

# FISH LAKE TRAIL #717

LENGTH: 2.80 Miles  
ELEVATION: 4,300 to 4,850 Ft.  
USGS MAP: Olallie Scenic Area  
AVG. GRADE: 5%

USE: Heavy  
Diff: Moderate  
Mtn. Bk. Rtg. 2  
MAX. GRADE: 20%

## ACCESS AND USE:

This trail is open to hikers, horses, and mountain bikes, but is not recommended for biking. Rough and rocky trail surfaces, steep hills (20% or more in places) and other obstacles on this route mean most people will end up carrying their bikes as much as they ride them. (please note: The 1/2 mile between Lower lake Camp Ground and Lower lake itself is a very good short bike ride. It also can connect you to the Lodgepole Trail and other potential loop rides).

Access: There are several ways to reach this path, depending where you start. From the east end trail head: Forest Service Rd. 46, Left on the 4690, Right on the 4220 Skyline rd. to Lower Lake Camp Ground. Trail head is located on the back side of camp ground loop. West end trail head: Forest Service Rd. 46, Left on the 4690, right turn on 4691, to the 120 spur rd. (Follow signs once you are on 4691). You can also drive to within 1/4 mile of fish lake on the power line rd, if you know where it passes the lake. (Four wheel drives only). Obtain directions on this route from Olallie Lake Guard Station.

## DESCRIPTION:

Fish Lake is another beautiful high Cascade lake nestled in an Ancient Noble Fir and Mountain Hemlock old growth forest at an elevation of 4,400 ft. Some of the scenic area's tallest and oldest Douglas Firs are also situated in the tiny basin around Fish Lake.

The lake itself covers 24 acres and is 67 ft. deep. A superb vista of Fish and Surprise Lakes, and their surrounding terrain can be had approximately 1/2 mile south on the Fish Lake trail. Some effort must be expended to obtain this view however, as you must climb 600 ft. in less than 3/10 of a mile. It is this climb that makes this hike impractical for mtn. bikes and anything but the most sure footed of horses.

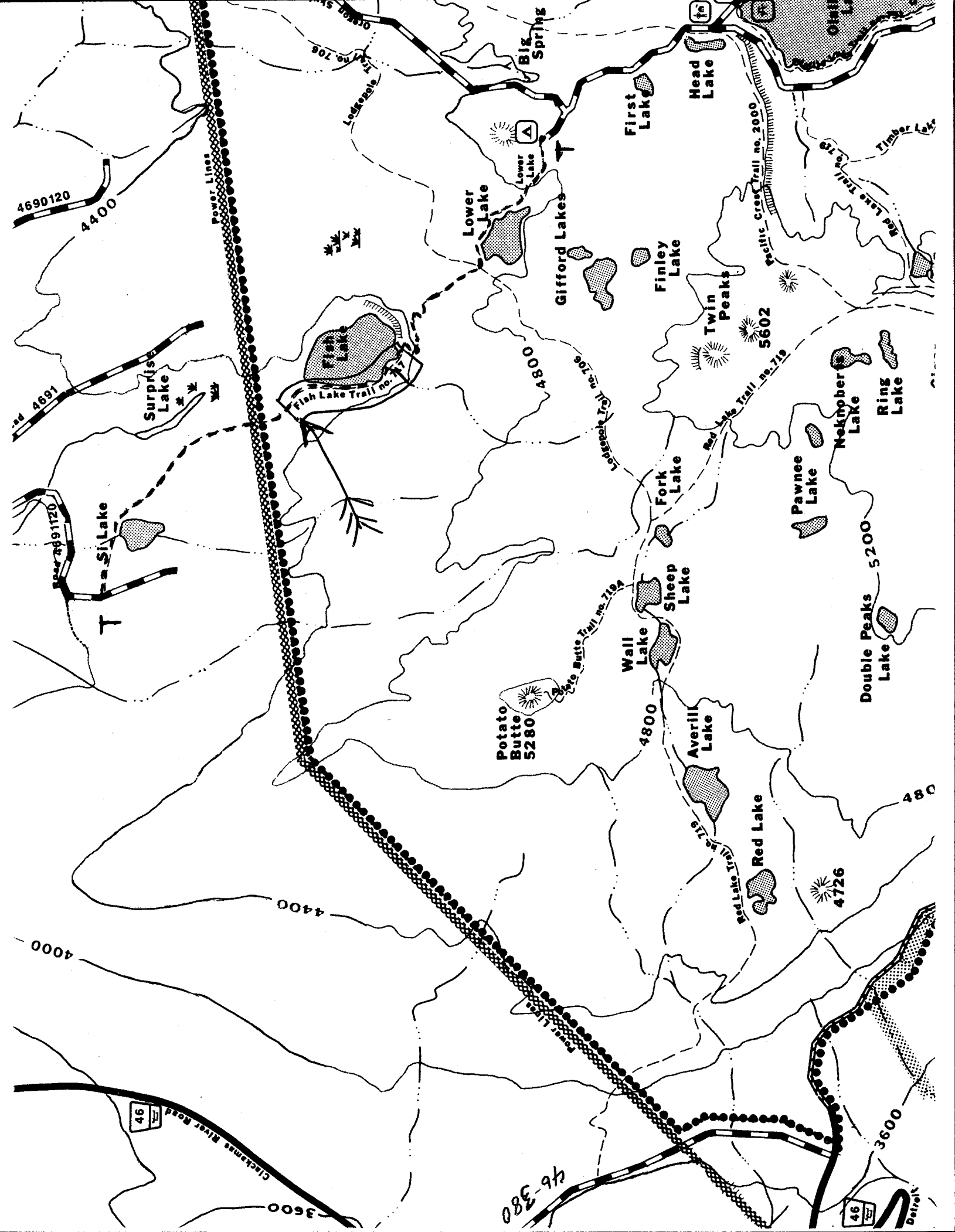
Fishing is usually best early and late in the season. Cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and Eastern Brook Trout are caught here as well as Rainbow Trout (carry-overs that are stocked from time to time by helicopter).

The trail continues west past Surprise Lake after it crosses the power line corridor to the western terminus on the 120 spur rd.

## TRAIL MILEAGE LOG:

- 0.00 Starting from the Lower Lake camp ground trail head the path climbs moderately for .15 of a mile.
- 0.15 Trail begins decent down into Lower Lake basin.
- 0.25 Trail encounters and follows N.E. shore line of Lower Lake.
- 0.50 Lower Lake marker sign near west end of lake.
- 0.60 Path reaches four way intersection of Lodgepole Trail #706.
- 0.95 Off the right hand side of the path 20 ft in a northward direction are the bluffs above Fish Lake: 100 ft. of sheer cliffs combined with 200 to 300 ft of scree slope drop off in front of you to the lakeshore. This is a spot that is definitely worth pausing at for a moment. Standing on the far left side of the bluff, Mt. Hood is just visible behind West Pinhead Butte. Coming up the hill from the lake, this is an ideal place to stop and catch your breath.

- 1.00 Trail begins steep decent towards the lake, and through a series of four switchbacks drops 600 ft into the basin.
- 1.40 Trail comes to the Fish Lake shoreline, passing a couple of large disperse sites, and follows it closely along the southwest side for 3/10 of a mile. This area is lush with a profusion of ferns, mosses, and other varied plant life. As unusual as it sounds, there is evidence of Beaver or Otter activity in this area as well as the east shore, although no confirmed sightings have been reported as of this writing.
- 1.70 At this point a Y in the trail leads to the north side of the lake, where there are several large, well developed disperse sites ideal for camping. There is even an old picnic table here and pre-existing fire rings for fire safety. You must cross the lake outlet to reach it.
- 1.90 Trail parallels a very fragile alpine stream that is one of the uppermost tributaries of the Clackamas River. Mountain or Thin Leaf Alder trees line the banks, as well as many different ferns, Skunk Leaf, and Bear grass. Mosses and Lichens abound. Small fingerling trout dart in and out of the shadows. A favorite gathering place for all kinds of wildlife, especially deer, and tiny Pin-tail Ducks.
- 1.95 Trail crosses power line corridor, and accompanying roads.
- 2.00 Path meets with the Surprise Lake trail, leading straight ahead in the same direction you are walking. To stay on the Fish Lake trail you must turn left at this intersection.
- 2.1-2.6 Path gently rises for a time then goes steadily down hill for apprx. 1/2 mile. Thickly forested with old growth. Very beautiful and pleasant hiking in this ancient woods.
- 2.65 Trail encounters Si Lake and follows along it's north shore.
- 2.65-2.85 Heavy growth of Western Hemlock, Western Larch, Lodgepole pine, Douglas Fir, Pacific Silver Fir, and lesser amounts of Alaskan Yellow Cedar and Noble Fir all along here make this area a tree lover's paradise. Abundant profusion of Huckleberries and Mtn. Blueberries ripen in late August, making for a natural treat and a pleasant diversion. Other plants include Bear grass, Skunk Weed, grouseberry, Oregon Grape, and many kinds of wildflowers to numerous to mention by name round out the flora found on this stretch of trail as it descends the last 3/10 of a mile to the trail head on the 4691-120 spur.



4690120  
4400

4691

Surprise Lake

T  
a Si Lake

Fish Lake Trail no. 719

Potato Butte 5280

Wall Lake  
4800

Averill Lake

Red Lake

4726

4000

46

Clackamas River Road

3600

46-380

46

3600

Detrott

Big Spring

Lower Lake

Gifford Lakes

First Lake

Twin Peaks

Finley Lake

Fork Lake

Sheep Lake

Pawnee Lake

Nekober Lake

Ring Lake

Double Peaks 5200

5602

Pelitic Creek Trail no. 2000

Trail no. 719

Trail no. 719

Trail no. 719

4400

4800

3600