

Coulee Dam

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA • WASHINGTON

Coulee Dam
National Recreation Area
tempts the vacationer with many
outdoor activities, from water
skiing, boating, and swimming to
the quiet joys of
camping in still coves.
The area is known for its
immense dam, blue water
and rolling hills, rushing
streams, fascinating geology,
and a variety of
plants and animals.



THE NATURAL SCENE

Volcanism, glaciation, and water erosion have shaped the Columbia Basin. Millions of years ago, successive floods of lava filled the basin, pressing against the older granite mountains to the north. Diverted into new channels by each additional lava flow, the Columbia River eventually made a big westward bend. About 10,000 years ago, a glacier blocked the bend in the vicinity of Grand Coulee Dam creating a natural lake larger in size than Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake. Evidence of this ancient lake can be seen in the gravel terraces lining the present lake. Fed by melting ice, the lake overflowed. Meltwater rapidly cut through the columnar jointed lava of the plateau, excavating the Grand Coulee and lesser channels.

Stand below Grand Coulee Dam and see, hear, and feel the tremendous force of water at work and you will begin to understand these great events of prehistory.

Deer, coyotes, porcupines, marmots, and squirrels are common, while bear and skunks are only occasionally seen. On a secondary flyway, the lake has a variety of waterfowl as well as shore and upland birds. Grand Coulee Dam blocks the once great salmon runs to the upper Columbia system and the spawning area.

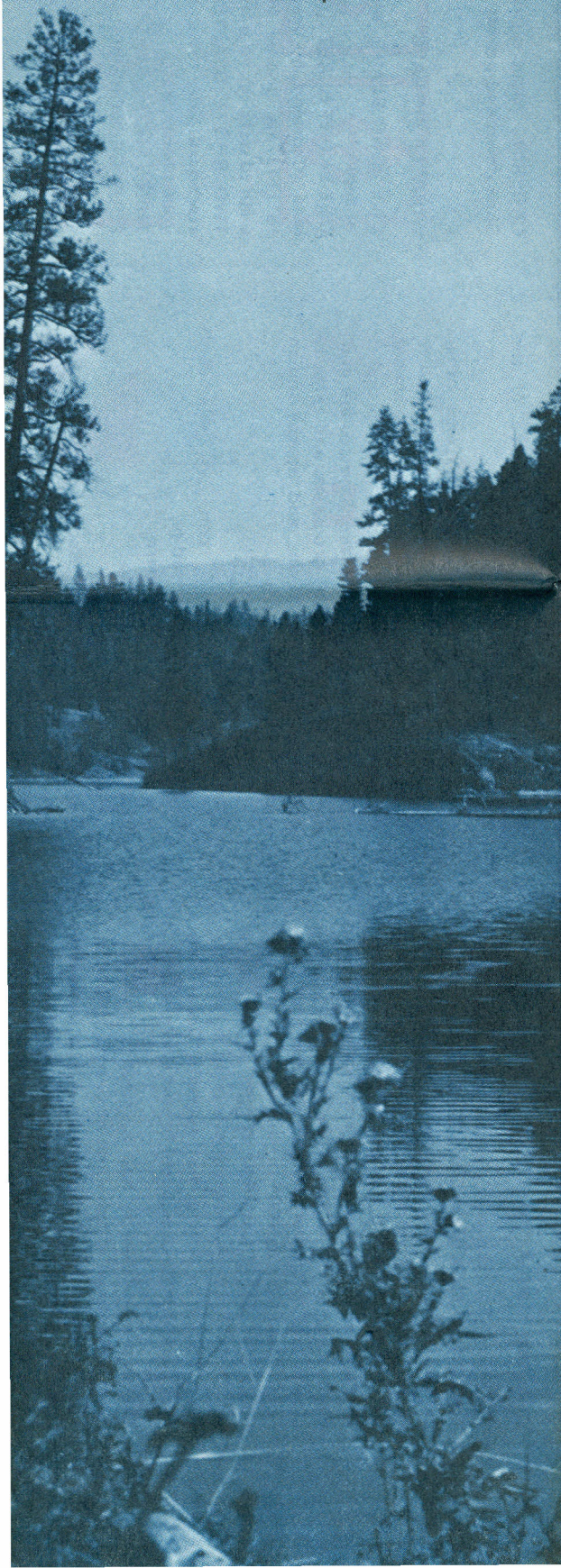
THE HISTORIC SCENE

Between 1807 and 1821, fur trappers of the North West Company entered eastern Washington and established trading posts along the Columbia River and its tributaries. These men were soon followed by missionaries and settlers, and finally, in 1855-56, by gold miners. The history of this era is told in part at St. Paul's Mission near Kettle Falls.

In the 1870's, at the close of the Indian Wars in the west, ten Indian bands, all of Salishan stock, were enrolled on the Colville Reservation. Chief Joseph and his valiant band of Nez Perce, who had been deported to the Oklahoma Indian Territory after their defeat in 1877, were later resettled here.

Another prominent figure was Chief Moses, leader of the Columbia band. Although Moses had not resisted the invasion of his lands, he was viewed as a renegade by both Indians and settlers because he refused to sign any peace treaties. Prior to his resettlement on the Colville Reservation, Moses and his followers had been granted their own reservation on land which was already occupied by white settlers and miners.

With the settlers expecting trouble and Moses fearful of his life, Gen. O. O. Howard, commander of the Department of the Columbia, pressed for establishment of a fort in the vicinity. Finding Fort Colville too distant and Camp Chelan too dif-



difficult to supply, a site for Fort Spokane was finally selected in 1880 at the confluence of the Columbia and Spokane Rivers. Combined with expanding telegraph, railroad, and trail systems, this location offered protection for the communities to the south, the settlers in the Colville and Okanogan Valleys, and the Indians on the Colville and Spokane Reservations.

Fort Spokane was established at a time when money and manpower for the Army were being reduced, and small, isolated forts were being abandoned in favor of large posts nearer to transportation centers. The fort also had the misfortune of becoming a political pawn caught between the rural population that profited from its location and the economically depressed city of Spokane which needed the extra money that an army post could bring into the community. Nonetheless, troops at the new post enjoyed nearly 20 years of peace, and Fort Spokane was one of the more popular duty stations on the western frontier. The outbreak of the Spanish-American War provided both the Army and the city of Spokane with the opportunity to move the post to the newly established Fort Wright.

After the Army departed, the Colville Indian Agency moved its headquarters across the Spokane River to the abandoned fort. A short time later, the agency opened a boarding school for children of the nearby Indian reservations. The school did not teach the Indian way of life and proved to be unpopular, both with the children and their parents. Enforced conformity to rules alien to their traditions and harsh punishments caused many children to run away, and eventually, after being run as a day school for nearly 10 years, the school was closed. The fort next became a hospital for treatment of tuberculosis and other common diseases of the period. The hospital remained until 1929 when the fort was abandoned and the Colville Agency moved to Nespelem.

WHAT TO DO

Recreational facilities have been developed along the 660 miles of lakeshore. These sites are not equally developed and some can be reached only by boat. See area map and facilities chart. **Cars are easily broken into, so keep valuables on your person.**

Water-oriented sports are the chief activities. Natural gravel or sand beaches are all along the lake but only a few are staffed by lifeguards. **When swimming, please use designated beaches, swim within delineated bounds, and always be alert for nearby boats.** Water skiing is popular within

the shelter of larger tributaries such as the Spokane, Kettle, and Colville Rivers and Sanpoil Bay. **When water skiing, for the protection and safety of all, make sure at least two people are in the boat—the operator and another person to watch the skier.**

Large stretches of open water and sheltered coves can make motorboating an exciting adventure. **Be alert to avoid floating logs and debris.** The lake is a water gateway to the Arrow Lakes region of Canada. Boaters planning to visit Canada are advised to inquire about inspection procedures from a park ranger or the U.S. Customs Service before crossing the international boundary.

All boats must comply with Federal, State, and County laws pertaining to boat operation. **You are urged to use common sense and to exercise care in boating to protect yourself and others, particularly when near swimmers, water skiers, and smaller boats.**

Numerous sanitary facilities are available for your convenience while boating.

Approach log rafts with caution: cables extend between the rafts and tugboats.

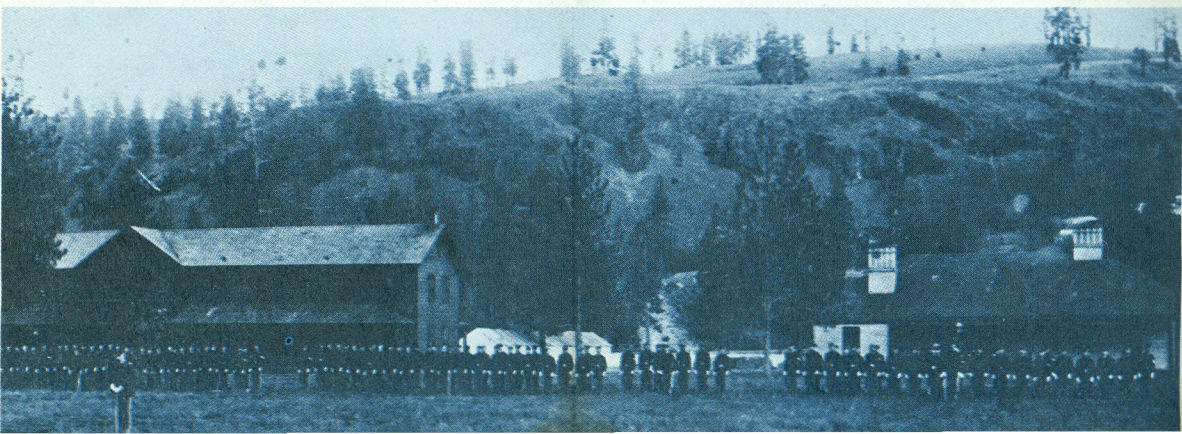
Sailing is excellent as a breeze usually blows on the lake from the surrounding hills.

Hunting and fishing are permitted within sections of the national recreation area. State licenses are required. Among the big game are whitetail and mule deer and black bear. Game birds include quail, chukar, mourning dove, pheasant, Canada goose, and Brant. Fish taken from the lake and its tributaries consist of trout, walleye pike, sunfish, and bass. Crescent Bay Lake, near Grand Coulee, is managed by the State in cooperation with the National Park Service for winter rainbow trout fishing.

Campgrounds on the west arm of the lake are on open terraces where shade is limited, while those on the north arm are generally in forested settings. Most primitive campgrounds have sand or gravel areas that permit beaching of small boats. Camping and fires are not allowed outside designated areas except in special circumstances for which a permit must be obtained from a park ranger. **Please drown campfires.** Fire permits are not issued during periods of high fire danger. Camping is limited to 14 days or less in some campgrounds, and is posted to that effect.

Illustrated evening programs and Indian cultural demonstrations are given in summer. Posted schedules give places, times, and topics.

Troops on dress parade at Fort Spokane.





WHAT TO SEE

Grand Coulee Dam is the largest and most important dam on the Columbia River. A giant new powerplant, the third, is under construction and when put into operation will make this dam the world's greatest producer of hydroelectricity.

The Bureau of Reclamation maintains an information center near the dam and offers self-guided tours as operating conditions permit. Excellent views of the dam may be had from the canal headworks, above the west end, or from Crown Point, 2½ miles north on Wash. 174.

After irrigation water for the Columbia Basin is pumped from Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake, impounded by Grand Coulee Dam, it flows into Banks Lake. This great storage reservoir lies in the Upper Grand Coulee, a scenic water-carved canyon of national significance. Both the Grand Coulee and spectacular 400-foot high Dry Falls are Registered Natural Landmarks. The State of Washington administers many recreation sites within the Grand Coulee.

Behind Grand Coulee Dam, Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake stretches 150 miles, almost to the Canadian border. Highways follow the lake northeastward and offer a variety of scenic views. Going by way of Fort Spokane, the road first passes through the vast rolling wheatlands of eastern Washington. Nearing the lake again, the road plunges into evergreen forests only to emerge on a high terrace overlooking the sparkling blue water.

At Fort Spokane, visitor center exhibits and self-guiding trails around the fort grounds tell the story of the colorful frontier period in American history. From here the road winds northward through the Spokane Indian Reservation and then follows the narrow valley between the Huckleberry and Kettle River Mountains where the lake can be frequently seen through ponderosa pine forest. The many once prosperous farming communities, skirted by modern transportation systems, struggle for economic survival. For a different type of scenery, you can cross the lake on the Gifford Ferry (closed in winter) to Inchelium and continue north on the west side.

Another scenic drive is to cross the lake on the Keller Ferry and then follow the Sanpoil River north through the Colville Indian Reservation to the old gold-mining town of Republic and then east over Sherman Pass. Within Colville National Forest are many spots that invite camping, picnicking, fishing, or just relaxing.

North of Kettle Falls, scenic roads follow the Columbia and Kettle Rivers into Canada.

CANADA
UNITED STATES

COULEE DAM NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

NUMBERED AREAS	DEVELOPED AREAS	FACILITY											
		CAMPING	PICNICKING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT FUEL	BOAT DOCK	BOAT ONLY	WATER	TRAILERS	LIFEGUARD	GROUP CAMPING	TRAILER DUMP STATION	BOAT DUMP STATION
1	SPRING CANYON ²	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2	SANPOIL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3	KELLER FERRY	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4	JONES BAY	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5	HAWK CREEK	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
6	FORT SPOKANE ²	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
7	PIERRE ¹	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
8	DETILLION	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
9	PORCUPINE BAY ²	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
10	THREE MILE	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
11	WILMONT CREEK	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
12	HUNTERS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
13	GIFFORD	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14	CLOVER LEAF	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
15	BARNABY ISLAND	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
16	BRADBURY	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
17	HAAG COVE	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
18	SHERMAN CREEK	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
19	KETTLE FALLS ²	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
20	MARCUS ISLAND	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
21	KAMLOOPS ISLAND	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
22	KETTLE RIVER	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
23	EVANS ²	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
24	SNAG COVE	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
25	NORTH GORGE	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

ALL AREAS ARE ACCESSIBLE BY BOAT

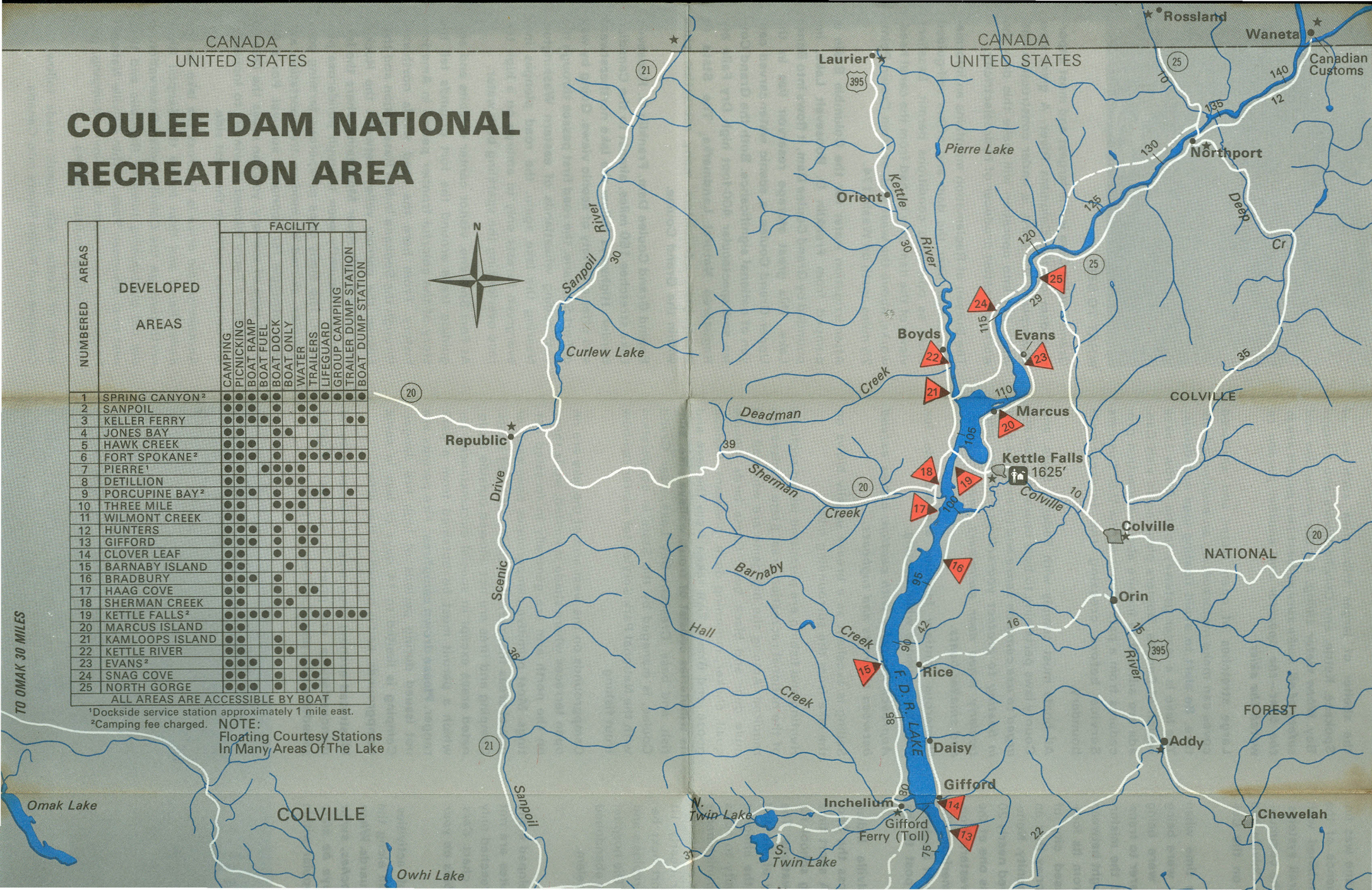
¹Dockside service station approximately 1 mile east.

²Camping fee charged.

NOTE:
Floating Courtesy Stations
In Many Areas Of The Lake



TO OMAK 30 MILES





SEASONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The recreation season is May through October. The surface area of the lake is large enough to moderate the air temperatures of adjacent areas so that the daily variation is seldom more than 25°. The west arm of the lake is usually quite warm and sunny, while the north arm, influenced by mountains, tends to be cooler and have more clouds and precipitation. Summer temperatures range from 75° to 100° during the day and between 50° and 60° at night. A light jacket makes the chilly evenings more comfortable. It is somewhat cooler in spring and autumn. Occasional foggy and cloudy days occur in winter and spring.

The lake is a reservoir and is raised to its maximum water level in late June or early July and is full the remainder of the season. Water temperatures are highest in July and August. Boat launching ramps and some docks are usually inaccessi-

ble from April through June because of the winter drawdown.

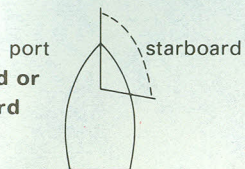
Food, lodging, groceries, gasoline, and other services are available in Grand Coulee, Coulee Dam, and other nearby towns. There are similar services at Colville, Kettle Falls, and Northport along the north arm of the lake. Services are generally limited to gasoline, groceries, and refreshments in the smaller towns and nearby Indian reservations.

BOATING RULES

DANGER ZONE: Dead ahead or 2 points abaft your starboard beam. Yield right-of-way to boats in your danger zone.

OVERTAKING—PASSING: Boat being passed has the right-of-way. Keep clear.

MEETING HEAD ON: Keep to the right.



CROSSING: Boat on right has the right-of-way. Slow down and permit him to pass.

WHISTLE SIGNALS

ONE LONG BLAST: Warning signal (coming out of slip).

ONE SHORT BLAST: (meeting)—Pass on my port side. (Crossing, by vessel to starboard.) I intend to hold my course and speed. (overtaking)—I wish to pass on your starboard side.

TWO SHORT BLASTS: (meeting)—Pass on my starboard side. (overtaking)—I wish to pass on your port side.

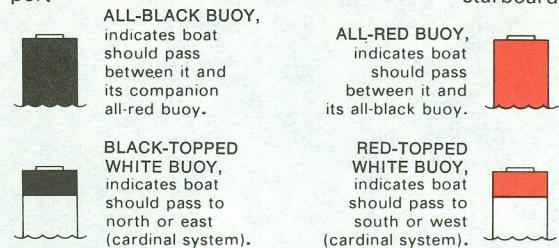
THREE SHORT BLASTS: Engines in reverse.

FOUR OR MORE BLASTS: Danger signal.

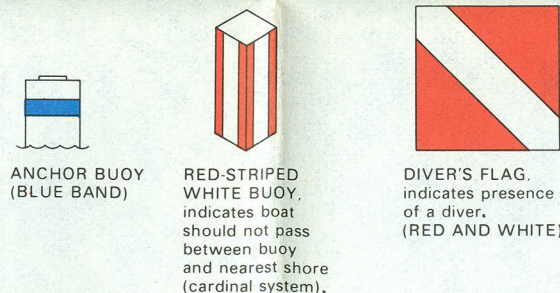
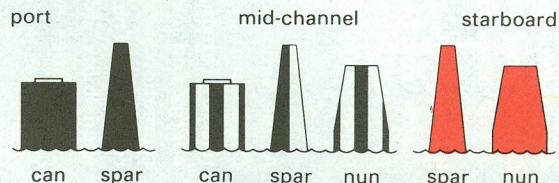
When answering a signal whistle, use same signal to indicate approval. Use danger signal if you feel it is unsafe.

BOATING SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

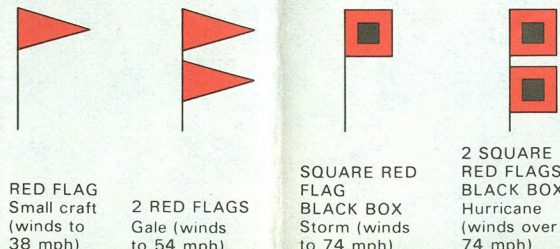
BUOYS—entering port or going upstream



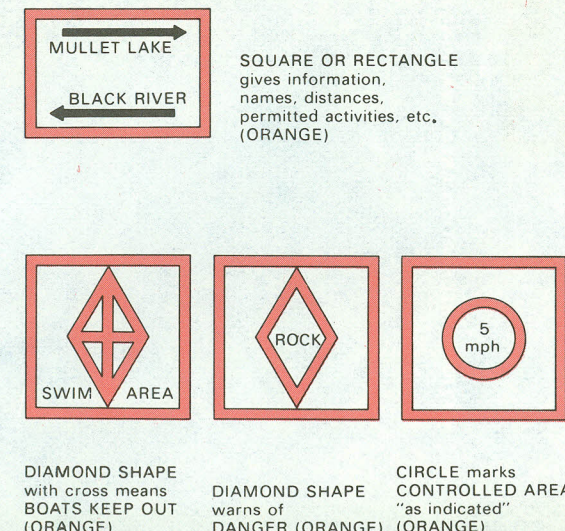
CHANNEL BUOYS



STORM WARNINGS



SIGNS



Coulee Dam National Recreation Area is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, under an agreement with the Bureaus of Reclamation and of Indian Affairs.

A superintendent, whose address is Box 37, Coulee Dam, WA 99116, is in immediate charge of the recreation area.

Information can be obtained at the national recreation area headquarters in the town of Coulee Dam, the visitor center at Fort Spokane, and the ranger station at Kettle Falls.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR