

# OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

## LAKE OZETTE

Lake Ozette was variously known as Lake of the Sun on early maps and as Ka'houk or a large body of fresh water by the Makah Indians. The first Caucasian recorded to have seen Lake Ozette was James Swan, an Indian Agent from Neah Bay, who went there in 1864. Settlers of Scandinavian origin arrived in the 1890's. Vestiges of their homesteads still remain near the lake.

The lake is the third largest (7787 acres) natural body of fresh water in the State of Washington and is over three hundred feet deep. Lake Ozette is the most westerly large lake in the conterminous (48) United States.

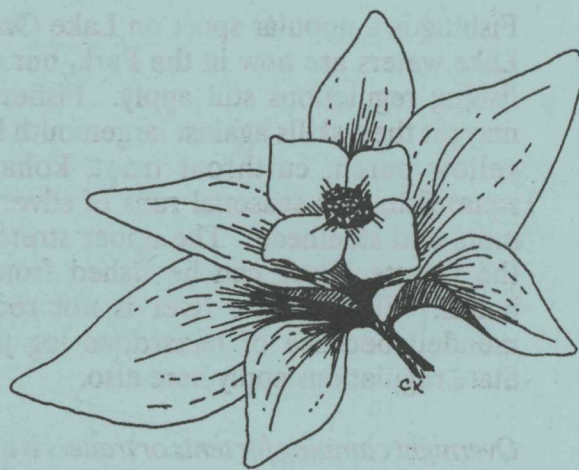
Two trails leave the Lake Ozette Ranger Station for the ocean beaches. The more northerly trail is the Cape Alava Trail which leads 3.3 miles through typical lowland coastal forest to the beach. This trail passes through Ahlstrom's Prairie, once the site of an early Scandinavian homestead.

Just north of this trail's end is Cape Alava, the most westerly point of land in the conterminous United States. A short distance north of Cape Alava is the site of the archeological excavations which were conducted through the 1970's on the Ozette Indian Reservation by Washington State University. The site provided most of the artifacts that are on display at the Makah Cultural Center in Neah Bay. Presently, the site is closed and buried.

A second trail leaves the Ranger Station and leads three miles to Sand Point. There is one shelter at Sand Point available for "emergency use" only. It is wise to carry a tent or plastic tarp for shelter. Please pack the tarp and all nonburnables out with you when you leave. Keep your wilderness clean.

*Caution: The cedar puncheon walkway is slippery when wet or frosty. tennis shoes, running shoes or other soft soled shoes are recommended.*

A 9.3 mile loop hike may be made by taking one of these trails to the beach, hiking along the beach for three miles, and returning by the other trail to your vehicle. Rocks, islands, and seaweeds lie off the wilderness



coast. Investigating the life in tidepools is a favorite pastime. Please leave the tidepool life as you find it.

An additional trail leads from Lake Ozette to the beach, but this trailhead may be reached by boat only. This trail is usually muddy in spots and caution must be exercised on slippery cedar puncheon foot



bridges. It is located 3/4 mile south of the Erickson's Bay campground. A 2.2 mile hike leads to the south end of Sand Point's broad sandy beach.

Lake Ozette is good for boating of all kinds. It is wise to take care during high winds, as the lake's water can become very rough and hazardous. A small campground is located about midway down the lake at Erickson's Bay and can be reached only by boat. Water at Erickson's Bay is shallow with a sandy bottom that some find ideal for wading and swimming.

All drinking water from lake or streams should be boiled one full minute or otherwise treated to destroy Giardia protozoans which could cause illness.

Fishing is a popular sport on Lake Ozette. Lake waters are now in the Park, but state fishing regulations still apply. Fishermen may pit their skills against largemouth bass, yellow perch, cutthroat trout, kohanee, squawfish, plus seasonal runs of silver salmon, and steelhead. The upper stretch of the Ozette River can be fished from its banks. Floating the river is not recommended because of hazardous log jams. State regulations apply here also.

*Overnight camping for tents or trailers is available at the campground near the Ranger Station.*

*Tide tables and a handout entitled "Strip of Wilderness" are available at the ranger station.*

More detailed information about the coastal area and beach hiking may be obtained in the following materials available from:

*Pacific Northwest National Parks & Forests Association, Inc.  
3002 Mt. Angeles Road  
Port Angeles, Washington 98362*

*Indian Village Nature Trail, by Kaune*

*U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Sheet of Lake Ozette*

*Custom Correct Map - North Beach*

*Green Trails Map - Ozette*

