

Public Information:  
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2020



## Detroit Lake and Big Cliff 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

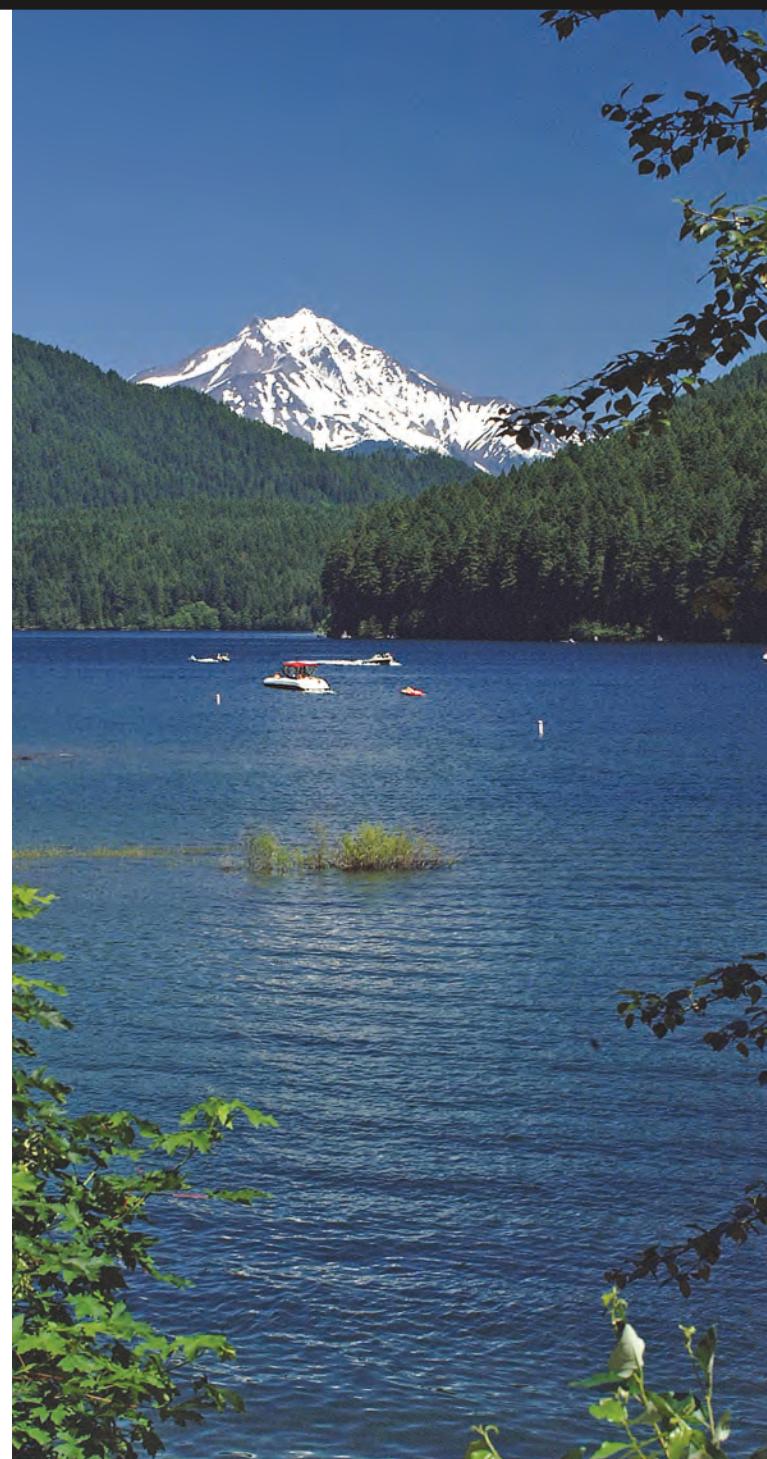
Please exercise caution - heavy boat traffic may be encountered when landing on the lake. Refer to *Seaplane Operations at Corps Lakes* for specific regulations.

#### 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.*



Docks at Detroit lake

Detroit and Big Cliff lakes are located 43 miles southeast of Salem on the North Fork of the Santiam River. 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 Operation and Hydropower

Detroit and Big Cliff dams are concrete dams with gated spillways. They were completed in 1953 at a cost of \$62.7 million. Since then, they have prevented more than \$615 million in potential flood damages. During the flood season, the dams hold back water to regulate downstream flows. During the summer and fall, the cool, clean water that is slowly released from the dams improves downstream water quality.

Detroit Dam, the principal facility, has two hydropower generating units capable of producing 50,000 kilowatts each. Big Cliff Dam, located three miles downstream, is used to regulate power-generating water releases from Detroit Dam. Re-regulating operations may cause Big Cliff Lake to fluctuate as much as 24 feet daily. Big Cliff Dam has one generator capable of producing 18,000 kilowatts.

#### Recreation

Located in the rugged mountain forests below Mt. Jefferson, Detroit Lake is a popular recreation area for fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, camping, and picnicking. The Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Forest Service operate numerous boat ramps, campgrounds and day-use areas around the lake. Two privately owned marinas are located near the town of Detroit.

#### Fish Management

To mitigate impacts to salmon and steelhead caused by the dams, the Corps of Engineers built Marion Forks Fish Hatchery and Minto Station egg-collecting facility. These facilities are operated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with funds provided by the Corps and the State of Oregon.

### Project Data

#### Detroit

Dam	Measure	Metric
Length	1,523.5 ft	464.5 m
Height	463 ft	141.1 m
Elevation (NGVD*)	1,580 ft	481 m
Total kilowatt capacity	100,000 kw	

#### Lake

Length	9 mi	14.4 km
Area when full	3,500 ac	1,432 ha

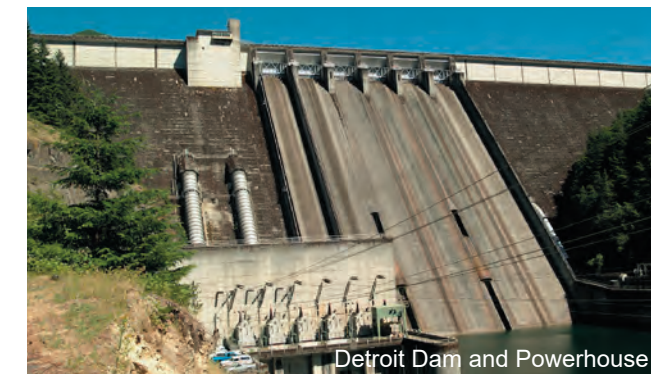
#### Big Cliff

Dam	Measure	Metric
Length	280 ft	85.3 m
Height	191 ft	58.2 m
Elevation (NGVD*)	1,212 ft	369 m
Total kilowatt capacity	18,000 kw	

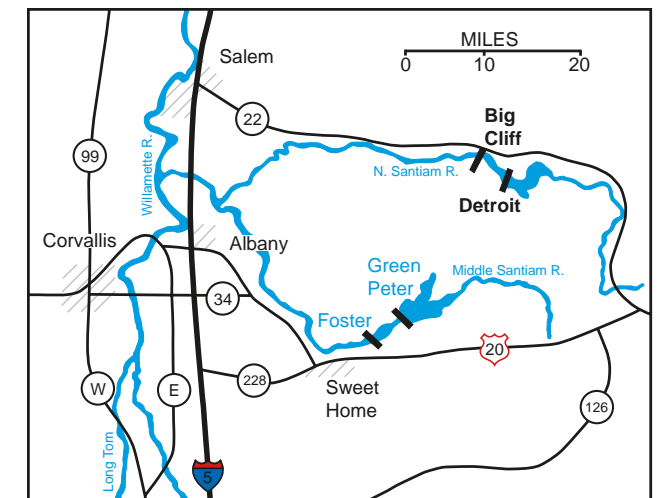
#### Lake

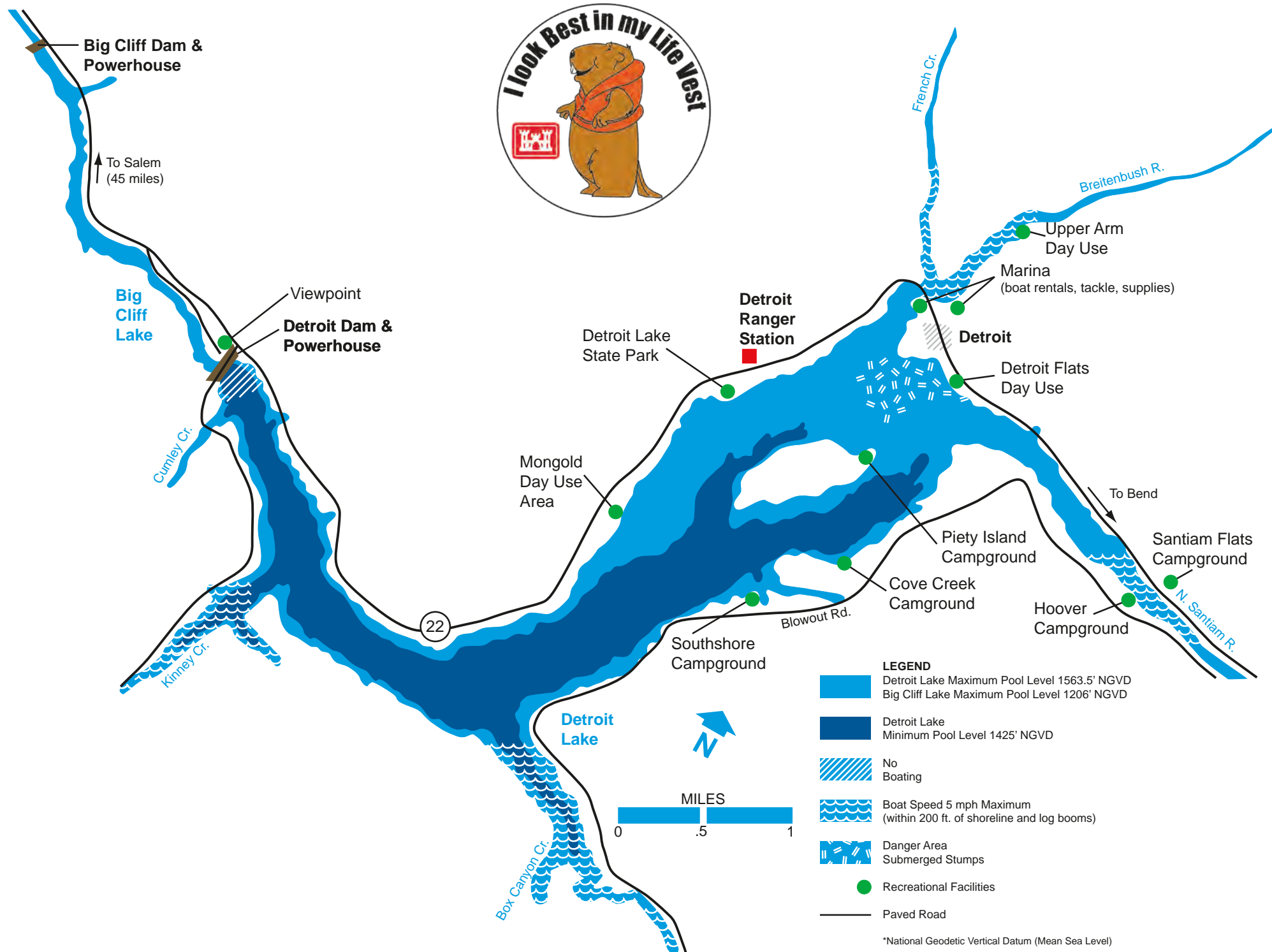
Length	2.8 mi	4.5 km
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\* NGVD National Geodetic Vertical Datum (Mean Sea Level)



Detroit Dam and Powerhouse





	Day-Use	Restrooms	Hiking Trail	Drinking Water	Swimming Area	Camp Sites	Reservable Sites	Fees	Boat Launch	Showers	RV Camp/Utilities	Marina/Boat Moorage
<b>Detroit Lake</b>												
Mongold Day Use**												
Detroit Lake State Park**												
Upper Arm Day Use*												
Detroit Flats Day Use*												
Santiam Flats Campground*												
Hoover Campground*												
Piety Island Campground*												
Cove Creek Campground*												
Southshore Campground*												

\* Operated by the U.S. Forest Service, 503-854-3366.  
 \*\* Operated by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, 503-854-3346.

