

2018 Trout Stocking Schedule for Western Oregon

Now mobile friendly and easier to use at MyODFW.com

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has released its 2018 Weekly Trout Stocking Schedule for western Oregon on its recently launched website MyODFW.com. Find it at <https://myodfw.com/fishing/species/trout/stocking-schedule>

Like the new website, the new trout stocking schedule is mobile-friendly and easier to use. Anglers can now search by waterbody for a complete list of stockings in that lake or pond for the entire year. They can also search by date for all stockings in Oregon's six Fishing Zones for a certain time period.

Previously, all stockings were listed in a PDF docu-

ment organized by stocking date, making it difficult to see a waterbody's full stocking schedule for the year.

"When are you stocking my pond or lake? is one of the most popular questions we get at ODFW. Some anglers even plan their vacations around it," said David Lane, Acting Deputy Administrator, I&E, ODFW. "Now, it's much easier to find the stocking information for your favorite local lake or wherever you are planning a getaway."

As always, the trout stocking schedule lists the week that a waterbody is being stocked, not a specific date. The actual day of the week will vary based on workload and weather, so ODFW does not release this information.

The stocking schedule shows Vernonia Lake will receive 2,750 legals the week of March 19; 2,000 the week of April 2; and 4,500 the week of April 30.

Trojan Recreational Pond near Rainier will receive 300 trophy the week of March 5; 3,000 legals the week of April 2 and 1,500 the week of April 9; 2,000 legals and 750 trophy the week of April 16; 3,100 legals and 200 trophy the week of April 23; and 750 trophy the week of April 30.

Lost Lake in Tillamook County is scheduled to receive 2,750 legals the week of March 19; 2,500 legals the week of April 2; 3,750 legals the week of April 16; 4,700 legals and 333 trophy the week of May 28; and 300 trophy the week of

September 17.

Coffenbury Lake at Fort Stevens State Park is scheduled to receive 3,500 legals the week of March 19; 1,500 the week of April 2, 1,750 the week of April 16; 4,500 the week of May 28; and 500 trophy the week of September 17.

Users should be aware that trout stocking information for the South Willamette waterbodies (including in Marion, Benton, Linn and Lane counties) is not available in ODFW's stocking schedule. These waterbodies are now being stocked by a third party under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Anglers should visit www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/Fish/ to find out more about when and what is being

stocked. (A list of those South Willamette waterbodies is available at the Trout Stocking page.)

Trout stocking information for many waterbodies in eastern Oregon is not listed either because it's not yet available. Unlike western Oregon, many lakes and ponds in eastern Oregon are not accessible until later in the year. The schedule for the rest of eastern Oregon will be posted once information is available.

Trout are Oregon's most popular game fish with tens of thousands of anglers of all ages fishing for them every year. ODFW stocks between 5-6 million trout and kokanee in lakes, ponds and rivers throughout the state annually.

Free Fishing Days in Oregon, February 17-18

It's free to fish, crab or clam on the Saturday and Sunday of Presidents' Day Weekend, February 17-18, so take a friend!

During these two days, no fishing licenses or tags (including a Combined Angling Tag and a Columbia River

Basin Endorsement) are required to fish, crab or clam anywhere in Oregon. Although no licenses or tags are required, all other regulations apply including closures, bag limits, and size restrictions.

"Free Fishing Weekends are a great opportunity for friends and fami-

lies to get out and enjoy a day or two of fishing," said Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fisheries manager. "Winter steelhead, trout, crabbing and clamming are just some of the great opportunities available." Look for the best opportunities in ODFW's weekly Recreation Report, which is updated online every Wednesday.

Under statute set by the Oregon State Legislature, ODFW can offer eight days of free fishing each year. The six other days of free fishing in Oregon this year are listed on page 16 of the 2018 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations and are June 2-3, September 1-2 (Sat.-Sun. of Labor Day Weekend) and November 23-24 (the two days after Thanksgiving).

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Look for our next issue on March 1.