

## Oregon releases 2007 statewide trout stocking schedule

by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources

Are you looking for opportunities to catch trout in local lakes and streams? Then check the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website for the weekly statewide Trout Stocking Schedule. The site contains the most current stocking schedule for 2007 in the Northwest, Southwest, Willamette, Central, Northeast and Southeast Zones. Stocking occurs during the week of the date listed.

Anglers in the Northwest part of the state are invited to call (971) 673-6000 and press option (2) after 2 p.m. for a list of water bodies stocked each day. The schedule is subject to change due to water conditions or equipment malfunction. In the South Willamette Watershed, more than 4,000 trophy-sized trout will be released throughout the year with concentrations in Big Creek Reservoir, Cleawox Lake and Olalla Creek Reservoir. More than 2,500 trophy-sized trout will be released into the North Willamette Watershed with a major release in August of 800 fish each at both Harriet and Trillium Lakes and 400 fish into West Salish Pond.

“The trophy trout program gives anglers an opportunity to catch a rainbow weighing up to two pounds,” says Hal Boldt, Fish Liberation Coordinator. In the Northeast Zone, angling for rainbow trout at Thief Valley Reservoir should be very good this spring and summer due to the pool drawdown cycle and nearly 100,000 fingerlings stocked last spring. Phillips Reservoir should likewise be on the upswing with catch rates and average sizes increasing for trout, as well as larger and plentiful perch. The Youth Angling Enhancement Program will fund the stocking of extra legal and trophy-sized trout at Morgan Lake in late April and early June and at Highway 203 Pond and Marr Pond in early June. Wallowa Lake will receive in excess of 40,000 legal-sized trout this season. Check out Anthony Lake, Grande Ronde Lake, McNary Ponds and Jubilee Lake for trophy-sized trout in late June and July. Anglers should call the ODFW Region office in La Grande at (541) 963-2138 for the latest stocking information in the northeast region. More than 100,000 legal-sized trout will be released into Central Oregon water bodies. Lakes where these legal-sized fish will be periodically stocked include North Twin Lake, South Twin Lake, Walton Lake Antelope Reservoir, East Lake, Haystack Reservoir and Prineville Reservoir. Please refer to the trout stocking schedule for more information on the Deschutes Watershed Central Zone trout stocking program. In central Oregon anglers can call the High Desert Region office in Bend at (541) 388-6363 or the Hines office in southeast Oregon at (541) 573-6582.

Although total numbers of trout are down slightly for the Rogue Watershed due to losses from disease at local hatcheries last summer, flexibility within the hatchery system will allow all sites to be stocked again this year. To meet size targets, a portion of the fish normally stocked in spring will instead be stocked for a fall fishery at Lost Creek Reservoir, Fish Lake, and the Rogue River above Lost Creek.

Trout stocking in the area began in mid-February when more than 4,000 trout were released into Lake Selmac in Josephine County. Spring break anglers can fish any number of area ponds and lakes that will be stocked in mid-March. “We won’t have trophy-sized trout this year, but we did release adult summer steelhead excess to brood needs at the hatchery into Expo Pond at the Jackson County Fairgrounds and Reinhart Park Pond in Grants Pass,” said Dan Van Dyke, Rogue District fish biologist. “These ponds provide a nice urban fishing opportunity and a great spot for kids to have a chance at hooking a steelhead while fishing for trout this spring.”

Popular fishing spots in Douglas County, including Loon Lake, Ben Irving, Cooper Creek, and Galesville reservoirs will each receive 3,500 rainbow trout for spring break. On the southern coast, Garrison Lake and Libby Lake will be stocked with 2,600 and 1,400 trout respectively and Upper Empire Lake will receive trophy-sized trout. Upper and Lower Empire lakes and Bradley Lake also will receive legal-sized rainbows. For trout stocking information in the southwest region anglers should call (541) 440-3353.

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