

Lake Billy Chinook

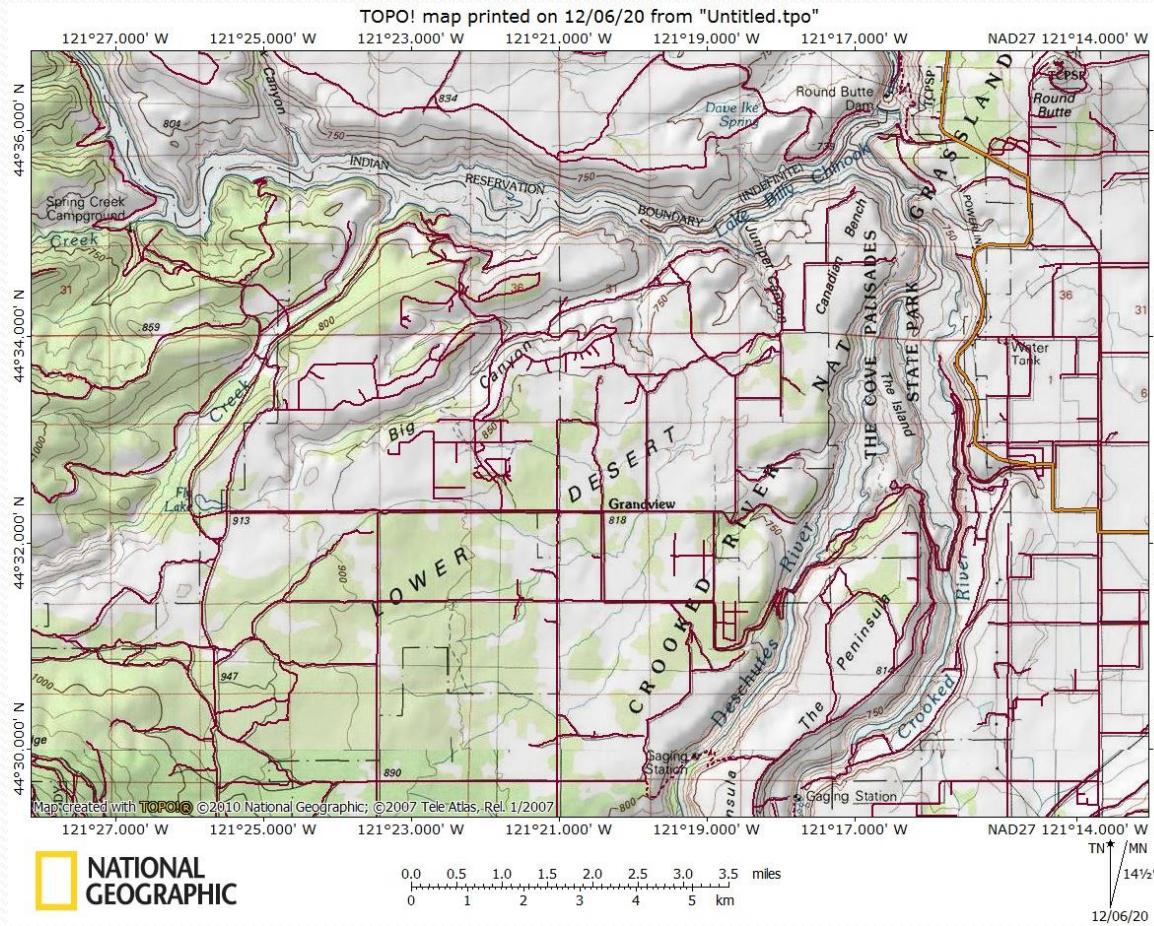
10 Favorite Fishing Spots

And Tackle Suggested

Lake Billy Chinook Statistics

- Lake Billy Chinook is a large reservoir in Jefferson County Oregon built in 1964. It has a surface area of 46.92 miles with 72 miles of shoreline. Primary camping on the lake is provided by Oregon State Parks at the Cove Palisades State Park.
- Fishing Opportunities include Sockeye Salmon, Steelhead, Rainbow, and Brown Trout, Kokanee, and Smallmouth Bass
- Fishing for Chinook Salmon is limited to Aug 1 to Oct 31 below Shears Falls on the Deschutes River

Lake Billy Chinook Map



Lake Billy Chinook Description

- Three rivers are backed up to form the reservoir
 - Crooked River (open all year to fishing)
 - Deschutes River (open all year to fishing)
 - Metolius River (fishing requires a Indian permit from Warm Springs Reservation and is open for fishing from March 1 to October 31.

Fishing Regulations

- Rainbow Trout over 20 inches long to be released. (Release Steelhead)
- Sockeye Salmon over 16 inches long to be released. (keep Kokanee release Sockeye)
- Only 1 Bull Trout over 24 inches long allowed to be kept.
- No limit on Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth Bass Strategy

- Most smallmouth bass are located on steep rocky banks where they feed on the abundant crawfish. Areas with larger rock seem to concentrate the numbers of bass. Smallmouth remain dormant thru the winter and begin feeding in the spring around the time the trees begin to sprout their leaves for the summer. During the heat of summer smallmouth move to cooler deeper water and only can be found in the shallows in the cool mornings and prefer the shady areas. Late evening and night time fishing is sometime productive in the warmer summer when allowed by ODFW.

Favorite Fishing Locations NAD 83

Number	Latitude		Longitude		Description
	Degrees	Minutes	Degrees	Minutes	
1	44	34.485	-121	16.352	Smallmouth Area 3
2	44	32.763	-121	16.175	Smallmouth Area 5
3	44	32.502	-121	16.093	Large Fish Point
4	44	31.630	-121	15.845	Winter School Kokanee
5	44	30.165	-121	17.027	Bull Trout Area
6	44	30.508	-121	18.507	Winter Stonefly Hatch
7	44	34.276	-121	15.704	Smallmouth Area 2
8	44	34.176	-121	16.687	Smallmouth Area 4
9	44	32.669	-121	15.700	Smallmouth Area 1
10	44	35.387	-121	21.925	Kokanee Trolling Island

Point #1

Rocky point with hazard buoy near the mouth of the Deschutes River.

Steep bank to the right is good all the way to where the steep cliffs begin.



Point #2

Rocky Point
opposite first boat
ramp at Cove
Palisades Park.

Rocky banks on
both sides of point
are good fishing
with crawfish
imitations.



Point #3

Flat point with large boulders where fewer numbers of larger smallmouth bass can be found. Fish with minnow imitations during times in the shade or in the spring. Moderate access is possible from road.



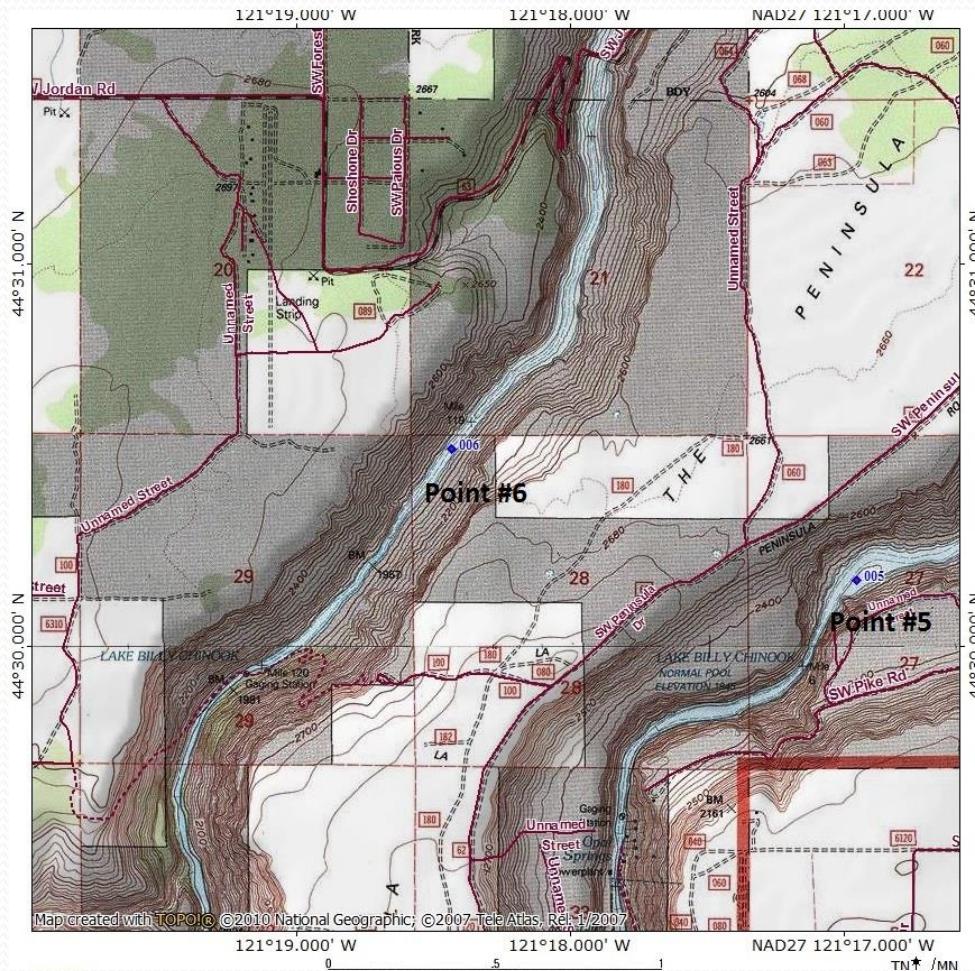
Point #4

Winter fishing spot
for school of shallow
feeding kokanee.
Fished by casting
slender silver spoons
tipped with corn bait.
May provide streamer
fishing opportunities
with flyrod. School is
located slightly above
high bridge on
Crooked River arm.



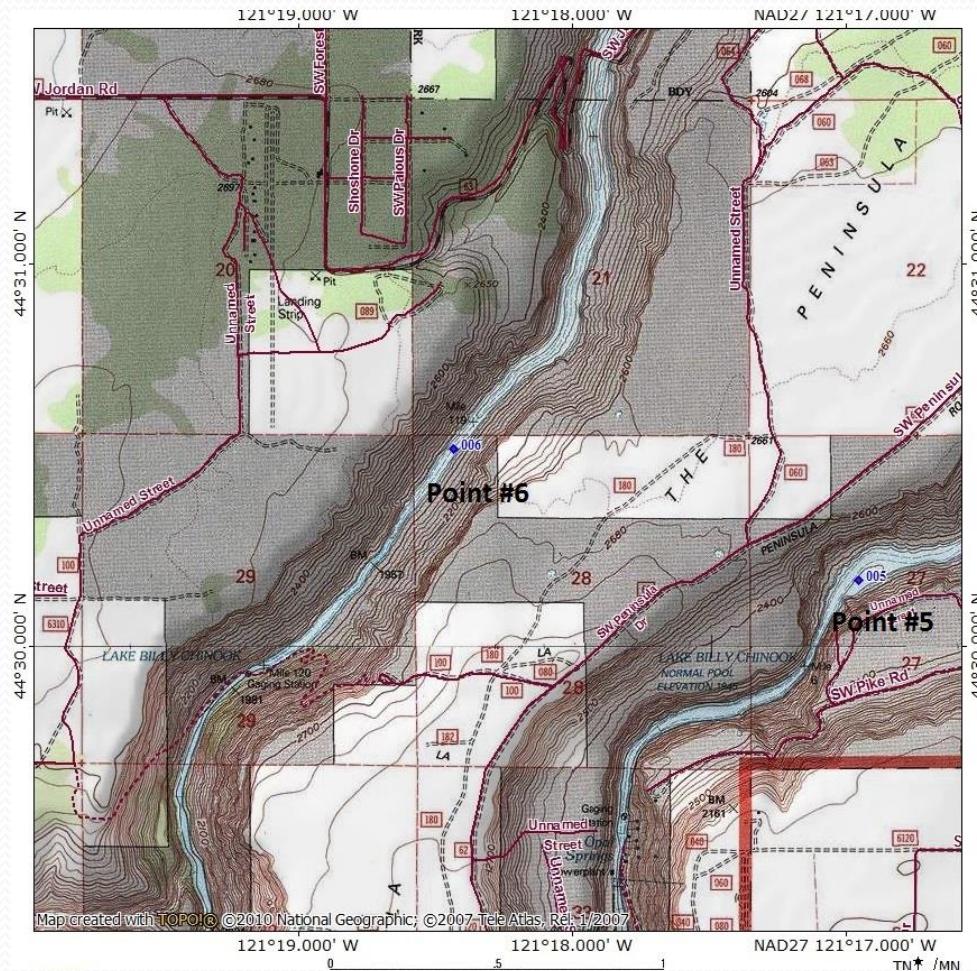
Point #5

Mouth of Crooked River. Fish the shallow rock ledges for bull trout staging to move up Crooked River in fall. Water here is very clear like the Metolius River and Fall River.



Point #6

Mouth of Deschutes River. Winter hatch of #14 black winter stoneflies occur at this location. Less bull trout compared to Point #5.



Point #7

Big Rock Cove downstream of marina. Location of a few larger smallmouth bass. Fish with minnow imitations (streamers) during times in the morning shade or in the spring.



Point #8

Shady bank near the mouth of the Deschutes River. Note this bank remains shaded later in the morning and can be fished after the sun puts the fish down on many of the other banks on the reservoir.



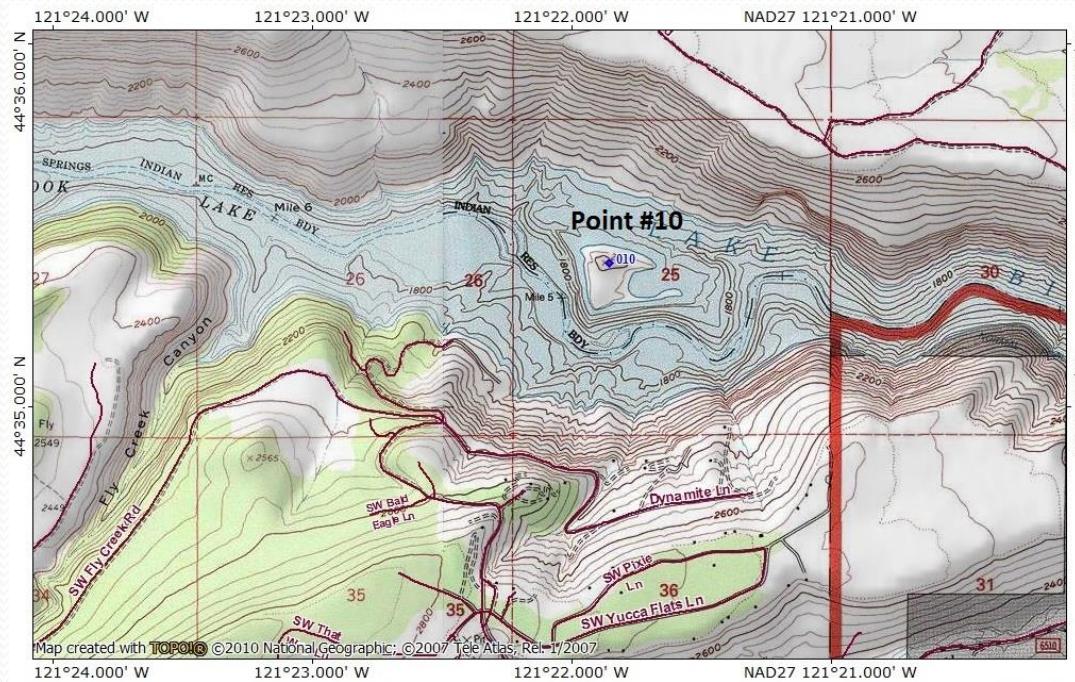
Point #9

Irrigation outfall located just past the first boat ramp at the Cove Palisades Park. Bank upstream and downstream provides good smallmouth bass fishing. Easy access from road.



Point #10

Island located in the Metolius River arm. Good place to troll for kokanee in the spring before higher temperatures drive the fish into deeper water.



TBM Marks

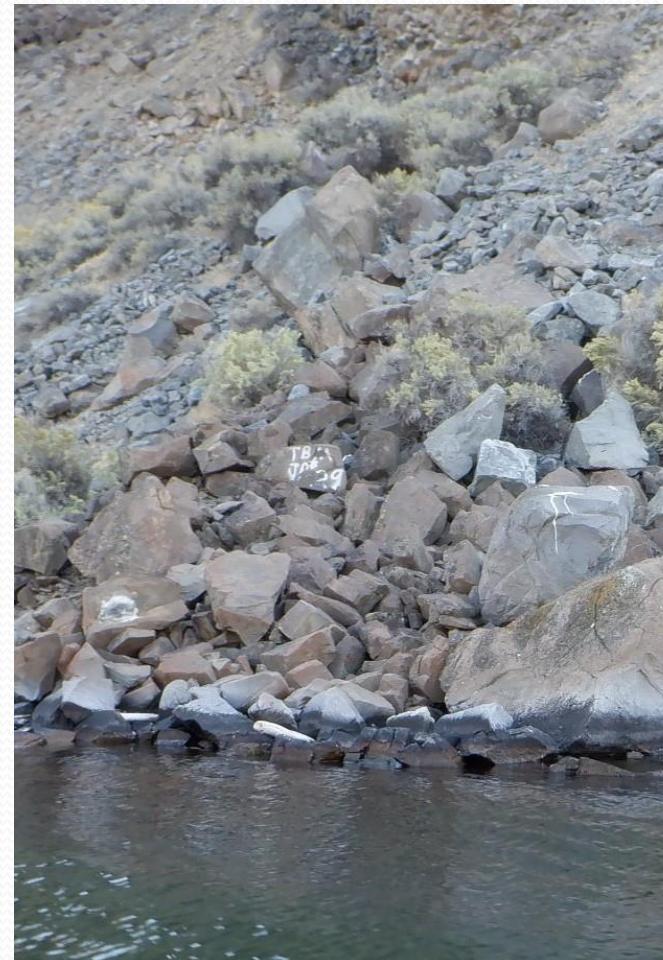
TBM marks are Temporary Bench Marks set by surveyors to mark the high water mark before construction of Lake Billy Chinook. These marks seem to always point to concentrations of smallmouth bass near the large rocks associated with these marks. This mark is located near Point #8 on the shady side of the Deschutes River near the junction with the Crooked River.



TBM Marks with Road Access

This TBM mark is located slightly upstream of Point #9 below the access road leading to the high bridge over the Crooked River.

There seems to always be a concentration of smallmouth bass in this location.



Shade is the key

Anywhere the water is shaded is a good location to hold smallmouth bass. Here brush growing on the shoreline shades some of the water due to the overhanging vegetation. This is a good location to cast for smallmouth bass.



Vertical Cliffs Not Productive

Vertical Cliffs are generally not productive areas for smallmouth bass. The edges of the cliff sections where the bank transitions to steep slopes of small rock are good locations for bass to concentrate.



Vertical Rock Ridges

This is a view of the shoreline downstream of point #7. Note the two small vertical rock ridges entering the water. Smallmouth bass seem to concentrate on the shady side of these ridges. I have fished this entire shoreline and caught bass at many other locations along this shoreline.



Smallmouth Bass Summary

- These point locations to fish for smallmouth bass are similar to other canyon type reservoirs in Oregon. I have fished the following reservoirs using the visual bank indicators shown for Billy Chinook and had very successful days fishing at the following reservoirs.
 - Brownlee Reservoir
 - Oxbow Reservoir
 - Hells Canyon Reservoir
 - Owyhee Reservoir (note extra crappie and largemouth bass present)

Tackle Recommendations

- Flyrod: 6 or 8 Weight Rod
- Line : Weight Forward preferred
 - Floating (spring season)
 - Clear Intermediate Sinking (underwater presentation)
 - High Density fast sink (summer period)
- Leader: 5 feet of 25# test mono
- Tippet: 2-3 feet mono 10# test

Flies Deerhair

Mice

Frogs

Surface

Poppers

Retrieve

twitch to

cause surface
disturbance



Flies Cork Surface Poppers

Minnow
Imitations
Sizes #8 to 2/0
Retrieve twitch
to cause
surface
disturbance.



Flies Crawfish Imitation

Preferred color
light
brown/red.

Retrieve fast
strip to
simulate
swimming
motion,



Flies Streamer (Minnow Imitation)

Preferred color
match baitfish

Blue/White

Black/White

Retrieve fast strip
to simulate
swimming
motion.



Flies Leaches Wolly Buggers

Preferred color
black

Note mono weed
guard to prevent
hang ups.

Retrieve slow pulse
to simulate
swimming motion.

