutrient rich rivers may help explain Billy Chinook's healthy populations of bull trout and kokanee salmon. Given the region's warm air and the lake's cool waters, Billy Chinook (which takes its name from a Tribes of the Warm Springs ancestor) is a favorite venue for waterskiers and wakeboarders who can take in the awesome canyon lands while slaloming to and fro. Billy Chinook may be best known for the legions of houseboaters it attracts. No vacation home gives easier access to the water! (A number of campgrounds and marinas are available for those who don't opt for a houseboat!)

The Tam-a-láu Trail

The Tam-a-láu Trail was created in 1997 through the joint efforts of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Portland General Electric, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to provide controlled access to an isolated 200-acre plateau called The Peninsula, one of the few remnants of pre-settlement ecology in the West. The six-mile loop trail provides excellent vistas of the Cascade Mountain peaks and the Deschutes and Crooked River canyons, and gives a sense of the challenges early homesteaders faced in this unforgiving region.

Crooked River National Grassland

The 155,000-acre Crooked River National Grassland is one of the largest tracks of preserved grassland in the United States. Between 1880 and 1930, settlers attempted to farm the land, but found it too dry. In 1954, the government began a rehabilitation of the land, replanting devastated areas with native grasses—it's considered a huge success. Many remnants of the settlers' attempts to tame this unrelenting land are still present, including stone shelters, tools, cans, log cabins, barns and water troughs; they can be viewed, but not disturbed. The region also provides habitat for over 300 animal species, including deer, elk, antelope, mountain lion, Northern Bald Eagle and the endangered Peregrine Falcon.

PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR

Situated fifteen miles south of the town of Prineville, 3,030-acre Prineville Reservoir was formed when Bowman Dam was constructed across the Crooked River in 1961. The lake attracts many anglers—trout fishermen do best in the cooler months; in the summer, fishing for small and largemouth bass, catfish and crappie picks up. Prineville is also popular with skiers and wakeboarders seeking a little respite from the central Oregon sun.

On the northeastern edge of the reservoir, you'll find the Prineville Wildlife area, which affords excellent bird watching in the summer months (including golden eagles, prairie falcons and Brewers blackbirds) and a chance to observe mule deer in the winter. Some boaters will make their way to Prineville Reservoir along Route 27, a beautiful road that hugs the lower Crooked River—a favorite trout stream for fly fishermen. Fully equipped campsites are available on the lake; rustic sites along the Crooked River.

CASCADE LAKES

Central Oregon is blessed with many amenities that make it an outdoor recreation paradise. The many lakes south of Bend—collectively called the Cascade Lakes—are one of the region's prime attractions. Drop-dead vistas of snowcapped mountains, excellent fishing—not to mention easy access to off-water activities like hiking, rock-climbing, biking, golfing and much more—make the Cascade Lakes a stand-out destination for boaters of all stripes. A few of the most popular still waters are highlighted on the next page.

A canoe glides out onto Sparks Lake with a view of South Sister.





Paulina Peak reflecting in Paulina Lake.

LAVA LAKE

Lava Lake takes its name from the lava flows that created a dam along its eastern shoreline, holding in waters from subsurface springs. One of the closest lakes to Bend and Sunriver, Lava Lake is very popular with boaters and anglers, who enjoy sensational views of Mount Bachelor while casting for trout in its clear, cool waters. Campsites and resort accommodations are available.

CULTUS LAKE

Lunker lake trout (mackinaw) are the big draw to this 790-acre lake in the shadow of Cultus Mountain. Lakers in the 10-pound range are common, with trout to 20 pounds not unheard of. Waterskiers are welcome here, where the other Cascade Lakes are limited to 10 mph. Campground and resort accommodations are available.

ODELL LAKE

At 3,500-acre Odell Lake is among the largest of the Cascade Lakes, resting between Highway 58 and towering Diamond Peak. Odell is known for its lake trout—in fact, the state record, a 40-pound, 8-ounce giant—came from here in 1984. Kokanee are also present in good numbers, as are rainbow trout. Campground and resort accommodations are available. (Take note—Odell can get rough on windy days, so use caution.)

PAULINA LAKE

Paulina Lake occupies a section of the caldera in Newberry National Volcanic Monument (East Lake is also here). Anglers know Paulina for its prolific numbers of kokanee, and its trophy brown trout. Indeed, the state record brownie, which topped 27 pounds, came from its waters in 1993. Several campgrounds and a resort are available.

Newberry National Volcanic Monument

One of Oregon's most fascinating and accessible volcanic sites is the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, south of the thriving city of Bend in the Deschutes National Forest. Near the summit of the Monument, which rests at an altitude of over 6,500 feet, is a lava field of shiny, black obsidian rock, a striking sight. (Local Native Americans found that this volcanic "glass" made for excellent arrowheads and other tools, and traded it throughout the Northwest.) The Lava Cast Forest, created when lava flows formed casts around trees that later decayed and left only the lava standing, is another must-see landmark here.

KLAMATH LAKE

Klamath Lake (sometimes called Upper Klamath Lake) spans over 30 miles in length and eight miles in width, making it one of the largest lakes west of the Rocky Mountains. The lake is popular with windsurfers and sailors thanks to its strong—though sometimes unpredictable—winds; in the summer months, visitors can watch or partake in regularly scheduled regattas. Boaters will find countless uncrowded bays to explore; in the spring and fall, you'll find vast legions of waterfowl stopping over as they make their way north and south. Canoeists and kayakers will find miles of waterways to explore in the marshlands on the north side of the lake around Pelican Bay, allowing intimate encounters with deer, otter and other wildlife. In a state celebrated for its fine fishing lakes, Klamath Lake may be the most famous. A native strain of rainbow trout calls the lake (and some of the ice cold rivers that feed the lake from the north) home; Klamath rainbows regularly reach double digits; this is one of the few places in the United States where anglers have a real shot at catching a 10+ pound wild rainbow trout! Angling peaks after ice-out (usually early June), and again in late September, as the lake cools down.

On the Flyway

Klamath Lake is the centerpiece of the Klamath Basin, the largest freshwater ecosystem west of the Great Lakes.

The lake and refuge are situated in the heart of the Pacific Flyway, which attracts more than 430 species of birds, including sandhill cranes, pelicans and bald eagles. During peak migration times in the fall, more than a million birds pass through this area. Howard Bay is a common place to see nesting pelicans, blue herons, and snow geese. The southern end of the lake is home to bald eagles all year round.

Self-guided canoe trails at Klamath Lake, Tule Lake and the Klamath Marsh refuges—and interpretive trails at the Tule Lake and Klamath Marsh refuges—allow for close-up bird encounters.



Aspens line the shore of Pelican Bay in Upper Klamath Lake at Rocky Point.





THE
Eastern Oregon
 REGION

From the snowcapped peaks of the Wallowas, the “Alps of Oregon,” to Hells Canyon, America’s deepest ravine, eastern Oregon is a land of dramatic extremes. The generally dry terrain is punctuated by several inviting lakes and rivers, providing boaters with an opportunity to enjoy some of Oregon’s most pristine natural settings in relative solitude.

In good precipitation years when the snow packs of the Wallowa Mountains, the Elkhorn Range and the Blue Mountains keep water levels consistent, the region’s reservoirs provide excellent trout fishing. In addition to Thief Valley (featured in the following pages), trout anglers flock to Krumbo and Chickahominy reservoirs and Mann Lake. Unlike in most parts of Oregon, many waters of the eastern region also offers first-rate fishing for warm water species like smallmouth and largemouth bass, catfish and crappie. Vast Brownlee Reservoir is especially notable.

Eastern Oregon’s aquatic attractions go far beyond fishing. Alpine Wallowa Lake was custom-made for family getaways, providing a full-range of boating activities, plus lots of off-the-water fun. Likewise, Lake Owyhee provides a respite from the warm sun that’s a far more present companion here than in the western parts of the state. For the more adventurous, few thrills beat those of running the rapids on the Snake River as it courses through Hells Canyon. When you combine the region’s water recreation opportunities with its rich Native American and pioneer history and wide open spaces, it’s a wonder more people don’t make the trek to take advantage of everything Eastern Oregon has to offer.

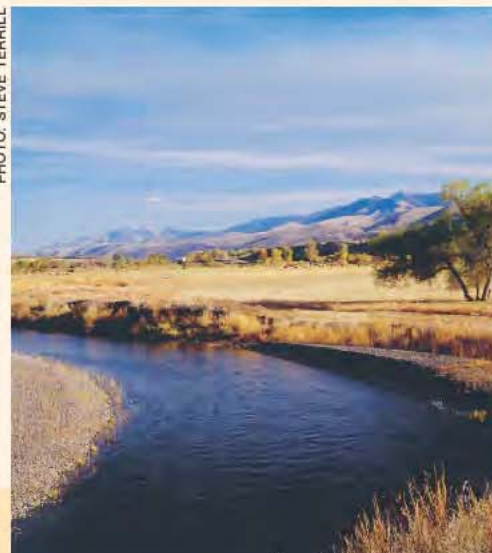
Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce

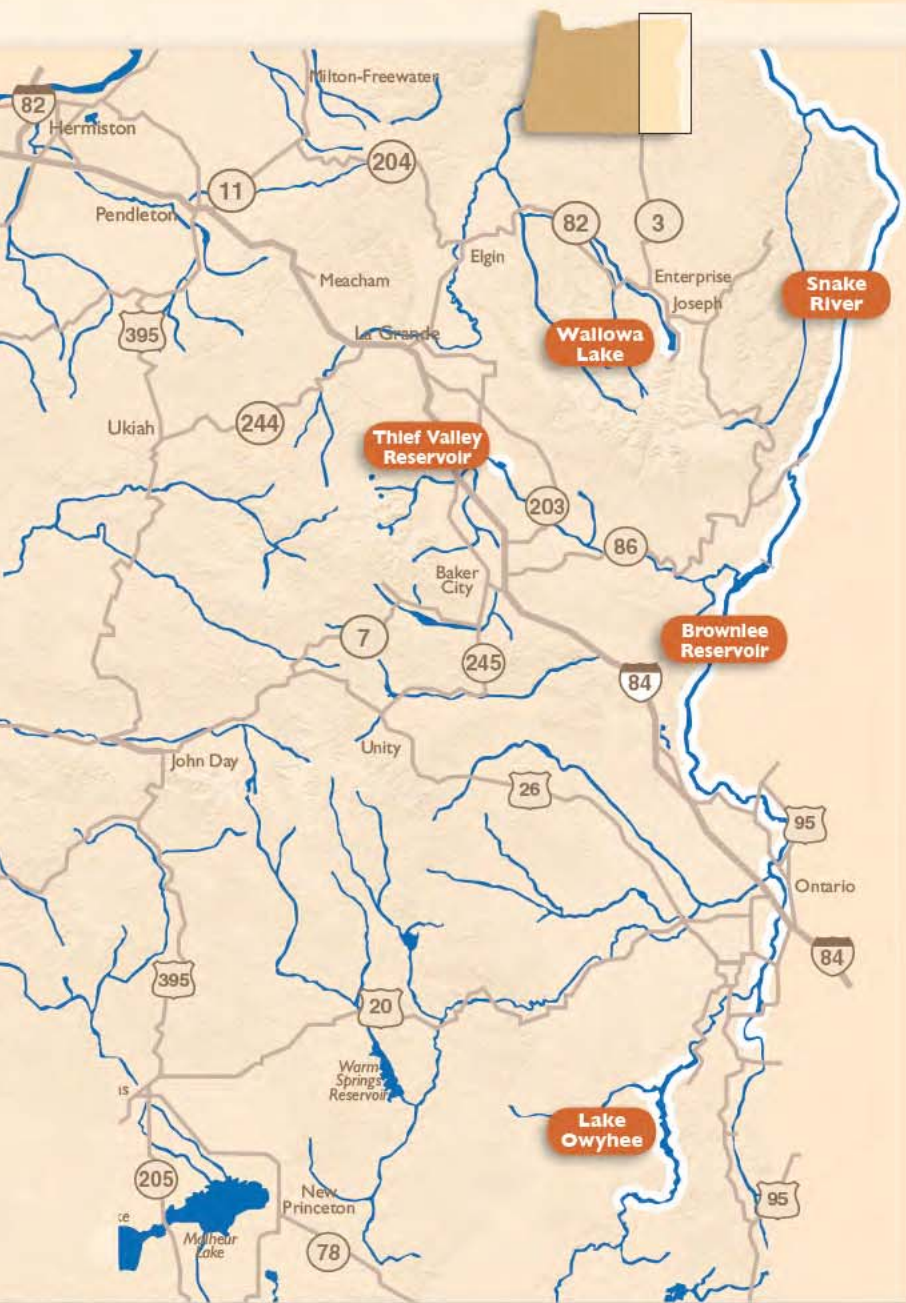
The word “Wallowa” is derived from the Nez Perce name for the tripod used to support the fishing nets that were used in area rivers. The picturesque Wallowa Valley was once the beloved home of the Nez Perce Indians. By winter of 1877, settlement conflicts drove Young Chief Joseph to make a tragic attempt—a “Trail of Tears”—to reach Canada with a group of 250 men, women, and children. They struggled to within 24 miles of safety before being captured in Montana and sent to reservations. This area remains a significant religious and cultural center for the Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Cayuse Indians. The Wallowa band of the Nez Perce gathers in the Valley each July for Tamkaliks, an annual Friendship Feast and Pow Wow.

Chief Joseph Mountain and Ruby Peak reflecting in Wallowa Lake.

John Day River near Picture Gorge.

PHOTO: STEVE TERRILL





WALLOWA LAKE

Wallowa Lake rests in the shadow of the majestic Wallowa Mountains, just north of the town of Joseph. Formed by a glacier roughly nine million years ago, the lake is five-miles long, a mile wide, and reaches depths of nearly 300 feet. Wallowa Lake's beauty and recreational possibilities have been recognized for generations; the first hotel, restaurants and dance hall were established here in 1880! Today, visitors come to fish for the lake's kokanee and rainbow trout, to waterski and even parasail. (The Wallowa River, which feeds and drains from Wallowa Lake, is also popular with trout anglers.) The Eagle Cap Wilderness Area borders the lake on the south, and offers tremendous hiking opportunities; mini golf, go-karts and paddle boats are available nearby for kids young and old. If you want to scale a mountain but aren't quite ready for a climb, the Wallowa Lake Tramway climbs 3,700 feet to the summit of Mount Howard, at 8,150 feet. Marina services, camping and lodging are available at the lake.

Sweet Honey in the Rocks

Among the arid canyons along the eastern shore of Lake Owyhee there's a geologic curiosity that can only be reached by boat. The craggy, puckered formation—called the Honeycombs—is believed to have been formed by magma that hardened and was later eroded by wind and rain. The rocky spires of the Honeycombs are especially striking in the spring, when they're adorned by blossoming wildflowers.

PHOTO: DAN SHERWOOD



Waterskiing on the picturesque Wallowa Lake.

Snake River

The Snake is one of America's great rivers, flowing over 1,000 miles from its origins in the mountains of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, meandering slowly west across Idaho, then north to form the border between Oregon and Idaho before entering the Columbia near Pasco, Washington. Much of the Oregon section of the Snake flows through Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Hells Canyon is one of Oregon's—and America's—most impressive natural wonders. At Granite Creek below Hells Canyon Dam, the canyon depth is almost 8,000 feet! According to Nez Perce folklore, Coyote dug Hells Canyon with a big stick to protect ancestors in Oregon's Blue Mountains from the 'Seven Devils' (mountain range) across the gorge in what is now Idaho. (Pictographs and petroglyphs, as well as winter pithouse villages, are scattered along the river, documenting Native American presence in the canyon for over 11,000 years.) Geologists believe that Hells Canyon was formed by normal stream erosion as the Snake River cut its way through rocks of a rising mountain range, beginning six million years ago. Whichever explanation you favor, you'll agree that time spent in the canyon is unforgettable. For whitewater enthusiasts, passing over Wild Sheep and Granite Creek Rapids are a rite of rafting passage. Anglers can find both migrating steelhead and a variety of warm water species. Wildlife—including bighorn sheep, deer, and bear—is often viewed from the river; a hike up one of the many trails leading up from the water offers up-close animal encounters. PLEASE NOTE: Special restrictions apply and some permits are required for boating on the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

Hells Canyon Overlook

The Hells Canyon Overlook—accessible from Oregon Forest Road 3965—offers breathtaking vistas of the canyon below, as well as McGraw Creek, Hells Canyon and the Seven Devils Mountains, which form the Idaho border for some forty miles. He Devil, the tallest peak in the range, is 9,393 feet.

PHOTO: ERIC W. VALENTINE



Kayaking on the Snake River.

PHOTO: LEON WERDINGER



Motoring up Hells Canyon.

Hells Canyon.

PHOTO: DENNIS FRATES



National Historic Oregon Trail Center

The Oregon Trail Center (just north of Baker City) was built as a monument to emigrants who journeyed across much of the country to reach the Willamette Valley—and, as it turned out, many other points along the way. The center offers extensive interactive exhibits and dioramas, seasonal living history performances, and interpretive/educational programs in an indoor theater, covering historic themes including the explorers, mining, and settlement history. Paved footpaths lead to 150-year-old wagon wheel ruts left by thousands of pioneers.

BROWNLEE RESERVOIR

In a state known for its tremendous cold water fisheries, Brownlee Reservoir is an anomaly—a tremendous warm water fishery, perhaps the best in the Pacific Northwest. Brownlee—a through-flowing impoundment of the Snake that's due east of Baker City and north of Ontario—stretches some 57 miles along the Oregon and Idaho border, and has yielded state record smallmouth bass and flathead catfish. It's also home to largemouth bass, bluegill, bullheads, blue and channel catfish, crappie, pumpkinseed... and a few colder water species like sturgeon, rainbow and brown trout, steelhead and walleye. The secret of Brownlee's bounties is out—Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department reports show Brownlee is among Oregon's most popular fisheries in terms of fisherman hours. Brownlee can be accessed from the south at Farewell Bend State Park near the town of Huntington, once a resting place for Oregon Trail sojourners. In the north, it can be accessed near the dam at Woodhead Park, in the town of Cambridge. Hewitt/Holcomb Parks, on an arm of Brownlee above where the Powder River feeds in (near the town of Richland) is another popular boating venue. From here, Brownlee is just a seven-mile boat ride away.

LAKE OWYHEE

Lake Owyhee is a veritable oasis in the arid reaches of southeastern Oregon. The lake, some 30 miles southwest of Nyssa, was formed by the damming of the Owyhee River, and stretches some 40 miles. With the Owyhee Mountains to the east, Owyhee Lake offers spectacular high desert scenery; anglers are sure to miss a few bites from resident bass, crappie, catfish and trout while taking in the stunning rock formations that mark the shoreline. This wild, sparsely populated country is rich in wildlife, and mule deer, bighorn sheep and even mountain lions are sometimes seen around the lake. The name Owyhee has a curious history. A fur-trapping expedition led by a man named Donald McKenzie explored the region in 1819. Among the expedition's members were three men from Hawaii. These men were sent to explore the trapping possibilities of a river that terminated in the Snake. The Hawaiian men didn't return; one was later found murdered in their camp, and the others were never found. McKenzie named the river in their honor with a slightly original spelling. Lake Owyhee has several improved campgrounds, as well as a store for provisions (few services are available between the lake and Nyssa).



Rowing a drift boat down the Owyhee River.

PHOTOS: LEON WERDINGER



Camping on the banks of the Owyhee River.

Owyhee Lake ▶





THE
Columbia River
 REGION

The Columbia River winds 1,232 miles from its source at Columbia Lake in southeastern British Columbia, around east-central Washington State and then west/northwest to where it enters the Pacific near Astoria, Oregon. It is the second largest river in the United States (exceeded in volume only by the Mississippi), and the largest river flowing into the Pacific in the western hemisphere. Oregonians are fortunate to have this majestic waterway as a northern border for the last 300 miles of its journey to the Pacific. As the Columbia once led the Corps of Discovery to the sea, it now leads tens of thousands of boaters to chinook salmon, inspiring vistas and hours of fun.

The Columbia has many different personalities in its course through Oregon. From just east of Umatilla to The Dalles, it flows through high desert badlands, an unexpected burst of blue against the dun-colored canyons. Further west the high desert gives way to the lush greenery and grand rock formations of the Columbia River Gorge. After rolling past the busy industrial ports of Portland and Vancouver, the mighty Columbia gears up for its final flow to the ocean. Some boaters spend most of their time near the mouth in quest of silver-fresh salmon; others may follow the fish as they move upstream, to Bonneville and beyond. Others may not fish at all, instead choosing to zip along above the waves on a kite-board—or slowly cruise along with the flow on a catamaran.

Windsurfing Capital of the World?

Once upon a time, Hood River was a sleepy little orchard town. In the mid-70s, a few people arrived with wetsuits and little surfboards with sails attached...and the town has never been the same since! By the early 1980s, the Columbia Gorge—which acts as a wind tunnel to channel steady winds from the east and west—was widely recognized as one of the world's premiere wind surfing areas, and Hood River was at the center of the action. On a good wind day, windsurfers can be found ripping back and forth across the Columbia their sails rippling in a riot of color against the river's shifting blues and greens. These days, many Gorge wind enthusiasts have embraced kite surfing—where the participant stands on a board and is propelled forward by a controllable kite that flies above.

PHOTO: OSMB



Windsurfer near Hood River.

Waterskiing on the Columbia near Portland.

Historic The Dalles

The city of The Dalles takes its name from the French word "dalle," which described the river rapids that once punctuated this section of the Columbia. Before Lewis & Clark and the Oregon Trail pioneers arrived, The Dalles area was an important Native American fishing ground and gathering place. Tribes from the western Columbia River would meet here to trade with tribes from the eastern Columbia plateau. After the white man arrived, The Dalles served as a final stopover before pioneers pushed on by land or river toward the Willamette Valley. Free guided walking tours of The Dalles are offered in the summer months (and by appointment) and feature more than 100 significant sites. Included are the Original Wasco County Courthouse, a two-story wood frame structure built in 1859 to serve what was once the largest county in the United States (extending east to Montana); the stunning 1897 old St. Peter's Landmark, formerly a catholic church; and Pulpit Rock, which stands in the middle of 12th Street just as it did in the 1800s when Methodist ministers preached to Native Americans and settlers. The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Historical Museum chronicle the region's rich natural and cultural history.

EASTERN OREGON—FROM UMATILLA TO THE DALLES

The Columbia begins its border with Oregon near the town of Umatilla. From this point west to The Dalles Dam, the river flows slowly through stark high desert canyons in a series of pools formed by the impoundments. Anglers here focus on smallmouth bass and largemouth bass and walleye in the spring and summer when the river warms; shad, steelhead and salmon are also available, particularly in the fall, along with sturgeon; the waters near the mouth of the Deschutes and the John Day are especially good for steelhead and salmon when the runs are on. (Western Division Bassmaster championships are often held on the eastern section of the Columbia, which speaks to its excellent bass fishing!) If you have binoculars aboard, pan the hillsides adjoining the Columbia near Blalock Canyon and the John Day River on the Oregon side—bighorn sheep, reintroduced to the John Day Basin several years ago, often feed here. Though this section of the Columbia is not as well known as the Gorge for its windsurfing possibilities, brisk breezes can make for some fine sailing. Be aware: these same winds can make for significant waves—rollers big enough to upset small craft. Services are limited in this region, so be sure to provision yourself accordingly.



PHOTO: OSMB

Sturgeon fishing on the Columbia River.



Lower Deschutes Ri





Vista House at Crown Point State Park.



Boat near Columbia River.

PHOTO: ERIC W. VALENTINE



Know Your Salmon

When Oregonians say “Columbia River” and “salmon” in the same sentence, they generally mean chinook or king salmon. But chinook are not the only salmon returning to the Columbia—coho (silver) also return in considerable numbers, and to a lesser extent, sockeye and chum. To complicate matters more, three distinct runs of chinook migrate up the Columbia, in the spring, summer and fall. While different species of salmon are easily distinguishable from each other when they’ve begun their spawning transformation, they can appear quite similar when fresh from the salt. Here are some ways you can distinguish different species from each other:

- Chinooks have a dark mouth with a black gum line and spots on both lobes of their tail
- Coho have a light mouth with a white gum line and spots on only the upper lobe of their tail
- Sockeye have a white mouth and white gum line with no spots, few teeth and large bright gold eyes
- Chum have a white mouth with a white gum line and no spots on tail or back, but vertical bars on their sides



Hood River Marina.

Bonneville Dam

Work began on Bonneville Dam in 1933, and the immense structure was completed in 1938. While the construction of the dam gained Oregonians a powerful supply of electricity and flood control—and much needed employment for Depression-era workers—it negatively impacted Native American tribes who lost traditional fishing sites along the Columbia. An interpretive center at the dam highlights the impoundment's history. Depending on the time of year you visit, you can watch salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and other species from the dam's fish viewing station. Best times for viewing are spring and fall.

THE GORGE

West of The Dalles, the parched high desert that typifies the shoreline along the eastern Columbia begins to give way to lush, greener terrain. By the time you near Hood River, you've entered the Gorge—arguably, one of the prettiest stretches of water in the Lower 48. The Columbia Gorge was formed in part by one of the greatest floods of all time! Lake Missoula once covered an area half the size of Lake Michigan in western Montana; it had been formed by an ice dam across the river that's now known as the Clark Fork River. Toward the end of the last ice age, the ice dam would periodically rupture, sending tremendous floods—discharge rates estimated at ten times the combined flow of all the rivers in the world—down the Clark Fork and Columbia River. For example, it's been estimated that water would have been at a level of 830 feet at the current site of Bonneville Dam!

The attractions of the Gorge are multifold for boaters of all stripes. For cruisers, there's the sheer beauty of the land itself, typified by such landmarks as Beacon Rock, Rooster Rock and Multnomah Falls. For anglers, there are countless hot spots—below Bonneville Dam, and near the mouths of the Klickitat, Eagle Creek, the Sandy and the Wind River are just a few—for anadromous fish, such as salmon, steelhead, and shad. There's also a rumor going around that the waters near Hood River are not bad for a pastime called windsurfing! NOTE: below Bonneville Dam, the Columbia is subject to tidal fluctuations which can impact the current, so plan accordingly.

GREATER PORTLAND

As it rolls toward Oregon's population center, the Columbia becomes a busy place. Container ships bearing grain to Asia, freighters carrying automobiles and other goods to U.S. shores, and other commercial craft move to and fro, especially around the Columbia's confluence with the Willamette. A great number of recreational boaters—skiers, boarders, sailors and more—add to the hubbub! When spring chinook are making their way east, anglers flock to Multnomah Channel (among other venues) in hopes of placing some succulent filets on the barbecue; the Channel offers consistent fishing for catfish, crappie and bass in the summer months. The proximity of several large islands, including Government Island, offers an easy-to-reach destination for those seeking a mini-adventure; primitive camping is available there. Sauvie Island, just west of Portland, offers good terrain for wildlife viewing, including deer and bald eagles. And the number of houseboats on the Columbia and adjacent sloughs make for some interesting people watching too! For those willing to bundle up, a highlight of the boating season on this section of the Columbia comes in December with the Christmas Ship Parade. For two weeks each December, informal regattas of brightly decorated boats ply the river to the delight of onlookers. The Christmas Ship Parade has been a Portland institution for over 50 years.

ST. HELENS TO ASTORIA

The Columbia builds to a slow crescendo as it makes the final push to the salt. The river broadens out as it flows through Columbia County, creating many islands, sloughs and side channels for boaters to explore. The abundance of quiet water makes this section of the river a favorite for sea kayakers. The waters around Skamokawa on the Washington side of the river, amidst the Lewis and Clark and White-tailed Deer National Wildlife Refuges, is revered among paddlers. Moving west the tides exert a more and more powerful influence, and the river that was tamed by dams in its upper reaches approaches its historic grandeur. This big water is quite awesome, but demands respect; be aware of shallow areas that can go dry as the tide ebbs, and of tricky spits (like Clatsop and Peacock) which can pose hazards.

North Portland Harbor.

Sauvie Island

For Portlanders, Sauvie Island (pronounced "Saw-vee" or "So-vee") is a big chunk of country a few stone's throw from the bustling downtown. Once the home of the Multnomah Indians, Sauvie was visited by Lewis and Clark in 1805, who noted the abundance of wild potatoes. The Multnomah people were decimated by diseases introduced by settlers, and by the 1850s, Sauvie Island was staked out by newcomers, attracted by the rich soil and ample supplies of fish and game. The almost annual flooding that plagued Sauvie residents was mitigated by a series of dikes, and the island was connected to the rest of Oregon in 1950. While salmon anglers and waterfowl hunters flock to Sauvie in season, it's especially celebrated for its agricultural bounties.



Sailing under the interstate bridge near Portland on the Columbia River.



Oregon has a multitude of first-rate waterways well-suited for every water sport imaginable. We asked four seasoned boaters to comment on five of their favorite places to water ski, paddle, fish and sail in Oregon – and they’ve graciously shared their opinions here! What’s really the best place in Oregon to pursue your favorite water sport? Let the debate begin!

FIVE FAVORITE WATERSKI/ WAKEBOARD SPOTS IN OREGON



Shawn Karambelas grew up on upper Willamette River; waterskiing every morning and night for more than 15 summers. He’s made a career from his love of water sports, owning and operating SK Northwest.

UPPER WILLAMETTE RIVER NEAR CHAMPOEG STATE PARK

Some of the best smooth water in the state is on the Upper Willamette River from Newberg down to the Boones Ferry Landing. This area north and south of the I-5 Bridge is often referred to as “wakeboard alley”. (Wakeboarders take note: please avoid operation near developed shorelines. You are responsible for damage caused by your wake.) The earlier you are on the water, the more glass-like water there is to carve. This stretch of river doesn’t have much beach front, but Champoeg State Park has a nice dock to tie up against for lunch or to use the restroom facilities up top.

PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR

In July, the weather is hot and the water is nice and warm—you won’t mind hitting the water at Prineville! There is a nice sandy beach on the southwest shoreline between the State Park and the Resort (west of Roberts Bay). We enjoy camping here, but love having the resort and state park amenities so close. As you’d expect, morning water is glass; in the afternoon there’s more boat activity. Prineville is large enough that you could spend a weekend running around it and not explore it all.

FERN RIDGE LAKE

This is a great day trip for the family. Create a home base with the cooler and blankets up on the grass, and the boat along the sandy lake edge. Surrounded by forest, Fern Ridge Lake has beautiful scenery with a safe, clean feel for the family—it’s a water playground, with lots of room for you to find your own open space! Mornings offer the best water, but it never becomes really rough like some bigger bodies of water can. Take some time to explore the shoreline—you’ll find lots of scenery and wildlife.

COLUMBIA—MULTNOMAH CHANNEL / SAUVIE ISLAND

Multnomah Channel has it all—lots of wildlife, sandy beaches, and miles of calm, protected water. Again, please watch your wakes when operating near houseboats, moorages and docks. If you want to get away from the public this is a great place to go. This stretch of river has some of the richest wildlife on the river. Boating around the entire Sauvie Island can be an all-day event. The north side of the island offers more open water with much more space, but be aware that this is now a shipping lane.

COLUMBIA—GOVERNMENT ISLAND / MARINE DRIVE

With Mt. Hood in the background, this is an unforgettable site. Like other spots on the Columbia, the Government Island area has lots of sandy beaches and open water. This is a great stretch for wakeboarding or skiing, thanks to the protection the island affords—though in late summer, be aware of sandbars around the 205 bridge. There’s a great area to camp along the shoreline—you’ll wake up to glassy calm waters. This is one of the state’s best boating playgrounds around the 4th of July.

FIVE FAVORITE PADDLE TRIPS IN OREGON



Travis Williams is Executive Director of Willamette Riverkeeper. He knows the Willamette almost by heart, and has paddled many of Oregon’s other rivers, lakes, and estuaries.

JOHN DAY RIVER

The allure of the John Day—one of America’s longest undimmed rivers—can be found in its solitude. With the sound of rushing water in the background, one might awake in their tent in early May to the sound of a colorful Bullock’s Oriole working the tops of the pine trees for food as the morning sun shines off of the basalt canyons. The John Day is prized by those seeking a multi-day river journey on one of Oregon’s Wild and Scenic Rivers.

WILLAMETTE RIVER— EUGENE TO CORVALLIS

From Eugene to Corvallis (45 miles), the Willamette is a swift, ever-moving river. This section contains richly vegetated banks in places supporting towering black cottonwood trees, along with Oregon ash and Pacific willow—and an abundance of wildlife. There are many camp sites and access points, a legacy of the Willamette Greenway Program. They’re perfect for a summer overnight trip, with a good fire going in the fire pan, and the red sunset casting out over the rippling current.

WALDO LAKE

Nestled deep in the Cascades, Waldo is one of the most pristine lakes in the United States, offering spectacular views of adjoining mountains. The essence of Waldo Lake is its quiet and clarity—when one paddles out from the forested shoreline on a sunny day, the shadow of your canoe can be seen on the light colored sand of the lake bottom, even through 50 feet of water (though Waldo is over 400 feet deep in places). On a clear night, due in part to the altitude of the Lake, the radiance and clarity of the stars is simply amazing.

SIUSLAW ESTUARY

The Siuslaw Estuary is replete with wildlife and provides an abundance of scenery. On a calm morning as the tide is coming in, one can paddle upstream from Old Town as water reclaims the mudflats, and great blue herons punctuate the shoreline. One can also take the reverse route as the tide goes out. This estuary is approachable for a range of paddlers with some experience, though as with any large water body, one must be cognizant of sometimes powerful tidal currents and wind driven waves.

COLUMBIA RIVER—PUGET ISLAND

For experienced open water paddlers, the trip around Puget Island in the Columbia River makes for a great day-long getaway. As you paddle, one’s mind can wander to the wonderful history found along this section of the Columbia; it’s not hard to imagine a large Chinook Canoe plying these waters 200 years ago. This section of the Columbia is very scenic, and a range of bird species can be seen, with the big open water framed by the tree and shrub-lined shorelines interspersed with sandy beaches.

FIVE FAVORITE FISHING SPOTS IN OREGON



Henry Miller is the outdoor editor for the Salem Statesman Journal. He has been fishing the rivers, lakes and coastline of Oregon for 20 years; his biggest fish to date is a 44 pound ling cod caught on a charter out of Newport.

WALLOWA LAKE

Flanked by the Eagle Cap Wilderness and the Wallowa Mountains, there arguably is no more scenic fishing lake in Oregon than Wallowa Lake near Joseph. Its crystalline waters are stocked with rainbow trout during the tourist season, but also has a good self-sustaining population of kokanee—a landlocked variety of sockeye salmon. If you're at Wallowa around Labor Day, you can watch the kokes in full scarlet and green spawning colors swim out of the lake and up the Wallowa River.

TENMILE LAKES

North and South lakes south of Reedsport make up the coastal complex known as Tenmile Lakes—the top bass tournament waters in the state. It's not uncommon to see several fish checking in at more than 8 pounds during a typical tournament weigh-in. Because the lakes are shallow—average of about 15 feet deep—spring and summer fishing is tops, before the water chills in the winter or heats up in the summer, turning the fish sluggish.

LOWER ROGUE RIVER

Fishing guides talk about the banner years when the fall-run chinook salmon are so thick that limits are landed in less than an hour...and they don't take reservations, but instead run a shuttle service to take anglers queued at the docks at Gold Beach out to the fish and back to the cleaning stations! This may be an exaggeration, but not by much when the run is good. Fishing for the salmon that can top 40 pounds peaks in August and September, when fish move upriver with the first rains.

THE JOHN DAY POOL ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER

Known as Lake Umatilla, the impoundment above John Day Dam always offers something to catch—as long as you can stand the wind and the weather extremes! The fun includes steelhead in September at the mouth of the John Day River. Anglers focus on smallmouth bass and walleye—the state walleye record, almost 20 pounds, was caught in the pool in 1990—in the late spring through summer. Shad also make it up the Columbia as far as the town of Umatilla, peaking in late May and early June.

CRANE PRAIRIE RESERVOIR

This big impoundment near Bend is legendary for its big trout, both rainbows and brookies. Unlike most reservoirs, the site of Crane Prairie wasn't skinned off by loggers before filling in the 1920s—its wealth of snags and structure make it as picturesque as it is productive. In addition to monster trout (rainbows approaching 20 pounds are regularly hooked), there's also a healthy population of largemouth bass, the progeny of an illegal "stocking" that took hold.

While limits aren't guaranteed, the fish that you land will be worth the effort.

FIVE FAVORITE SAILING SPOTS IN OREGON



Jill Andrick lives on a 25' sailboat in North Portland, and is always ready to go boating on Oregon's world-class waterways - whether by sail or canoe.

THE COLUMBIA AROUND PORTLAND

Portland has the largest population of sailboats in Oregon, and many Portland sailors like to cruise back and forth from the Interstate Bridge to the east end of Government Island. The summer prevailing winds, out of the northwest, are ideal for sailing upstream; you can tack all the way home. There are awesome views of Mt. Hood on a clear day, and Government Island has several good anchorages for overnight stays and lunch stops.

THE COLUMBIA AROUND ASTORIA

The Astoria area also offers good winds and an opportunity to bring your boat out in the ocean. Sailing here keeps you on your toes, as the area also has a lot of shallow water at low tide and the current flows upriver on the flood tide is considerable. Overall, it's a great place to hone your ocean sailing skills—and help get rid of the ocean jitters.

HOWARD PRAIRIE RESERVOIR

Set in a beautiful canyon near the upper reaches of the Rogue River, Howard Prairie typically has steady winds and a lively sailing community. There are plenty of open areas for you to let out some sail, regular club sailings, and open regattas hosted by a local yacht club. It's close to Ashland, so you can combine a day of sailing with an evening of Shakespeare!

FERN RIDGE RESERVOIR

Fern Ridge Reservoir supports excellent sailing. Prevailing winds are from the west and provide steady sailing for the 5-mile length of the reservoir. Two popular yacht clubs host race series throughout the summer months, which include national and international competitions. Race classes include Lightening, Thistle, J-24, and Santana fleets are annual events. It's not unusual to be able to sail round the clock to train for extended cruising. The 11th Avenue canal on the south end of the lake off Perkins Peninsula opens to a winding channel affording excellent bird watching and slow "riverboat" cruising, perfect for a lazy summer afternoon.

COOS BAY

The waters around Coos Bay once hosted large clipper ships bound for ports around the globe. Today, Coos Bay (out of Charleston) provides great cruising. An average day might take you past old log mills, or under the breathtaking Coos Bay Bridge. These waters are tidal, so keep that in mind when you plan your day!



For all your boating needs and questions:

www.boatoregon.com

OREGON STATE MARINE BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Boating Facilities Guide

Map and list of statewide launch ramps and services.

Oregon Boater's Handbook and Regulations

General boating requirements and regulations in Oregon.

Lower Columbia River Guide

Helpful boating information from Astoria to Portland.

Middle Columbia River Guide

Helpful boating information from Bonneville Dam to Leslie Groves Park, Washington

Boating on Oregon Coastal Waters

Full color guide with pictures and charts of Oregon's coastal bays and specific safety information.

Willamette River Recreation Guide

Full color guide with river history, fishing information, and maps with services.

Oregon Marina Guide

Listing of marinas, both public and private throughout Oregon.

**Boat Smart.
Wear a Life Jacket.**

OREGON WELCOME CENTERS

ASHLAND (Southern Oregon) 60 Lowe Road. Exit 19 off I-5, next to the Econo Lodge. Open year-round

ASTORIA (North Oregon Coast) On Highway 30 between downtown Astoria and the Astoria-Megler Bridge. Open year-round.

BROOKINGS (South Oregon Coast) Two miles north of Brookings, across from the entrance to Harris Beach State Park on U.S. Highway 101. Open April through October.

KLAMATH (Southern Oregon) At the Southeastern Oregon/Midland rest area on U.S. Highway 97, nine miles north of the Oregon/California border and eight miles south of Klamath Falls. Open April through October.

LAKEVIEW (Southern Oregon) In downtown Lakeview, 15 miles from the Oregon/California border on Highway 395, 126 North E. St. Open year-round.

ONTARIO (Eastern Oregon) In the Ontario rest area on Interstate 84, approximately 1/4 mile from the Oregon/Idaho border. Open April through October.

OREGON CITY At The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, exit 10 off I-205. Open year-round.

PORTLAND ON INTERSTATE 5 At Jantzen Beach, exit 308 off I-5, near the OR/WA border. Open year-round.

UMATILLA (Northeastern Oregon) At 100 Cline St., exit 1 off I-84 (Brownell Blvd.). Open April Through October.

OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES

Oregon State Marine Board
503.378.8587
www.boatoregon.com

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
503.986.0707
www.prd.state.or.us

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
503.947.6000 or 800.720.6339
www.dfw.state.or.us

Oregon Film and Video Office
503.229.5832
www.oregonfilm.org

Oregon Lodging Association
503.255.5135
www.oregonlodging.com

Oregon Bed and Breakfast Guild
800.944.6196
www.obbg.org

Oregon State Parks Information
800.551.6949
Reservations: 800.452.5687
www.oregonstateparks.org

Oregon Department of Aviation
(Ore., Wash. Flight maps, flight seeing)
503.378.4880 or 800.874.0102
www.aviation.state.or.us

Opposite: Salmon fishing on Tillamook Bay.