

## ~PRICE LAKE TAKE, BUGS & MISC.~

### **ABOUT THE LAKE**

Located just a few miles northeast of Lake Cushman, Price Lake is ideally suited for the fly rod. Measuring a little over 60 acres, the lake is shallow (maximum depth of 12 feet), has an abundance of aquatic insects and contains a healthy population of self-sustaining cutthroat, rainbows and brook trout. Price Lake has the distinction of being Washington's first lake to be managed under Wild Trout regulations, a process in which the SSFF were key players.

Access to the lake is by a 300 yard trail that winds down through old growth fir, hemlock, alder and maple. The trail terminates at what can best be described as a brushy, boggy and log-strewn shoreline, all of which means you'd better have a float tube or pontoon boat if you're going to fish this pond. But the effort's more than worth it, once you're afloat and begin to take in the pristine surroundings; snow capped mountains, abundant wildlife and the opportunity to hook wild trout up to 20 inches. It's just a great place to be.

### **TACKLE**

Any 3 to 6-weight outfit will fill the bill at Price Lake. And thanks to the lake's general lack of depth, a fly angler only needs to carry a full-floater and a slow sink or intermediate sink line. Stillwater lines work great. Leaders need to be on the long side, 9-12 feet, as the water is clear (although tea colored) and the fish wary. Tippetts should be in the 3X to 6X range.

### **BUGS**

Price Lake is home to numerous species of aquatic insects, most of which are of interest to the fish, as well as the fly fisher. However, one needs to be prepared to fish patterns that represent the following bugs: caddis flies, dragon flies, damsel flies, mayflies and chironomids. In early season, most of the action will be subsurface, so recommended bringing the following:

- Timberline Emerger, #12-16
- Gold Ribbed Hares Ear, #12-#18
- Damsel nymph #10-#16 (olive & tan)
- Dragon nymph #8-#12 (olive)
- Dandy Green Nymph #8-#12(see Flies of the Northwest)
- Chironomid nymphs #12-16 in brown and black
- Woolly Buggers #10-#14 in black, brown and olive

Other patterns that have produced in the past include:

- Black Leech #8-#12
- Royal Coachman Bucktail #10-#14
- Carey Special #8-#12 in olive, peacock & brown

- Carrot Nymph #10-#14
- Adams #14-#18
- Blue Winged Olive #14-#18
- Griffiths Gnat #14-#18

### **MISCELANY**

Due to its remote location, anglers need to be aware there are no amenities at or near Price Lake, including restrooms. So, you'll need to be prepared for that. Folks also need to know that anglers' vehicles have been the target of vandalism in recent years, so be sure to leave nothing of value in sight. Finally, there are a few primitive camping areas just past the trail head that can be utilized for that purpose for those so inclined. Just remember not to leave anything lying around that you wouldn't like to lose.

Compliments of Mel Hurd