Official Map and Guide

Activities Afloat

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area stretches 130 miles along

the length of the lake. It embraces the lower reaches of many rivers

water comes from glacial ice, lakes, and snow high in the Canadian

and streams. Lakewater temperatures range from the 60°sF in June

and rise slowly through the summer. By August, water temperatures

vary only slightly from north to south. The Spokane River arm, how-

ever, tends to be 5° to 8°F warmer than the rest of the lake. 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

Boating Large and small craft, from yachts to canoes, tour the

recreation area. There are 22 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,

available at developed areas. Each of the campgrounds at Lake

for a list of available services and their locations.)

Roosevelt can be reached by boat. (See Recreation Area Services

Navigational charts are useful travel guides that can help steer you

at visitor centers. Boating safety also depends on following federal

and state regulations pertaining to boat operation. Don't endanger

approaching another boat, a waterskier, or swimmers. Lake levels

submerged obstacles. Know the rules of safe boating and the com-

can fluctuate daily. Watch for floating logs, debris, shallows, and

Use extra caution from

these buoys are removed.

mon boating traffic signs. (See Boating Safety Guide.)

yourself by riding on the edge of a boat or boating without a lifejacket. Don't endanger others by speeding. Use extra caution when

safely around the area. Charts for all recreation area waters are sold

gasoline, water, sewage dump stations, and other such services are

and streams, including the Spokane and Kettle rivers. Most of the

Rockies. Currents run slowly in the lake, more swiftly in the rivers

Waterskiing The confluences of Lake Roosevelt and its main trib-

utaries-the Spokane, Kettle, Colville, and Sanpoil rivers- are ideal

for waterskiing. Other broad, open areas are also good skiing spots.

Regulations require a waterskier to be accompanied by two per-

sons: one to operate the boat and another to observe the skier.

Swimming Natural sand and gravel beaches occur all along the

lakeshore, and many campgrounds have designated swimming

Fishing More than 30 species of game fish are sought here. A

state fishing license is required. Area marinas and hardware and

sporting goods stores carry licenses and copies of fishing regula-

Observing Wildlife People have changed Lake Roosevelt country

region still lies covered by natural conifer forests, scrublands, and

America's wilderness—inhabit the area. Deer are commonly seen

along shorelines. Many birds, including osprey, hawks, and smaller

birds, are year-round residents. In spring and fall migrating Canada

Interpreting the Landscape Violent events thousands and mil-

most of eastern Washington. The dark layered rock walls you see

as you travel along the lake were built from lava that gushed out of

enormous cracks in the earth. Lakeshore sand and gravel terraces

are evidence of more recent events. During the last Ice Age, cata-

Sneed Limit-Boats must

reduce their speed when

entering "wake free" areas

strophic floods with 10 times the flow of all the rivers on Earth

raged through this area, carving the spectacular canyon of the

lions of years ago created the landscape of Lake Roosevelt and

grasslands. Bald eagles, black bear, elk, and bobcats - symbols of

in many ways, but wild animals are reminders that much of the

areas. Beaches have no lifequards: swim at your own risk.

tions. (See A Fishing Primer for more information.)

geese, ducks, and swans visit.

Grand Coulee and other deep channels.

Wherever you swim, always be aware of approaching boats.

Hold a red flag aloft when a skier is down.

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 January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. 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; or call 509-633-9441 or TDD 509-633-9331.

Where Fair Weather Prevails

A dry, sunny climateperfect for sailing and other outdoor activities-predominates at Lake Roosevelt in the warmer months. As you go farther north, it be-

wetter. In summer the day, and from 50° to 60° at night. It is cooler, but still pleasant, in spring and fall.





Living history demon-strations at Fort Spo-

soldiers were stationed at the U.S. military out-

Heralded in a 20th-century ballad as the "big-gest thing built by the hand of man," Grand

Coulee Dam is almost

1 mile long and twice as high as Niagara Falls.

Ed Cooper

Boating Safety Guide

Channel Buoys-When

of starboard buoys.

traveling upstream or en-tering port keep well right

of port buoys and well left

Just outside Lake Roosevelt are opportunities for hiking and other outdoor

Danger-Rocks and

are dangerous at all lake

Don Carney

Scenic highways reveal passing glimpses of the waterways, mountains,

Boats Keep Out—Boats are prohibited at swim beaches and in the waters

near Grand Coulee Dam.

Buoys designate restrict-

forests, and desert lands

Right-of-Way-Yield

right-of-way to boats in

your danger zone (on your ight). Slow down and let

Activities Ashore

Camping and Picnicking Thirty-eight 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 yearround. 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 for more information.)

Hunting Portions of the recreation area are open seasonally for hunting. Game includes whitetail 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 Columb 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 Big Horn 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

Kettle Falls The Kettle Falls area once was a gathering place for Indians who came to fish and trappers who came to trade. One link to this historic period is St. Paul's Mission, where missionaries held worship services for the Indians. Built in 1846, this Catholic chapel is one of the oldest churches in Washington. The best times to visit are spring through fall. A trail with exhibits is nearby.

Grand Coulee Dam One of the largest concrete structures ever built, Grand Coulee Dam is also one of the world's largest producers of hydroelectric energy. This powerhouse provides electricity for many hundreds of cities and towns in several states and supplies water to irrigate more than 500,000 acres of cropland. The dam is open for free self-guided tours year-round except on January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. Nightly laser light shows on the face of the dam are a popular summer attraction. More information is available at the Bureau of Reclamation's visitor arrival center, located near the dam.

Scenic Highways An alternative to seeing Lake Roosevelt country by boat is to travel its scenic roads. A popular drive begins at Fort Spokane and continues north along the eastern shore of the lake through the Spokane Indian Reservation and the Huckleberry and Kettle River mountains. Another route follows the Sanpoil River north from Keller Ferry to the old gold-mining town of Republic, turns east and crosses Sherman Pass, the highest pass in the state, and ends at the lake near Kettle Falls. North of Kettle Falls roads follow the Kettle and Columbia rivers into Canada.

Nearby Recreation Areas In Colville and Okanogan National Forests popular activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, and horseback riding. From time to time hunting and fishing are permitted in the Colville and Spokane Indian reservations. Besides state laws, there may be special regulations governing hunting and fishing in the national forests and the Indian reservations; check with the individual agencies.

A Fishing Primer

Fishing is a favorite pas-time in Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, an lenge with relaxation. The key to a successful day is knowing as much as you can about the fish you're after, using your best angling skills to hook one and bring it in, and, of

A Diverse Population More than 30 species of fish inhabit these waters. Some common ones you 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 fresh-water fish. Landlocked behind Grand Coulee Dam, sturgeon can grow to 1800 lbs. People like

this fish for its tender

meat and roe. Average weight—100-300 lbs.

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 weight-2-3 lbs.

Kokanee The land-When to Fish locked version of the anadromous sockeye salmon. Tributary streams provide important spawning grounds for this fish. Average weight—1.3 lbs.

Other fish found in these waters include cutthroat trout, bass, sunfish, carp, lar months are Septembe October, November, May, perch, pike, and bullhead. and June. If you fish in

that fish often retreat to cooler streams and deep er lake waters to escape Time of Day Dawn or

Where to Fish In a lake the size of Lake

The Confluences Many game fish, including walleye, trout, and bass, gath er where Lake Roosevelt

Roosevelt country began attracting anglers long the rod and reel. Early

The waters of Lake

dreds at Kettle Falls each summer and fall to tured the fish as they

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

Yellow Perch A tasty nild-flavored fish transplanted from the East. When hungry, this fish generally will bite anything offered. Average weight-

guardhouse serves as a visitor center.

Lake Roosevelt is open year-round, but some months and certain times of day are favored for fish Season The most popu-

Roosevelt there is a staggering choice of places to drop a line. You might consider concentrating your efforts in one of

taries, particularly the Sanpoil River, Hawk Creek, Ninemile Creek, Wilmont Creek, Hunters Creek, Hall Creek, Barna by Creek, Colville River Sherman Creek, Kettle River, and Onion Creek High Cliffs Many game fish prefer lake waters near shoreline cliffs. Trout bluffs near Keller Ferry. Spokane River These warmer waters are a good

lace to look for walleye. Kettle River Whitefish Sanpoil River and Sherbass await fly fishermen in these tributaries.

Most anglers prefer to troll Lake Roosevelt's waters. Trolling is an excellent way to find fish in unfamiliar territory: it allows you to cover a lot of ground in a short time. A long line— 150 to 200 feet-will natural and artificial baits

Angling Techniques









Kokanee

