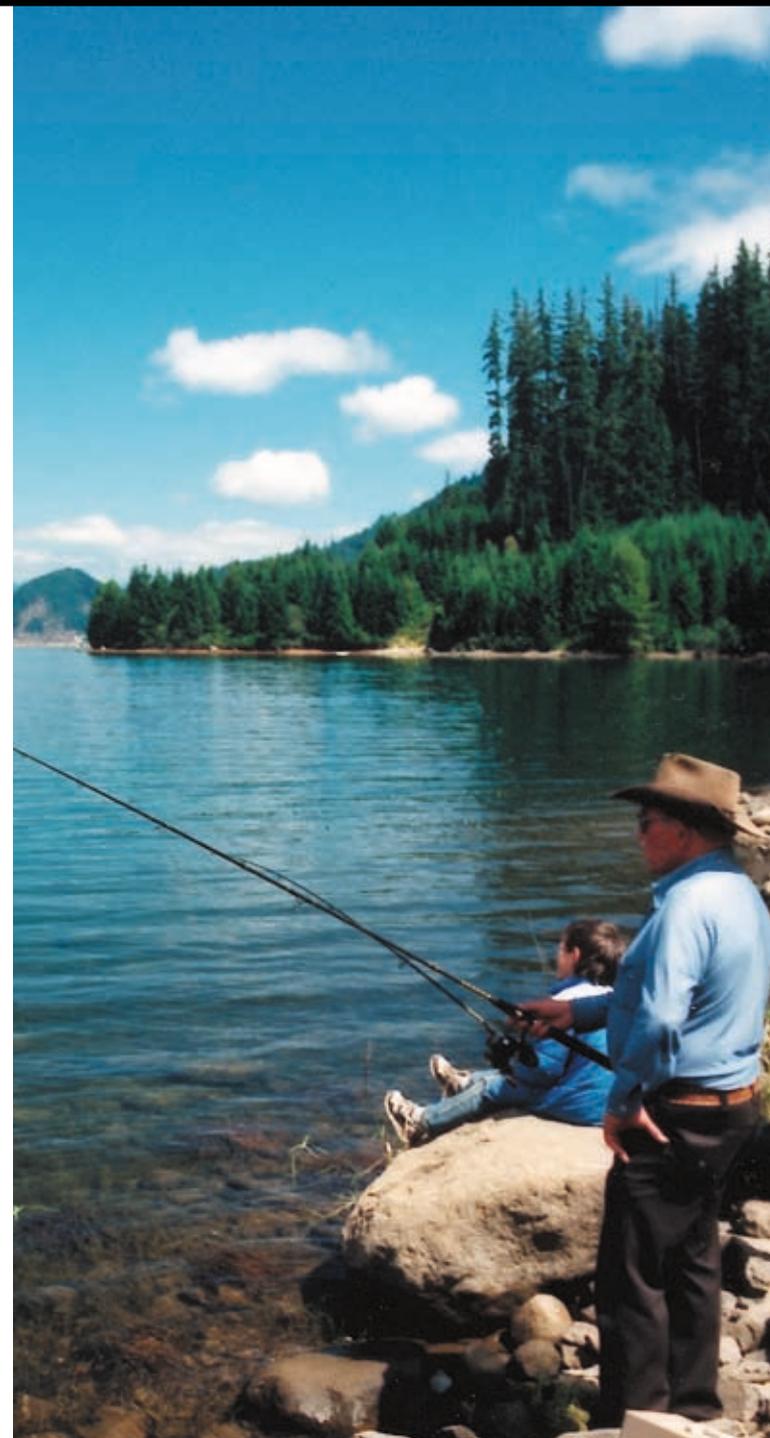


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2009



Blue River Lake and Cougar Lake, Oregon



TO ENJOY A SAFE OUTING OBSERVE THESE SAFETY TIPS

BOATING

Wear a personal flotation device (PFD), and observe posted boating speeds at all times.

WATER SKIING

Have two people in the tow boat, one to drive and one to watch the skier. Avoid skiing near swimmers and fishermen. ALWAYS wear a life jacket when skiing and NEVER ski after dusk.

FISHING

Stay clear of boat channels and swimming areas. While trolling, watch the water ahead for boats, swimmers and underwater obstacles.

SWIMMING

Use the buddy system. Swim only in posted swimming areas away from docks and boating areas.

UNDERWATER HAZARDS

Floating logs, submerged stumps and rocks are present in the lake. Be especially watchful for obstructions near the shoreline.

SMALL CRAFT WARNINGS

Dangerous waves can build up suddenly. Stay out of open waters when winds become threatening.

SEAPLANE INSTRUCTIONS

Please exercise caution - heavy boat traffic may be encountered when landing on the lake. Refer to *Seaplane Operations at Corps Lakes* for specific regulations.

FIRE PREVENTION

The fire potential is generally high during the recreation season. Help prevent forest fires by putting out camp fires completely and disposing of all refuse in trash cans. Build fires only in designated fire rings.

Under the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, it is illegal to excavate or remove artifacts from federal land. Violators are subject to a fine of not more than \$100,000, imprisonment of not more than five years, and forfeiture of all equipment (including vehicles) used in connection with a violation.

Federal rules and regulations concerning the use of areas are set forth in Title 36, Chapter III of the Code of Federal Regulations and are on display in the areas of the project most frequently used by the public.

Cougar Lake is located on the South Fork of the McKenzie River about 42 miles east of Eugene, and Blue River Lake is located on a tributary of the McKenzie River about 38 miles east of Eugene. They are operated by the Corps of Engineers as part of a system of thirteen multi-purpose dams and reservoirs that make up the Willamette Valley Project. These dams and reservoirs work together for the purposes of flood damage reduction, hydropower generation, irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and downstream water quality improvement within the Willamette River drainage system.



Dam Operations

Cougar and Blue River dams are both rockfill structures with gated concrete spillways. Cougar Dam was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$54.2 million, and Blue River Dam was completed in 1969 at a cost of \$32 million. Since then, the dams have prevented a combined \$758 million in potential flood damages. During flood season, the dams hold back water to regulate downstream flows. During summer and fall, the cool, clean water that is slowly released from the dams improves downstream water quality. Cougar Dam has two hydropower generating units capable of producing a total of 25,000 kilowatts.

Recreation

Cougar and Blue River lakes, with their many miles of forested shoreline, provide numerous recreation opportunities including camping, boating, swimming, fishing, and water skiing. All recreation facilities are within the Willamette National Forest and are operated by the U.S. Forest Service McKenzie Ranger District, 541-822-3381.

Fish Management

To mitigate impacts to salmon and steelhead caused by the dams, the Corps of Engineers built McKenzie Hatchery near Leaburg. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains and operates the hatchery with funds from the Corps of Engineers and the state of Oregon. In 2004, the Corps of Engineers completed a temperature control tower to Cougar Dam, which improved downstream conditions for threatened fish species.

Project Data

Cougar

Dam	Measure	Metric
Length	1,600ft	487.68m
Height	452ft	137m
Elevation (NGVD*)	1,700ft	518.16m
Total kilowatt capacity		25,000kw

Lake

Length	6mi	9.65km
Area when full	1,280ac	518.14ha

Blue River

Dam	Measure	Metric
Length	1,265ft	385.57m
Height	270ft	82.30m
Elevation (NGVD*)	1,362ft	415.14m

Lake

Length	6.4mi	10.30km
Area when full	1,420ac	575ha

* NGVD National Geodetic Vertical Datum (Mean Sea Level)

