

# 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 15,000 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.

Recent archeological excavations have unearthed evidence of people inhabiting the Kettle Falls area some 9,000 years ago. The name Kettle Falls was probably derived from French-Canadian fur traders who called this place Les Chaudières, meaning the kettles. The falls themselves were one of the two great salmon fishing grounds on the Columbia River, which the Indians believed "Great Man" the creator, had sent coyote to make for them.

## THE HISTORIC SCENE

Between 1811 and 1825, 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 1870s, at the close of the Indian Wars in the West, ten Indian bands, all of Salishan stock, were sent to 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, too.

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 difficult to supply, a site was finally selected in 1880 at the confluence of the Columbia and Spokane Rivers and named Fort Spokane. 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 during difficult times when smaller isolated military forts were being abandoned in favor of larger posts, and the number of troops was being reduced for lack of funds. Nonetheless, troops at the new post enjoyed nearly 20 years at what was considered one of the more popular duty stations in the West. The outbreak of the Spanish-American War prompted the closing of Fort Spokane, bringing to an end the small military outpost on the western frontier.

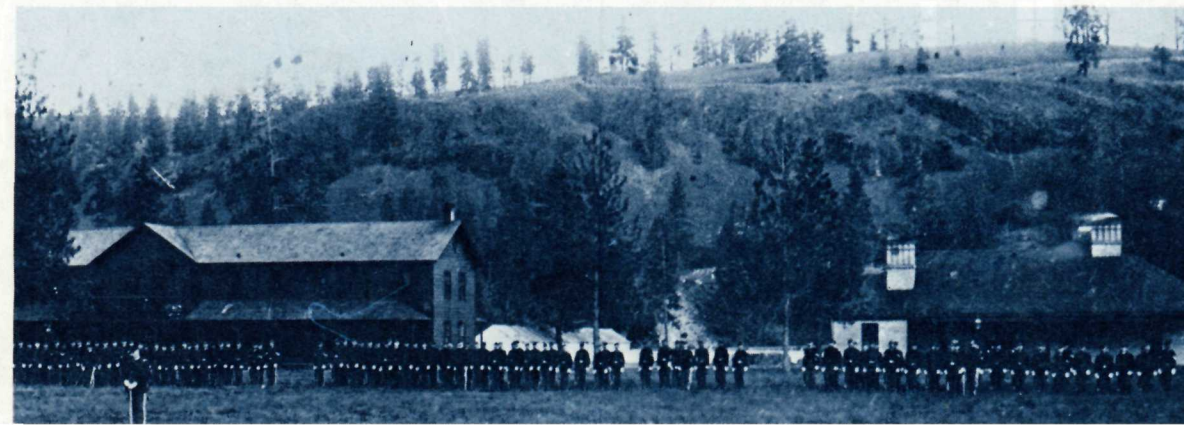
Soon after the Army had departed, the Bureau of Indian Affairs established the headquarters for the Colville Indian Agency at the fort. Within a short time, a boarding school was also set up and, later on, a day school for children of nearby reservations. A variety of conflicts, however, led to the school's closing some ten years later. The final years of organized use came with the founding of a tuberculosis sanatorium and general hospital for Indian care. This era proved quite successful with children being brought for treatment from as far away as Oregon and Montana. The hospital remained in active use until 1929 when the fort buildings were abandoned once again as the Colville Agency moved its headquarters 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

Troops on dress parade at Fort Spokane.



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.

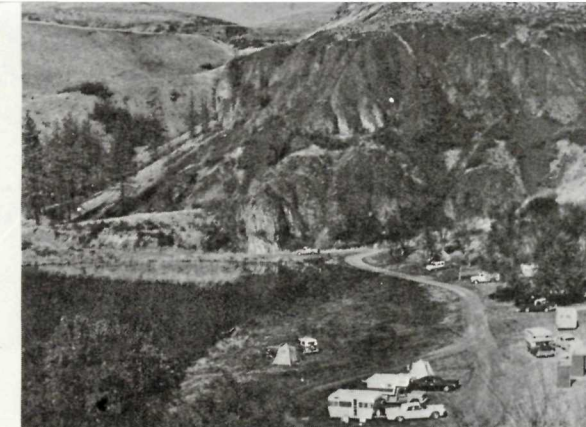
**Approach log rafts with caution: cables extend between the rafts and tugboats.**

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. Check with rangers to determine whether you need a State or Indian Tribal license. Big game include black bear, mule deer, and whitetail deer. Game birds include quail, chukar, mourning dove, pheasant, Canada goose, and brant. Game fish found in the lake and its tributaries include walleye, rainbow trout, kokanee (landlocked salmon), chinook salmon, perch, and mountain whitefish. Crescent Bay Lake, near Grand Coulee, is open 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 campfire.** Open fires are not permitted during periods of high fire danger. Camping is limited to 15 days or less.

Illustrated evening programs and living history demonstrations are given in the summer. Posted schedules give places, times, and topics.



## WHAT TO SEE

Grand Coulee Dam is the largest and most important dam on the Columbia River. A third giant powerplant has been put into operation, making this dam the world's greatest producer of hydroelectric power.

The Bureau of Reclamation maintains a visitor arrival center near the dam, offering 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 130 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 to Inchelium and continue north on the west side.

Another very scenic drive is to cross the lake on the Keller Ferry and follow the Sanpoil River north through the Colville Indian Reservation to the old gold-mining town of Republic. Then head east over Sherman Pass to Kettle Falls. You will pass through the Colville National Forest, which provides opportunities for many varied activities, including camping and fishing.

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

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Coulee Dam National Recreation Area is comprised of Roosevelt Lake and a narrow strip of land adjacent to the lakeshore. The lower water limits of Roosevelt Lake are at Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River and at Little Falls Dam on the Spokane River. The upper water limits are at Onion Creek on the Columbia River and the town of Barstow on the Kettle River.

The area is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Some activities within this area also are regulated by other jurisdictions. 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. For further information write to the Superintendent, Box 37, Coulee Dam, WA 99116.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

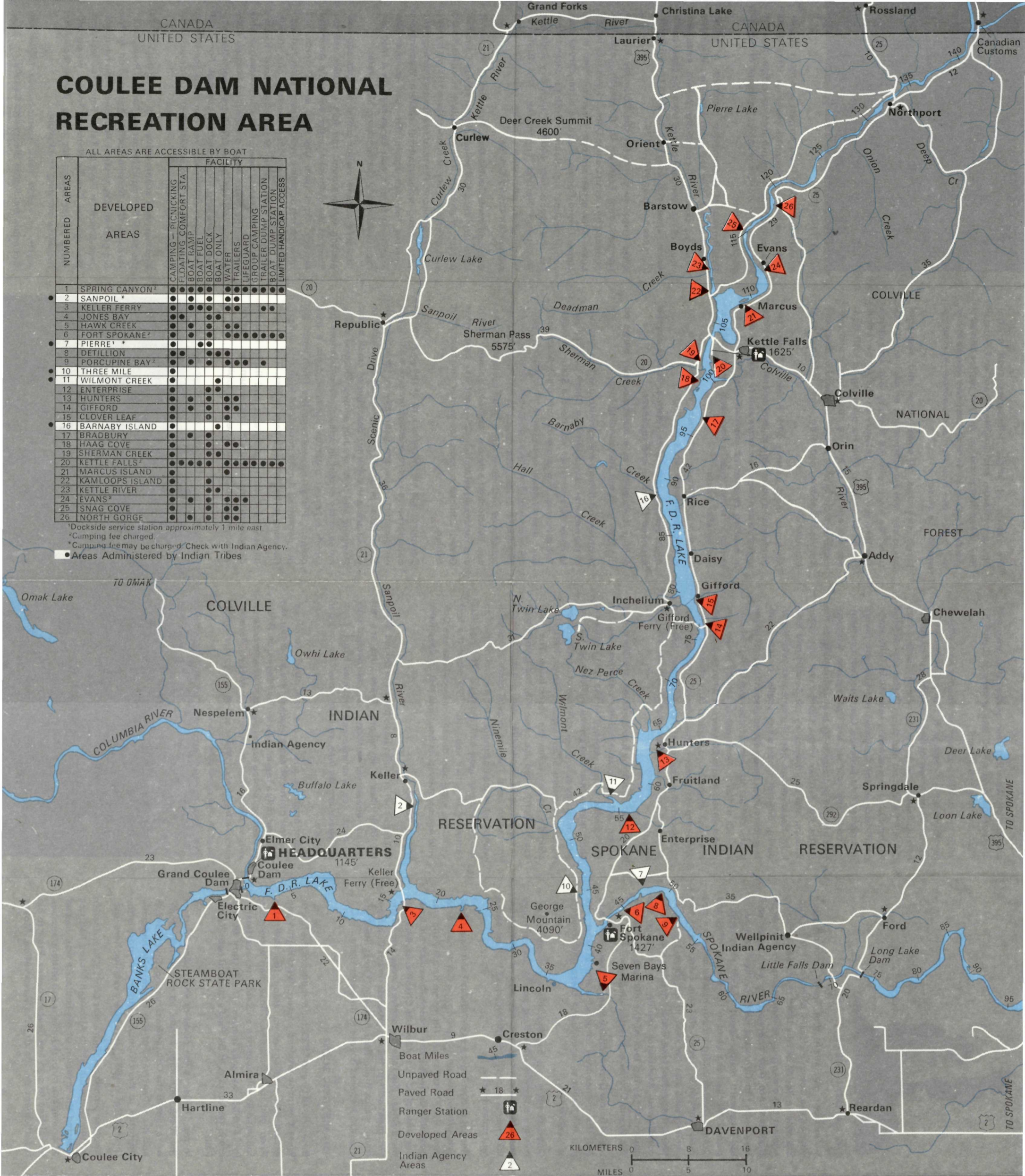
National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

# COULEE DAM NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

ALL AREAS ARE ACCESSIBLE BY BOAT

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

<sup>1</sup>Dockside service station approximately 1 mile east.  
<sup>2</sup>Camping fee charged.  
<sup>\*</sup>Camping fee may be charged. Check with Indian Agency.  
 • Areas Administered by Indian Tribes



## 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. Some launching ramps

and docks are inaccessible 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.

## OUTDOOR ETIQUETTE

Here's how you can help us keep this area beautiful: Keep your vehicle on the road; tire tracks erode the landscape.

Put fish remains in a garbage can or hot fire; remains left in water reduce the oxygen content and make it harder for game fish to survive.

Don't bury garbage; coyotes will dig it up and spread it around.

Protect against fires; build them only in designated campgrounds unless you have a permit, and always carry a bucket, ax and shovel when camping.

Respect private property; stay off lands that are posted against trespassing unless you have the owner's permission.

Remember that many people will use this area in the future.

## BOATING SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

**BUOYS**—entering port or going upstream

port

ALL-BLACK BUOY, indicates boat should pass between it and its companion all-red buoy.

ALL-RED BUOY, indicates boat should pass between it and its all-black buoy.

BLACK-TOPPED WHITE BUOY, indicates boat should pass to north or east (cardinal system).

RED-TOPPED WHITE BUOY, indicates boat should pass to south or west (cardinal system).

**CHANNEL BUOYS**

port mid-channel starboard

can spar can spar nun spar nun

## 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.

## SIGNS

**MULLET LAKE** **BLACK RIVER**

**SQUARE OR RECTANGLE** gives information, names, distances, permitted activities, etc. (ORANGE)

**DIVER'S FLAG**, indicates presence of a diver. (RED AND WHITE)

**SWIM AREA** **ROCK** **5 mph**

**DIAMOND SHAPE** with cross means BOATS KEEP OUT (ORANGE)

**DIAMOND SHAPE** warns of DANGER (ORANGE)

**CIRCLE** marks CONTROLLED AREA "as indicated" (ORANGE)