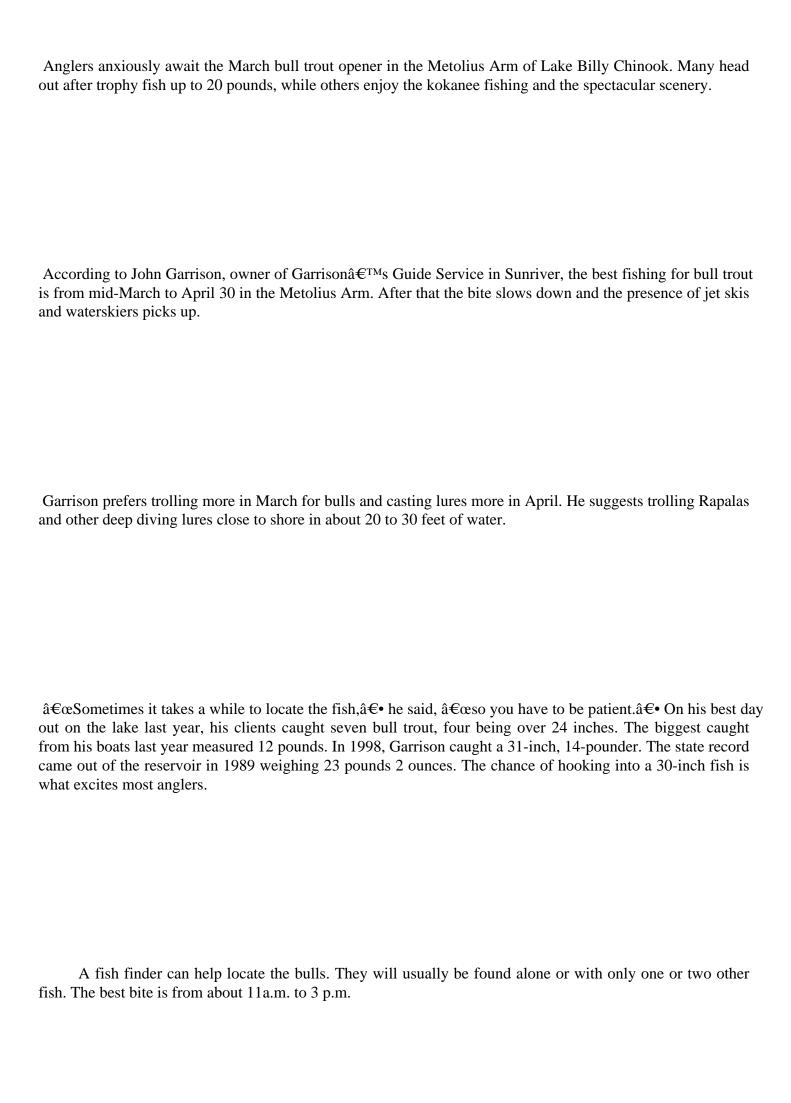
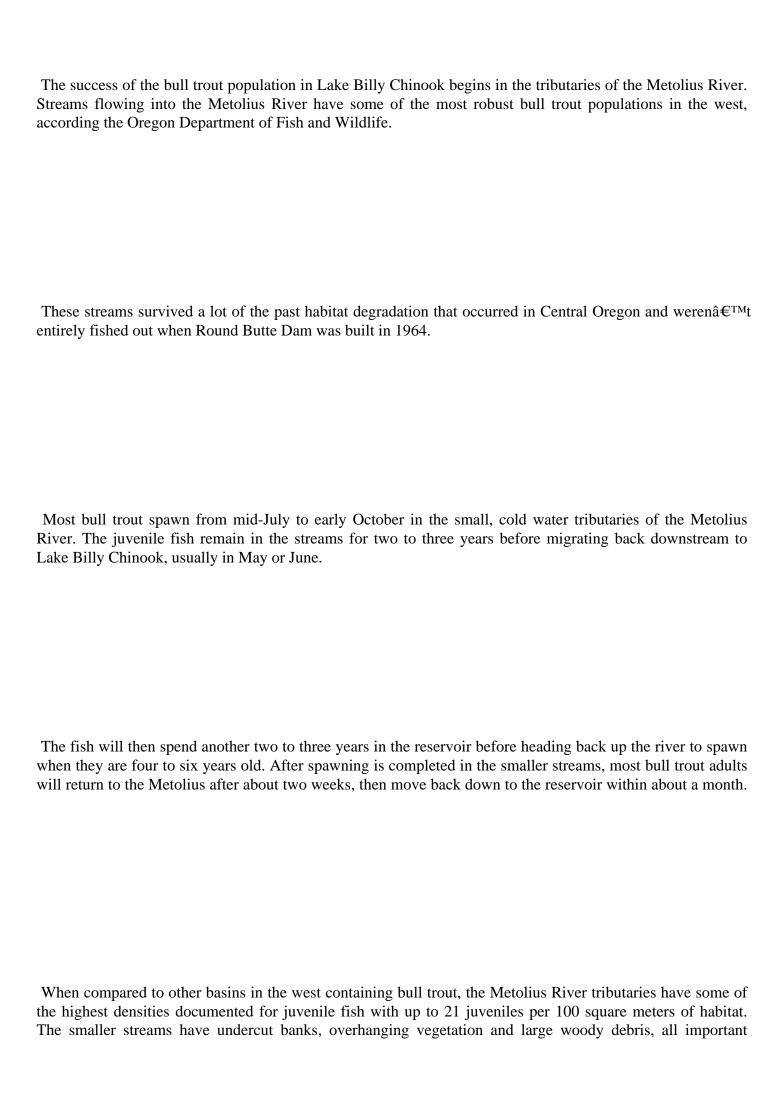
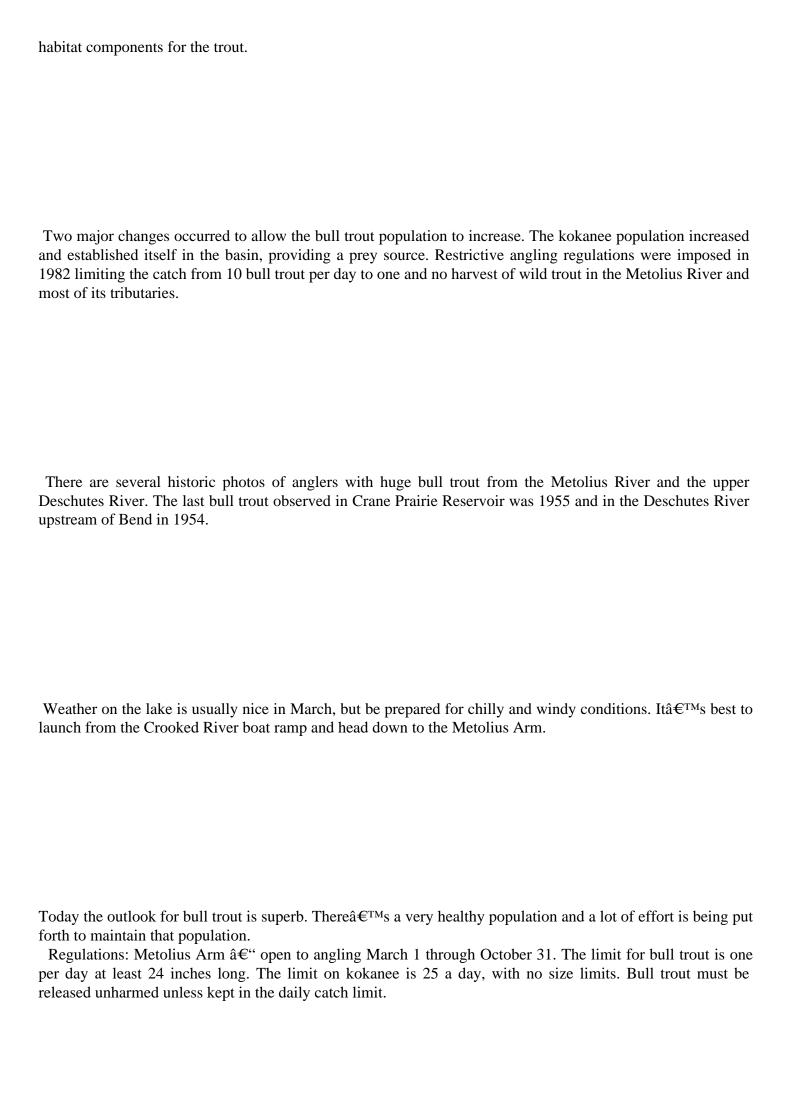
## Lake Billy Chinook is home to some of best bull trout fishing in the west by Scott\_Staats Sometimes it seems like the fish you lose are more memorable than the ones you catch. Such was the case on one of my first outings at Lake Billy Chinook several years ago. On the fifth cast toward shore, a big bull trout hit the Rapala and the fight began. John Garrison with his 14-pound bull trout from Lake Billy Chinook â€" photo courtesy of Garrison's Guide Service After several minutes of playing the fish (or more correctly, the fish playing me), it got to within 10 feet of the boat and appeared well over 24 inches, the minimum length for keeping bull trout. Then, just as quickly as it had begun, it was over. Somehow, the fish either managed to free itself of the lure or I managed to free the lure from the fish. I learned that if you give these bulls just a little slack, they're gone.

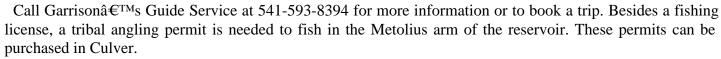
On another outing, I could see a few big bull trout prowling the shoreline. As soon as my Rapala hit the surface, one of the fish struck. After a few seconds of splashing and thrashing, the elusive fish let go. How a fish can spit out a lure with several large treble hooks attached is beyond me. I have since hooked and actually landed a fish over 24 inches.



"Most anglers try for bull trout due to the fact that they can grow to be a big fish and put up a fight much like a huge brown trout,― he said. When trolling, Garrison uses bait-casting reels with 12-pound test. For casting he uses spin-casting reels with 10-pound test.
Besides bull trout, anglers also have the opportunity to catch kokanee, brown trout and even bass later in the season. On slow days when the bulls aren't biting, anglers can be seen jigging for kokanee. Anglers need to be aware of a new law that states - It is unlawful to continue fishing for any fish once a bull trout has been harvested. So if you plan on fishing for other fish besides bull trout, you better do that first and try for bull trout afterwards.
Bull trout can also be caught in the Deschutes and Crooked River Arms of the reservoir but anglers usually have better luck for more and bigger fish in the Metolius Arm.
Some bull trout are tagged. If you happen to catch one of them, leave the tag in the fish if you release it and write down the information and turn it in to ODFW. If you keep the fish, return the tag to ODFW.







Regulations: Metolius Arm – open to angling March 1 through October 31. The limit for bull trout is one per day at least 24 inches long. The limit on kokanee is 25 a day, with no size limits. Bull trout must be released unharmed unless kept in the daily catch limit.

Call Garrison's Guide Service at 541-593-8394 for more information or to book a trip. Besides a fishing license, a tribal angling permit is needed to fish in the Metolius arm of the reservoir. These permits can be purchased in Culver.

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