

Lake Roosevelt

Official Map and Guide

Lake Roosevelt
National Recreation Area
Washington

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



A Gift of Change

In a region renowned for towering trees, soaring mountains, deep gorges, and expansive wilderness, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area can rightfully claim a place among the Pacific Northwest's outstanding resources. Largest lake in the area, Lake Roosevelt is ideal for motorboating, waterskiing, sailing, and fishing. In the surrounding sagebrush hills and forested mountains you can camp, picnic, hike, hunt, and sightsee.

The creation of this sprawling recreation area began with 24 million tons of concrete and steel: Grand Coulee Dam. A Goliath of a dam, it was built to turn the power of the Columbia River into electricity and to turn vast deserts into productive farmlands. Today the recreation area preserves in their natural setting reminders of the days when American Indians fished the free-flowing Columbia River and fur trappers, farmers, missionaries, and soldiers first worked and settled this region. Here, the new and old coexist side by side.

Those portions of Lake Roosevelt and shoreline within the Colville and Spokane Indian reservations are managed by the Colville Confederated Tribes and Spokane Tribe of Indians. The National Park Service administers the remainder as Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, and since 1946 has acted as caretaker of the area's rich natural resources and human history. Information on the area's history, wildlife, geology, and what to see and do is available at Grand Coulee Dam and Fort Spokane visitor centers, North District office at Kettle Falls, South District office at Fort Spokane, and at park headquarters in the town of Coulee Dam. Headquarters, North District, and South District offices are open weekdays year-round. The visitor center at the dam is open daily except Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. The Fort Spokane Visitor Center is open intermittently. Schedules of interpretive services, including evening programs, guided walks, guided canoe trips, tours, and other activities, are posted. For more information write: Superintendent, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, 1008 Crest Drive, Coulee Dam, WA 99116-1259; call 509-633-9441 or TDD 509-633-9331; or visit our website at www.nps.gov/laro.

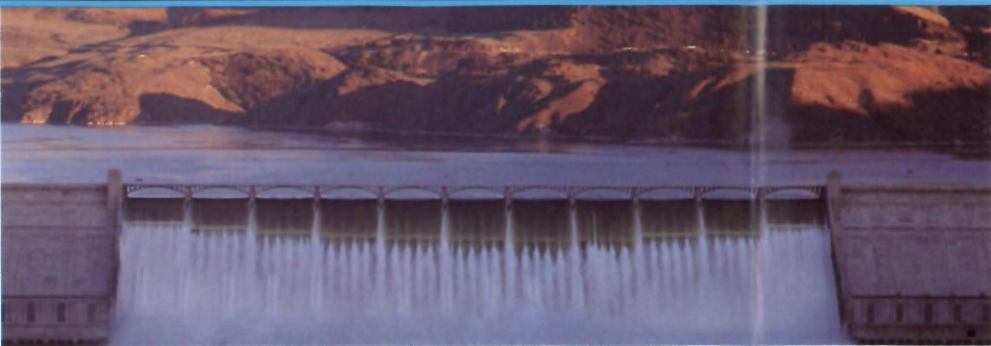
Where Fair Weather Prevails

A dry, sunny climate—perfect for sailing and other outdoor activities—predominates at Lake Roosevelt in the warmer months. As you go farther north, it becomes cooler and

wetter. In summer temperatures range from 75° to 100° F during the day, and from 50° to 60° F at night. Spring and fall are cooler but still pleasant.



Living history demonstrations at Fort Spokane recall the late 1800s when soldiers were stationed at the U.S. military outpost.



Heralded in a 20th-century ballad as the "biggest thing built by the hand of man," Grand Coulee Dam is almost one mile long and twice as high as Niagara Falls.



Just outside Lake Roosevelt are opportunities for hiking and other outdoor activities.



Scenic roads take you along waterways and through the mountains, forests, and desert lands of the Lake Roosevelt country.

Activities Ashore

Camping and Picnicking Thirty-seven campgrounds ring Lake Roosevelt. All are open on a first-come, first-served basis. A few open in May and close in late October; the rest are open year-round. In the southern part of the national recreation area, campgrounds are located on open lakeshore terraces. To the north they lie amid highcountry pine-fir forests. Separate picnic areas are provided near many campgrounds. (See *Recreation Area Services* on the other side.)

Hunting Portions of the recreation area are open seasonally for hunting. Game includes white-tailed and mule deer, black bear, pheasant, quail, chukar, and migrant birds such as mourning dove, duck, and Canada goose. State licenses are required.

Fort Spokane Eastern Washington was a little-explored frontier when Fort Spokane was established in 1880. One of the last frontier forts built in the West, it vividly illustrates changes in govern-

ment policy towards Indian tribes at the turn of the century. From the fort's strategic location at the confluence of the Columbia and Spokane rivers, a small peacekeeping force of infantry and cavalry troops kept a close eye on Indian reservations to the north and settlers to the south. Western forts changed their daily routine as a result of the disastrous defeat at the Little Bighorn in 1876; drills, marching, and target practice became the standard. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, troops left Fort Spokane in 1898. The post was decommissioned and transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1899, Fort Spokane became the headquarters of the Colville Indian Agency and served as an Indian boarding school. Where soldiers had once stood ready to preserve the peace between Indians and settlers, Indian children now learned European ways. The boarding school failed and in 1929 the fort grounds closed. Today a trail takes you by four of the original buildings. Several trailside exhibits tell the story of the fort. A 1892 brick guardhouse serves as a visitor center.

Activities Afloat

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area stretches 130 miles along the length of the lake. It embraces the lower reaches of many rivers and streams, including the Spokane and Kettle rivers. Most of the water comes from glacial ice, lakes, and snow high in the Canadian Rockies. Currents run slowly in the lake, more swiftly in the rivers and streams. Lake water temperatures range from the 60°F in June and rise slowly through the summer. By August, water temperatures vary only slightly from north to south. The Spokane River arm, however, tends to be 5° to 8°F warmer. Lake level also varies according to season. The lake is highest from late June through most of the winter. In late winter and early spring the water level is lowered as much as 100 feet to accommodate spring runoff.

Boating Large and small craft, from yachts to canoes, tour the recreation area. There are 23 public boat ramps for access to the water. Significant drawdowns can occur on Lake Roosevelt at any time of the year, making some boat ramps unusable. Boat docks, gasoline, water, sewage dump stations, and other such services are available at developed areas. Each of the campgrounds at Lake Roosevelt can be reached by boat. (See *Recreation Area Services* chart on the other side of this brochure.)

Navigational charts are useful travel guides that can help steer you safely around the area. Charts for all recreation area waters are sold at visitor centers. Boating safety also depends on following federal and state regulations pertaining to boat operation. Don't endanger yourself by riding on the edge of a boat or boating without a life-jacket. Don't endanger others by speeding. Use extra caution when approaching another boat, a waterskier, or swimmers. Lake levels can fluctuate daily. Watch for floating logs, debris, shallows, and submerged obstacles. Know the rules of safe boating and the common boating traffic signs. (See *Boating Safety Guide*, below.)

Disposal of Human Waste Anyone camping from or aboard a boat on Lake Roosevelt is required to carry and use a device for containing solid human wastes. Restrooms are available at boat-in campgrounds. Use of plastic bags as receptacles for human waste is prohibited. Containerized human waste must be disposed of at floating pumpout stations. (See map on other side.)

Boating Safety Guide

Channel Buoys—When traveling upstream or entering port keep well right of port buoys and well left of starboard buoys.

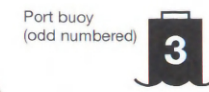
Use extra caution from November to April when these buoys are removed.

Danger—Rocks and other underwater hazards are dangerous at all lake levels, but most dangerous when the lake is low.

Boats Keep Out—Boats are prohibited at swim beaches and in the waters near Grand Coulee Dam. Buoys designate restricted areas.

Speed Limit—Boats must reduce their speed when entering "wake free" areas such as harbors and docks.

Right-of-Way—Yield right-of-way to boats in your danger zone (on your right). Slow down and let them pass.



A Fishing Primer

A Diverse Population

More than 30 species of fish inhabit these waters. Some common ones that you may encounter are: **Walleye** In past years more than 90 percent of all fish caught have been walleye, one of Lake Roosevelt's prized game fish. If you catch one, you can be sure others are

around, because walleye travel in schools. Average weight—1-4 pounds. **Rainbow Trout** Rivaling the walleye in popularity, this sport fish is an acrobatic fighter when hooked. Average weight—1-3 lbs. **White Sturgeon** North America's biggest freshwater fish. Landlocked behind Grand Coulee Dam, sturgeon can grow

up to 1,800 lbs. Average weight—100-300 lbs. **Yellow Perch** A tasty, mild-flavored fish transplanted from the East. When hungry, this fish generally will bite anything offered. Average weight—0.3-0.5 lbs. **Lake Whitefish** An abundant species in Lake Roosevelt, not generally pursued by anglers. It is caught most often by

those angling for trout or kokanee. Average weight—2-3 lbs. **Kokanee** Landlocked version of the anadromous sockeye salmon. Tributary streams provide important spawning grounds for this fish. Average weight—1.3 lbs. **Burbot** One of the lake's native fish, also known as a fresh water

lingcod. This tasty fish has become popular among anglers. Average weight—3-7 lbs.

Other fish found in these waters include cutthroat trout, bass, sunfish, carp, perch, pike, and bullhead.

When to Fish

Lake Roosevelt is open year-round; however, some areas are closed certain times of the year for certain species. Refer to the Washington State fishing regulations for limited closures. **Season** The most popular months are September, October, November, May, and June. If you fish in mid-summer, remember that fish often retreat to cooler streams and deeper lake waters to escape the heat.

Time of Day Dawn or dusk is prime time.

Where to Fish

In a lake this size there is a staggering choice of places to drop a line. You might consider concentrating your efforts in one of these spots: **The Confluences** Many game fish—including walleye, trout, and bass—gather where the lake converges with its tribu-



The waters of Lake Roosevelt country began attracting anglers long before the invention of the rod and reel. Early American Indians con-

gregated by the hundreds at Kettle Falls each summer and fall to catch salmon. They captured the fish as they swam upstream toward

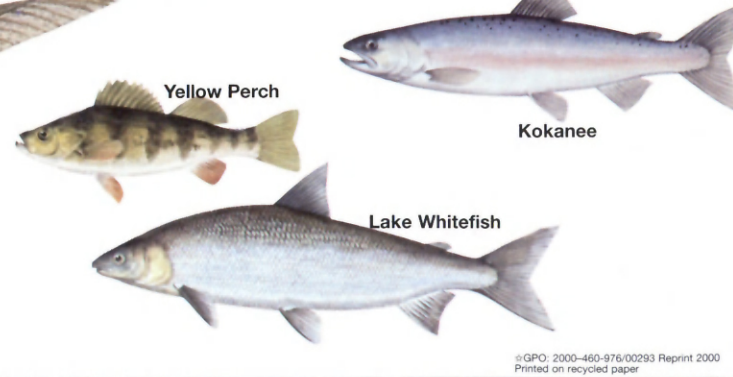
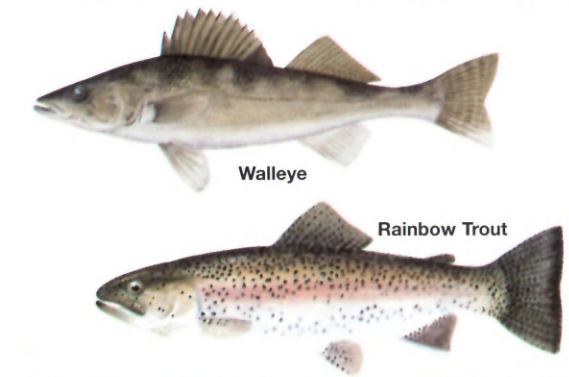
their spawning grounds by spearing them or by trapping them in large baskets suspended over the falls.

aries, particularly the Sanpoil River, Hawk Creek, Ninemile Creek, Wilmont Creek, Hunters Creek, Hall Creek, Barnaby Creek, Colville River, Sherman Creek, Kettle River, and Onion Creek. **High Cliffs** Many game fish prefer lake waters near shoreline cliffs. Trout and salmon swim below bluffs near Keller Ferry.

Spokane River These warmer waters are a good place to look for walleye. **Kettle River** Whitefish and bass frequent this watercourse. **Sanpoil River and Sherman Creek** Trout and bass await fly fishermen in these tributaries.

Angling Techniques

Trotting is an excellent way to find fish in unfamiliar territory. This technique allows you to cover a large area in a short time. A long line—150 to 200 feet—will cover most depths. Both natural and artificial baits are used.



A detailed map of the Pacific Northwest region, covering parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. The map highlights several national parks and recreation areas: Olympic National Park in Washington, North Cascades National Park and Lake Chelan NRA in Washington, and Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area in Idaho. It also shows the Mt. Rainier National Park and Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in Washington. Major cities such as Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Portland, and Spokane are labeled. The map includes a network of highways, with major routes like I-5, I-90, and I-17 clearly marked. The Pacific Ocean is to the west, and the Columbia River flows through the region. A scale bar at the bottom right indicates distances in both kilometers (0 to 50) and miles (0 to 50). A note at the bottom center states '*Mt Hood'.

Ferry Service Keller Ferry links Wash. 21 on the lake's south end. Gift-

Boat Launch Fees National Park Service boat launches charge fees; check at ranger stations for permit information. See chart at right for winter use; chains may be required. Call ahead for current conditions.

No utility hookups are provided. You are required to obtain a tribal camping permit for campgrounds on the Spokane and Colville Indian reservations. Camping fees are charged year-round.

- Campground** (tent sites)
- Campground** (trailer sites)
- Campground** (group sites)
- Waste disposal** (trailer)
- Picnic area**
- Telephone**
- Drinking water**
- Marina**
- Boat launch**
- Boat fuel**
- Waste disposal** (boat)
- Winter boat launch**

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North

A circular icon with a thick black border. Inside the circle is a black arrow pointing straight up, indicating North.