Boating Waterway Regulations

- Boaters must operate at slow no wake within 200’ of a boat ramp, marina or moorage that has capacity for 6 or more vessels and within 300 feet of swim areas.
- 10 mph speed limit restrictions on the Metolius, Crooked and Deschutes rivers.
- Boating, anchoring, mooring and camping are restricted on the Crooked River and Deschutes River arms, on Chinook Island, and along the North Shore of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.
- Boating prohibited in the area enclosed by the safety boom upstream from Round Butte Dam.
- Mooring to the shoreline or safety booms is prohibited.

Information: boatoregon.com

All information or fees subject to change without notice. This brochure is available in alternate formats upon request. Call 1-800-551-6949. Oregon Relay for the hearing impaired: dial 711.

Printed on recycled paper.
Three rivers converge to form the vast aquatic playground known as Lake Billy Chinook. Created when Portland General Electric (PGE) completed the Round Butte Dam in 1964, this 4,000-acre high desert reservoir lies in a canyon at the confluence of the Crooked, Deschutes, and Metolius rivers near Culver and Madras. The lake is framed by towering rock cliffs, sculpted over millions of years by volcanic activity and the erosive force of water. A juniper woodlands and shrub-steppe surround the lake, providing homes for animals such as mule deer, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbit and cougars.

From the top of the canyon, the snow-capped peaks of the Cascades Range stretch six monotonous sky to the rugged desert landscape that sprawls in the distance. Lake Billy Chinook is indeed a spectacular—and humbling—setting for any type of outdoor activity. From the Crooked, Deschutes, and Metolius rivers near Culver and Madras. The lake is framed by towering rock cliffs, sculpted over millions of years by volcanic activity and the erosive force of water. A juniper woodlands and shrub-steppe surround the lake, providing homes for animals such as mule deer, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbit and cougars.

Keep our waterways clean

- Use dump stations to empty portable toilets and gray water.
- It is illegal to discharge sewage and graywater into the reservoir.
- Do not litter or leave camping equipment on shore or in the water.
- Do not defecate in the water.
- It is illegal to discharge sewage and graywater into the reservoir.

Stay safe near dams

Reservoirs provide excellent placers for fishing, boating, and camping; they also present potential risks. For a printable safety sheet on the hazards and safety measures for recreation near hydroelectric projects, visit portlandgeneral.com/parks.

Boater education card

Operations of powerboats greater than 30 HP and youth ages 12–15 operating any sized powerboat are required to have a boater education card. Children younger than 12 may not operate a powerboat in Oregon. Boat renters do not need a card, but must complete the waterscraft rental safety checklist.

What to bring

- Personal flotation device (lifejacket) for each person on board. All children 12 and younger must wear a properly fitted US Coast Guard-approved life jacket while on a boat that is underway.
- Sound device (whistle, bell or compressed air horn audible for ½ mile).
- Navigation lights (use between sunset and sunrise)
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Boating permits

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Fishing

Anglers enjoy Lake Billy Chinook’s varied catch that includes wild kokanee (landlocked sockeye salmon), small and large-mouth bass, rainbow and brown trout. Crawfishing is also popular, and the lake is especially well-known as the only place in Oregon where bull trout can be harvested.

- A fishing license is required to fish anywhere on the lake. Fishing on the Metolius arm is open March 1–Oct. 31 and requires a tribal angling permit. The Crooked and Deschutes arms of the lake are open year-round.
- Current fishing regulations: dfw.state.or.us
- Tribal angling permits: tribalpermit.com
- Tribal permits and one-day fishing licenses are also sold at the Cove Palisades Resort & Marina and at local stores.

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