

FISH LAKE TRAIL #717

LENGTH: 2.80 Miles
ELEVATION: 4,300 to 4,850 Ft.
USGS MAP: Olallie Scenic Area
AVG. GRADE: 5%

USE: Heavy
Diff: Moderate
Mtn. Bk. Rtg. 2
MAX. GRADE: 20%

ACCESS AND USE:

This trail is open to hikers, horses, and mountain bikes, but is not recommended for biking. Rough and rocky trail surfaces, steep hills (20% or more in places) and other obstacles on this route mean most people will end up carrying their bikes as much as they ride them. (please note: The 1/2 mile between Lower lake Camp Ground and Lower lake itself is a very good short bike ride. It also can connect you to the Lodgepole Trail and other potential loop rides).

Access: There are several ways to reach this path, depending where you start. From the east end trail head: Forest Service Rd. 46, Left on the 4690, Right on the 4220 Skyline rd. to Lower Lake Camp Ground. Trail head is located on the back side of camp ground loop. West end trail head: Forest Service Rd. 46, Left on the 4690, right turn on 4691, to the 120 spur rd. (Follow signs once you are on 4691). You can also drive to within 1/4 mile of fish lake on the power line rd, if you know where it passes the lake. (Four wheel drives only). Obtain directions on this route from Olallie Lake Guard Station.

DESCRIPTION:

Fish Lake is another beautiful high Cascade lake nestled in an Ancient Noble Fir and Mountain Hemlock old growth forest at an elevation of 4,400 ft. Some of the scenic area's tallest and oldest Douglas Firs are also situated in the tiny basin around Fish Lake.

The lake itself covers 24 acres and is 67 ft. deep. A superb vista of Fish and Surprise Lakes, and their surrounding terrain can be had approximately 1/2 mile south on the Fish Lake trail. Some effort must be expended to obtain this view however, as you must climb 600 ft. in less than 3/10 of a mile. It is this climb that makes this hike impractical for mtn. bikes and anything but the most sure footed of horses.

Fishing is usually best early and late in the season. Cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and Eastern Brook Trout are caught here as well as Rainbow Trout (carry-overs that are stocked from time to time by helicopter).

The trail continues west past Surprise Lake after it crosses the power line corridor to the western terminus on the 120 spur rd.

TRAIL MILEAGE LOG:

- 0.00 Starting from the Lower Lake camp ground trail head the path climbs moderately for .15 of a mile.
- 0.15 Trail begins decent down into Lower Lake basin.
- 0.25 Trail encounters and follows N.E. shore line of Lower Lake.
- 0.50 Lower Lake marker sign near west end of lake.
- 0.60 Path reaches four way intersection of Lodgepole Trail #706.
- 0.95 Off the right hand side of the path 20 ft in a northward direction are the bluffs above Fish Lake: 100 ft. of sheer cliffs combined with 200 to 300 ft of scree slope drop off in front of you to the lakeshore. This is a spot that is definitely worth pausing at for a moment. Standing on the far left side of the bluff, Mt. Hood is just visible behind West Pinhead Butte. Coming up the hill from the lake, this is an ideal place to stop and catch your breath.