



Lake Billy Chinook



LAKE HISTORY

Lake Billy Chinook has existed since 1964 when Portland General Electric constructed the Round Butte Dam. The lake was named for Billy Chinook, a well-known Wasco Indian scout from the Warm Springs region who traveled with explorer John Fremont in 1843.

PGE operated the Round Butte Hydroelectric Project until 1999 when it entered into an agreement with The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to co-manage the hydroelectric facilities. The project generates approximately 800,000 megawatts electricity per year for residents in the Portland metropolitan area.

Surrounded by mostly public lands, Lake Billy Chinook includes 72 miles of shoreline and a surface area of 4,000 acres. Its deepest point is 400 feet at Round Butte Dam. The reservoir stays full, or within one foot of full, from June 15-September 15.

AREA GEOLOGY

About 10-12 million years ago, alternating layers of stream sediments, volcanic debris and basaltic lava flowed from the Cascade Mountain Range into a huge basin in this area. Named the “Deschutes Formation,” these exposed layers of material were capped by lava flows from Cascade volcanos three million years ago. Known as “rimrock basalt,” the cap is easily seen high atop the steep cliffs of the canyons. Subsequent periods of dramatic water erosion and volcanic activity have formed the awe-inspiring canyons and vertical cliffs seen today.

THE COVE PALISADES STATE PARK

A popular year-round destination for camping and water sports, the park has a history that predates Lake Billy Chinook. The state leased the first land for a park in the Crooked River Canyon in 1940. The land included the site of a homestead named the “The Cove” after a popular swimming hole on the Crooked River. The name stuck as more park land was purchased during the next 20 years. The “Palisades” part of the name refers to the tall column-like formations seen in the basalt rimrocks. The park now consists of 4,403 acres, not including its original parcel lying 200 feet below the reservoir’s surface.

The temperature in this Oregon oasis is hot in the summer and mild in the winter. “The Cove” hums with activity on the water: boating, kayaking, fishing, water-skiing and swimming.

The park also offers:

- Boating facilities in three large day-use areas;
- A full-service marina;
- 10 miles of hiking trails leading to excellent wildlife viewing and dramatic scenery;
- 265 campsites, including 174 RV sites;
- Three deluxe log cabins,
- Three group tent areas.

Important Phone Numbers:

Emergencies	Call 911
The Cove Palisades State Park	(541) 546-3412
The Cove Palisades Marina	(541) 546-3521
Open April thru October	
U.S. Forest Service/Sisters Ranger District	(541) 549-7700
Crooked River National Grasslands	(541) 475-9272
	or (541) 416-6640
Portland General Electric	(541) 325-5333
(Round Butte Office)	
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	(541) 553-2001
(Natural Resources Branch)	
Jefferson County Marine Patrol	(541) 475-6520

www.oregonstateparks.org
www.boatoregon.com

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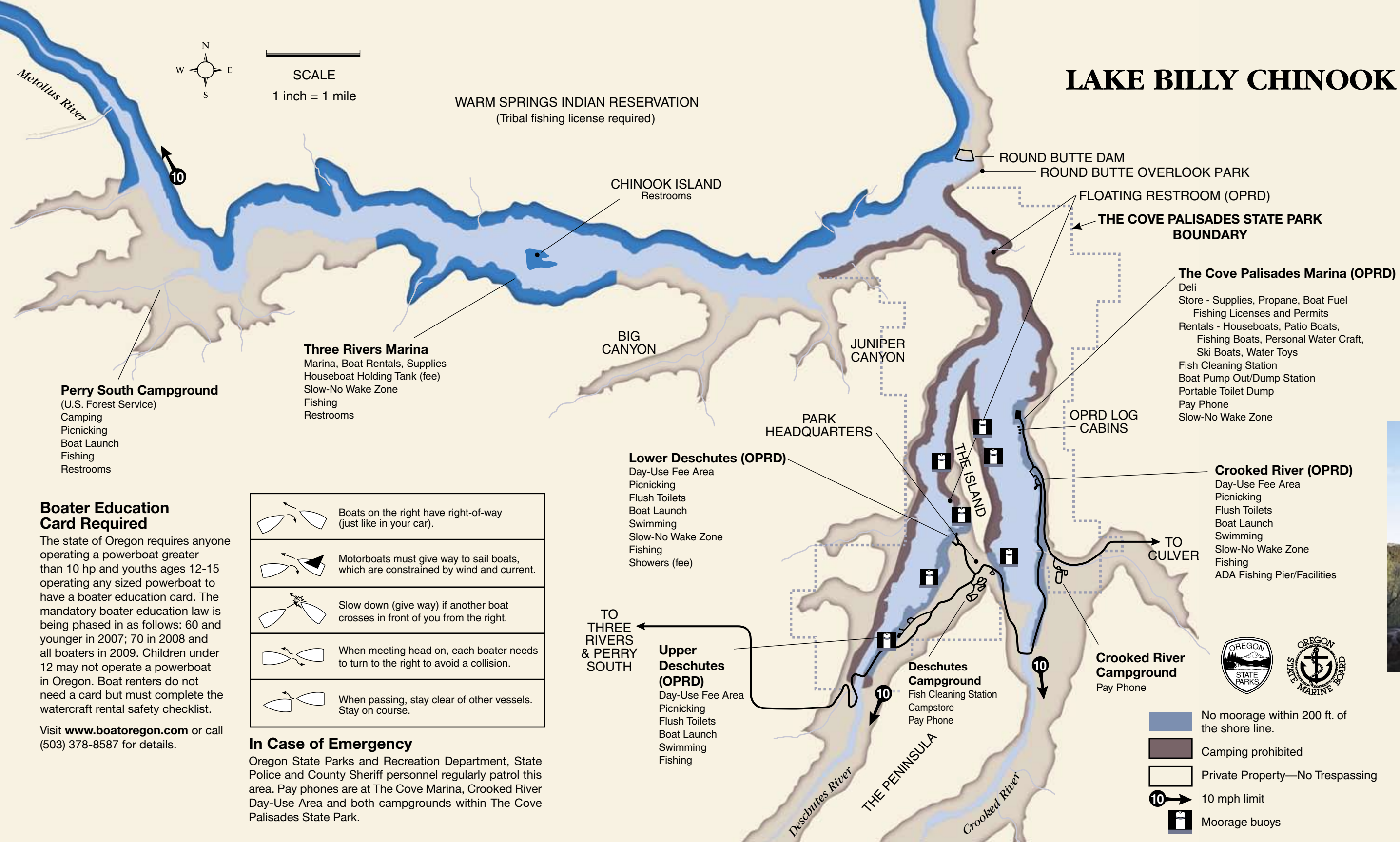
Write to: OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE, Ste C,
Salem, OR 97301, or call 503-986-0707
(for the hearing impaired 1-800-735-2900).



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Day-Use permits are required year-round. You can buy 12-month or 24-month permits at The Cove Palisades State Park office, campground registration booths (summer only), and local sporting goods and convenience stores. Daily park permits can be purchased from the automatic ticket machines in day-use area parking lots. If you are staying in the park, your current camping receipt also serves as your day-use permit for the days listed.

You may reserve full hookup, electrical and tent sites along with cabins through Reservations Northwest (toll free 1-800-452-5687) or online at: www.oregonstateparks.org. Reservations may be made up to nine months in advance, but no less than two days before you start camping. Ask for a Reservations Northwest special facilities operator to reserve a group tent area. The center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (extended hours from May 1 to August 30).



FISHING

Lake Billy Chinook's varied catch includes Kokanee (sockeye salmon), small and largemouth bass, and many trout species. The lake is especially well known for its bull trout fishery. Both a tribal angling permit and a state of Oregon fishing license are required to fish on the Metolius arm, which has a limited season. You can buy tribal angling permits at The Cove Palisades Marina or from local convenience stores. The Crooked River and Deschutes arms of the lake are open year-round. Craw-fishing is also popular. An ADA accessible fishing platform is located at the Crooked River Day-Use Area. Two floating restrooms for boaters and anglers are anchored off the Kettle Falls area near the Round Butte Dam and along the Deschutes arm downstream of the Lower Deschutes Day-Use Area.

THE ISLAND

This rugged and isolated landform is a nationally recognized research natural area under multi-agency ownership. The



largest remnant of an enormous basalt lava flow that swept into the area ages ago, The Island has one of the last remaining ungrazed and unaltered ecosystems of its type in the United States. It is an important habitat for eagles and other raptors. Damage from recreation led to the Island's closure in 1997 to all use except research and education.

However, the nine-mile Tam-a-lau Trail near the Deschutes Campground offers a similar hiking experience. Parking and day-use permits are available at the Upper Deschutes Day-Use Area.

Boater Education Card Required

The state of Oregon requires anyone operating a powerboat greater than 10 hp and youths ages 12-15 operating any sized powerboat to have a boater education card. The mandatory boater education law is being phased in as follows: 60 and younger in 2007; 70 in 2008 and all boaters in 2009. Children under 12 may not operate a powerboat in Oregon. Boat renters do not need a card but must complete the watercraft rental safety checklist.

Visit www.boatoregon.com or call (503) 378-8587 for details.

	Boats on the right have right-of-way (just like in your car).
	Motorboats must give way to sail boats, which are constrained by wind and current.
	Slow down (give way) if another boat crosses in front of you from the right.
	When meeting head on, each boater needs to turn to the right to avoid a collision.
	When passing, stay clear of other vessels. Stay on course.

In Case of Emergency

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, State Police and County Sheriff personnel regularly patrol this area. Pay phones are at The Cove Marina, Crooked River Day-Use Area and both campgrounds within The Cove Palisades State Park.