

Central Oregon Fishing Report 4/08/09

by ODFW

Weekend fishing opportunities:

Anglers are starting to see hatches of BWO, caddis and some March Browns on the lower Deschutes. Crescent Lake has been giving up great catches of kokanee, lake trout and brown trout. The last week of March saw an upswing in bull trout fishing in the Deschutes and Crooked River arms of Lake Billy Chinook.
CLEAR LAKE: rainbow trout

No recent reports.

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

Fish On! Boat Launch Access is available at the Crescent Lake Lodge beach area. Please check in with the Crescent Lake Lodge. Anglers have been having great success catching kokanee, lake trout and brown trout.

CROOKED RIVER BELOW BOWMAN DAM: redband trout and mountain whitefish

Flows in the Crooked River are currently at 110 cfs. The weather was excellent over the weekend and the fishing was good. Signs marking redband spawning habitat were recently installed by volunteers from the Central Oregon Flyfishers, please avoid disturbing the substrate in these areas. It is also important to note that fishing with bait is not currently allowed; artificial flies and lures only until May 23.

All anglers are encouraged to visit informational kiosks located in the BLM campgrounds in the Wild and Scenic portion of the river where a flier has been posted to assist anglers in collecting valuable information. ODFW and OSU initiated a radio telemetry study on redband trout and whitefish in the fall of 2007. ODFW and OSU deployed new radio-tags in early October in fish caught by dedicated volunteer anglers from the Central Oregon Fly Fishers, Sunriver Anglers, ODFW, and OSU. Anglers are reminded that radio-tagged fish cannot be legally harvested. To determine if a fish is radio-tagged, anglers should check for an eight-inch wire antenna protruding from the rear of both redband and mountain whitefish. A sample of redband trout and mountain whitefish are also tagged with a numbered floy tag protruding from the back. Anglers who later catch a trout or whitefish with a floy tag are encouraged to release the fish after recording the tag number, fish length and location caught. Anglers can send the information to ODFW at (541) 447-5111 ext. 24 or e-mail.

DESCHUTES RIVER: steelhead, rainbow trout

Mouth to Warm Springs: steelhead, trout

The Deschutes River Canyon is ready to burst with spring flowers and bug hatches. Fly anglers should look for good morning hatches of Blue-winged olive, caddis and some March Browns. If you like fishing underwater, try a large stonefly nymph because the real stoneflies start getting active as the water continues to warm. The highest concentration of trout and whitefish are from around Maupin upstream to the reservation boundary.

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

No recent reports. This reach of the Deschutes currently provides winter angling opportunity for brown trout and redband trout. River flow below Bend is currently running 950 cfs.

FALL RIVER: rainbow trout

Recent reports indicate that the angling has been fair. The river above the falls remains open the entire year, and is restricted to fly-fishing only. River water temperatures are generally in the 38 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit range. As mid-day air temperatures get warmer, expect insect activity to increase. This is a popular winter fishery for fly fishers.

HAYSTACK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, brown trout

Rainbow trout fishing has been excellent from the shore and boats. Large fish have been active in the recent weeks with reports of 10lb rainbows being caught.

HOOD RIVER: summer steelhead, winter steelhead

Anglers are reporting catch of bright winter steelhead in the lower Hood River from the mouth upstream to Powerdale Dam. Early spring temperatures continue to warm water temperatures which should make steelhead more aggressive. Counts at Bonneville Dam have been improving, and anglers should be seeing increased numbers of fish. Winter steelhead numbers will continue to increase the next two weeks. Some mint bright summer steelhead have already been caught by anglers.

Find out how many fish are being captured at the Powerdale Dam trap.

KINGSLEY RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Access is likely marginal due to snow.

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

Kokanee catches have been consistent and 2009 catch rates are slightly greater than those from 2008. In the last week of March, anglers saw an increased catch rate of bull trout when compared to previous weeks. Angling opportunities appear to be best in the Deschutes and Crooked River Arms. Kokanee bag limit is five fish per day, included in the trout daily bag limit. Anglers should consult 2009 Sport Fishing Regulations for new angling regulations on Lake Billy Chinook.

METOLIUS RIVER: redband trout, bull trout

Some recent reports of a redband being active. April on the Metolius can provide a great angling experience. As day time temperatures start climbing into the higher 50s and lower 60s insect and hatch activity will increase. Please note that the reach of river from Allingham Bridge upstream to the Metolius headspring is currently closed to angling to protect spawning redband.

NORTH TWIN: rainbow trout

Folks are now able to access North Twin and the fishing is reported to be right fine. There is still a bit a snow on the last bit of road to the lake so a four wheeled drive vehicle is recommended.

OCHOCO CREEK UPSTREAM TO OCHOCO DAM: rainbow trout

Bait fishing is not allowed. Artificial flies and lures only, and regulations allow no more than two trout per day with only one trout greater than 20 inches and no trout under eight inches. Opportunities are good for native redband trout.

OCHOCO RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Anglers have reported catches of large fish and fishing is expected to improve with weather.

PINE HOLLOW RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Pine Hollow has been recently stocked and should provide good opportunity to catch various sizes of trout, including some large trout.

PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, black crappie, bass

No recent reports. Anglers should note an error in the 2009 fishing regulations for Prineville Reservoir (p. 63). The CORRECT regulation is: largemouth and smallmouth bass, 15 in. MAXIMUM length, only one of which may be a largemouth.

ROCK CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Pine Hollow has been recently stocked with trout and should provide good opportunity to catch a limit of trout.

SUTTLE LAKE: brown trout, kokanee

The boat ramp is reported to be accessible. No angler reports, though the lake should be ripe for anglers interested in chasing kokanee or brown trout.

TAYLOR LAKE: rainbow trout

Taylor Lake has been recently stocked with trout and should provide good opportunity to catch a fat trout. Taylor Lake is also a great spot to catch carp with flies, look for carp in the shallows as water temperatures warm with spring temperatures.

WALTON LAKE: rainbow trout

No recent reports. Gate to campground is locked, anglers must walk \hat{A} ¼ mile to the reservoir. Spring temperatures are likely to make ice unsafe; use extreme caution if checking ice conditions.