



Journey

through Grant County and beyond

MAGONE LAKE IS A GRANT COUNTY FAVORITE

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

A mile-long trail loops around Magone Lake for an easy hike. There are no barriers or steep inclines along the unpaved path.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Pack up the marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers for a s'mores treat after playing in the water.

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Magone Lake is an oasis on a hot summer day and one of Grant County's favorite swimming and fishing spots.

It also features a 1-mile hiking trail, circling the lake, which is easy enough for everyone in the family.

Located about 26 miles north of John Day in the Malheur National Forest, Magone Lake (pronounced "muh-goan") covers about 50 acres and is surrounded by Ponderosa pine, fir and other native trees.

Visitors enjoy the water with inner tubes, pontoons, kayaks, canoes and boats. The lake has a boat ramp that was rebuilt five years ago.

The sandy beach in the day use area is great for building sandcastles.

Swimmers can stay near the shore and the gradually sloping shallow water, or venture out to the tree stump in the middle of the lake, which makes a good diving spot.

Picnic areas near the beach are a good place for barbecuing hot dogs and hamburgers — or making s'mores.

The facilities include three tent-only sites, 20 tent/trailer sites and a large picnic area with group picnicking. All the facilities,

How to get there:

From John Day, follow Highway 26 about 13 miles to County Road 18/Kee-ney Forks Road. Travel about 12 miles on County Road 18, then turn left onto Forest Service Road 3620 (there will be a sign pointing left to Magone Lake). Travel 2 miles on Forest Road 3620 to the junction with Forest Road 3618. Follow 3618 for approximately 1 mile to the day-use area.

ties, including a changing room and vault toilets, are handicap-accessible. It also has a reservation-only covered picnic shelter for large gatherings.

Geologists believe the lake was created by a land slide in the early 1800s.

It is said the first fish placed in Magone Lake arrived in the 1880s when Major Joseph Magone, a former Civil War officer, carried buckets of brook trout from the John Day Valley to the lake.

Known for traveling most everywhere by foot, he hiked up to the lake with a wooden yoke across his shoulders, with a bucketful of fish at each end.

Today, the lake is stocked by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with 8- to 15-inch eastern brook and rainbow trout.



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The hiking trail around Magone Lake includes cool, shaded areas.

Come for the eclipse . . . Stay for our starry nights

The first solar eclipse to cross the continental U.S. in decades will touch Oregon the morning of August 21, 2017. Watch it from the John Day River Valley, and then catch our evening star shows - every night, year round."

PHOTO COURTESY U.S. FOREST SERVICE

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