

LODGEPOLE TRAIL #706

LENGTH:	5.00 Miles	USE:	Medium
ELEV:	4,400 to 5,100 ft	DIFFICULTY:	Moderate
USGS MAP:	Olallie Scenic Area		

ACCESS AND USE:

This trail provides excellent access to the Pacific Crest Trail #2000 for horses. It is open to Mtn. Bikes, Horses and Hikers. Developed campsites at nearby Olallie Meadows campground. Triangle Lake horse camp available for equestrian uses. It is located on the 4220 Skyline road approximately ½ mile south of the Olallie Meadows Campground. Very fragile areas around Triangle Lake tread lightly please! Access: 46rd, 4690, 4220 to Olallie Meadows C.G. Toilets available at Olallie Meadows, Triangle Lake. No garbage service or water available except for nearby Triangle Lake. Possible loop hikes: Lodgepole #706 to power line rd to 4220 rd and back; Lodgepole trail to Fish Lake trail #717 to 4220 rd or P.C.T. #2000 and back; or Lodgepole to Red Lake Trail #719 to 4220 and back. *The Pacific Crest trail parallels the 4220 Skyline road as far north as Olallie Meadows campground, providing a much more scenic route back on these loop hikes.*

DESCRIPTION:

The Lodgepole trail is interesting in its versatility and its many interesting adjoining routes, providing a great many options along the way. It is an excellent alternative to the Pacific Crest trail for someone who would like to see more of the scenic area. The two routes virtually parallel each other as far south as Fish Lake. Since both the beginning and end of the Lodgepole Trail are near the P.C.T there are several ways to loop this area without going very far out of the way. The Lodgepole trail more or less climbs steadily from the Olallie Meadows campground to its terminus near Sheep Lake, gaining 780 ft. of elevation along the way. The path climbs through several unique stands of alpine trees and meadows giving excellent examples of what most of the scenic area is like. Some of them are described more thoroughly in the following mileage log. The path contains some long stretches of soft dirt surfaces, which make for pleasant hiking and mtn. biking in some, but not all areas. Comparatively speaking, this trail has good bikability for most of its length. The Red lake and Fish Lake trails gives bikers and hikers some interesting loop options, but remember, the P.C.T. is closed to mtn. biking. Lower lake is an interesting place to stop over and at 73 ft. is the deepest lake in the scenic area. Gibson Lake, a little farther up the trail is another unique and beautiful place to visit, and both have ample disperse sites for camping. The Gibson lake trailhead is difficult to spot but is obtainable by watching for it on the left about ½ miles south of the Lower lake junction. Please use existing fire rings for fire safety, and be careful of fragile lakeside environments.

TRAIL MILEAGE LOG:

0.00 The trailhead and a small parking area are located at the south end of the Olallie Meadows campground. This also serves as the Russ Lake trailhead and is marked as such by a small sign, but at this writing there is no indication that the Lodgepole Trail originates at this same spot.

0.10 Trail meets Russ Lake #716 coming into your path on the left. Continue straight ahead at this point for the most direct route.

0.25 Trail passes spur path connecting to the P.C.T. at this point. To continue on the Lodgepole stay to the right at this junction.

0.30 Path crosses the 4220 Skyline Rd. and continues in a southwesterly direction.

0.40 At this spot the path nears the Triangle Lake horse camp at Site #1.

In this area one passes thick stands of Lodgepole Pine with some Pacific Silver Fir and Western Hemlock interspersed in the dominate Lodgepole. Trees 80 ft. in height indicate the great age of this stand of old growth. This height is approaching the limit that Lodgepole pine obtains at this altitude. It is also interesting to note the spiral growth grain of the very old Mountain Hemlock, which is unique to this species. The richly carpeted forest floor all along this area gives a cool green glade effect. Bunch grass, Grouseberry, and Huckleberries dominate the foliage along here.

0.60 Trail skirts western end of Triangle Lake and heads south descending gradually in places.

0.80 More Lodgepole pine stands, as trail begins gradual uphill climb.

1.40 Trail intersects the power line corridor, passes over two separate roads, Perpendicular to the direction of travel. These roads can be used to obtain the 4220 rd. to the east and the Fish Lake trail approximately two miles to the west. Looking over your right shoulder, near the middle power line tower you have a good view down the Clackamas River Basin looking to the northwest.

1.60 Path surface turns rocky and broken, footing more difficult. Continues uphill gradually.

1.7-9 Trail begins moderately steep climb, encounters thickets of mountain blueberries.

2.0 At this point your journey levels off slightly and leads through cool, thick stands Lodgepole, Hemlock, Pacific Silver Fir, with an occasional Alaskan Yellow Cedar

- 2.10 Path crosses a well-defined dry rocky streambed. Probably the main runoff course for Head, First, and Lower Lakes. Beware of this in early spring while the snowpack is thawing, as trying to cross snow bridges along this courses can be quite dangerous.
- 2.30 Trail resumes steep climb, very rocky footing.
- 2.45 At this point the trail encounters an old torn up road. By turning left here and following this roadbed about one and one half miles you can get back on the 4220 Skyline Rd. near Big Springs. (The uppermost headwater of the Clackamas River). This actually comes out about ¼ mile north of the Lower Lake campground turnoff. If you turn right at the old road it will eventually bring you back to the power line corridor about ¾ of a mile west of where the Lodgepole trail crosses the corridor, where it end.
- 2.50 Resume steep climb for a short time, then levels off for about 1/10 of a mile.
- 2.70 Here you cross Cornpatch Meadow, a favorite browsing area for elk and deer.
- 2.90 Trail climbs steeply through this last section before breaking over into the Lower Lake basin.
- 3.30 Here the path intersects with Fish Lake trail #717. A left turn here will take you to Lower Lake (about 50 ft. away to the east and almost visible from this point) and to Lower Lake camp ground and the 4220 rd. about one half mile east of this point. A right turn here will take you to Fish Lake. Writers note: approximately ½ mile west on the Fish Lake trail is an absolutely spectacular viewpoint. From this spot you can see all of Fish Lake, most of Surprise Lake, and a long way down the upper Clackamas River drainage. Mt. Hood is also visible from this outcropping, if you stand on the far left hand side of it. You must go slightly off the main trail for the best vantage point, as Fish Lake is directly below the face of the outcrop of rock. Watch your step.
- A note about Lower Lake: According to experienced fishermen, Lower Lake is a good bet for catching native species and hold-over of stocked fish. Brook and Rainbow Trout have been stocked in years past, and once in a while someone will take a native Dolly Varden out of this lake. (Probably native). Exceptional reflective views of Ollalie Butte can be had on days the wind is calm. For exciting photographs one can choose from the sunrise behind the Butte, or sunsets reflected off the Butte into the lake from the western shoreline, or catch the sunset directly from the aforementioned viewpoint near Fish Lake.
- 3.4-5 Path climbs steadily moderate grade.
- 3.70 Gifford Lakes trail turns off to the left at this point. (It is difficult to find but if you look closely upward and to the left one can usually pick it up).
- 3.80 Path maintains steady, moderate uphill climb.

4.00 Trail passes by northeast side of Middle Lake, (not shown on most maps of the area) and continues climbing.

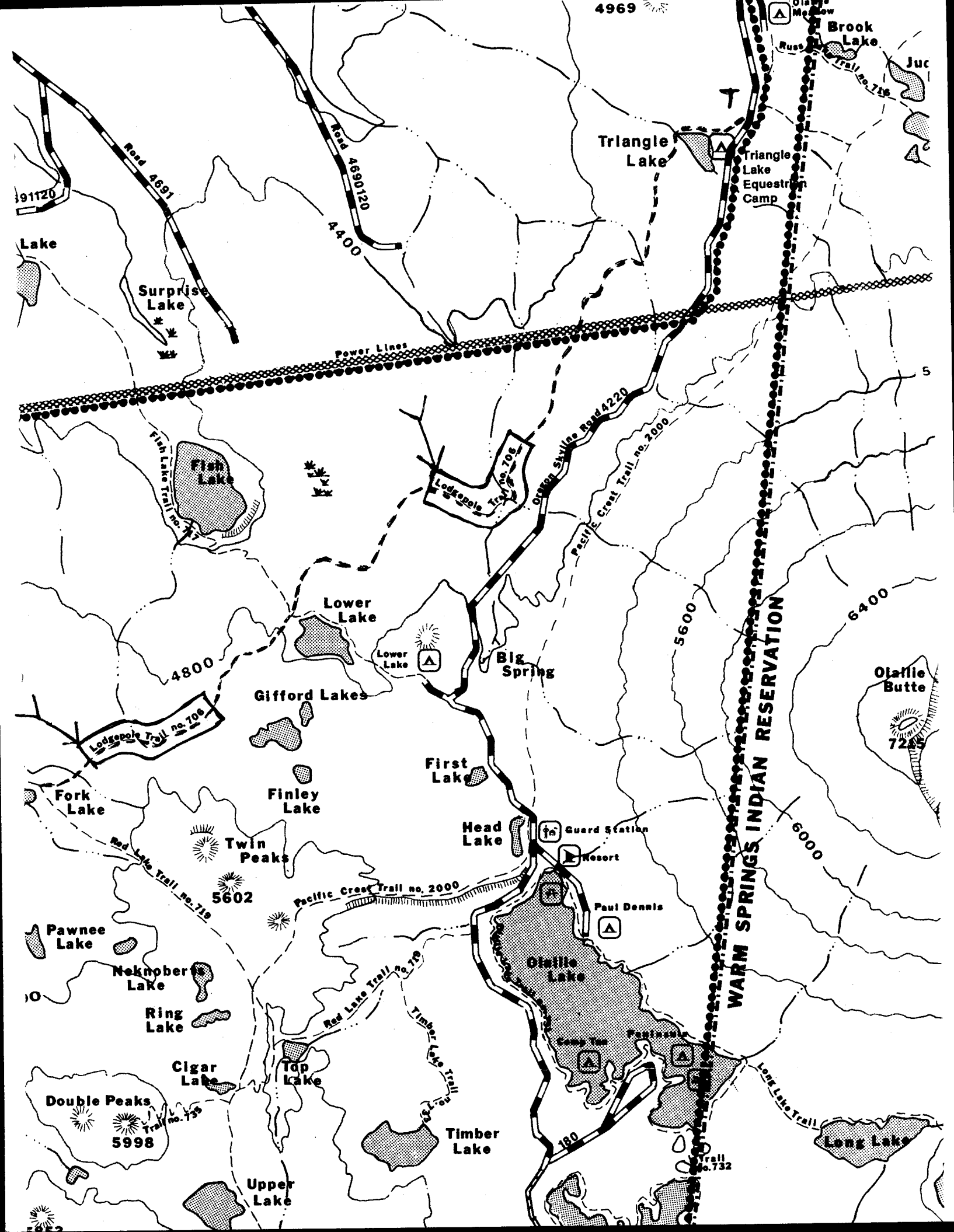
4.20 Trail breaks over ridgeline separating Upper and Lower Lakes Basins. Passes small lily pond on left.

4.3-5 Here you break over final uphill grade and start a gentle decent to the southwest.

4.6-7 Downward sloping path has much loose rock and gravel. Footing is precarious. Extremely hazardous area for bikers-big rocks on either side of path. Even walking one must pick one's steps very carefully.

4.8-9 Trail levels more or less and heads due west. You pass another small unnamed lake, this time on the right. Many good disperse sites for camping here.

5.00 Intersect with Red Lake trail #719. Left turn (eastward) leads towards Ollalie Lake and P.C.T. #2000 trail. Right turn (westward) takes you west on the Red Lake trail #719 towards Sheep, Wall, and Averill Lakes, eventually ending at the 380 rd trailhead.



WARM SPRINGS INDIAN RESERVATION

Triangle Lake

Surpris Lake

Fish Lake

Lower Lake

Gifford Lakes

First Lake

Head Lake

Otaville Lake

Timber Lake

Brook Lake

Triangle Lake Equestrian Camp

Lodgepole Trail no. 706

Oregon Skyline Road 4220

Pacific Crest Trail no. 2000

Lodgepole Trail no. 708

Fork Lake

Finley Lake

Twin Peaks

Guard Station

Resort

Paul Dennis

Pawnee Lake

Neknober Lake

Ring Lake

Red Lake Trail no. 719

Timber Lake Trail no. 732

Cigar Lake

Top Lake

Double Peaks

Trail no. 735

Upper Lake

Long Lake

Trail no. 732

91120

Road 4691

Road 460120

4400

Power Lines

4800

5602

Pacific Crest Trail no. 2000

5600

6400

6000

Olavie Butte

7205

180

4969

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