



Lake Pend Oreille



Silver Valley



Spokane River



Post Falls



Fernan Lake



Priest Lake

Fabulous Fish Stories

Northern Idaho is an angler's paradise. Waters from this region have yielded one-third of the state's **record fish**. The world record rainbow trout (37 pounds) was caught in **Lake Pend Oreille**. The state record northern pike (38 lb 9 oz) and chinook salmon (42 pounds) come from **Lake Coeur d'Alene** while a lake trout exceeding 57 pounds was caught in **Priest Lake**. Idaho is the only inland western state with ocean-run salmon (state record 54 lbs) and steelhead (record 30 lbs 2 oz).

Lake and river **elevations** in the Panhandle range from 2,100 at **Priest River** to 8,643 at **Needle Peak**. The rugged mountains of Idaho contain more than **1,500 high mountain lakes** with good trout fishing. Most of Idaho fishing waters are located in the public domain and are open to the public with free access.

- FISHING TOURNAMENTS**
- April - May** Spring Fishing Derby, Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club. 264-5796
 - June** North Idaho Free Fishing Day
 - June - July** Panhandle Bass Anglers Tournament
 - June** Harrison Annual Kids Fishing Tournament, www.harrisonidaho.org
 - August** American Bass Tournament, Lake Pend Oreille. 659-8227
 - November** Thanksgiving Fishing Derby, Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club. 263-0424

Lake Coeur d'Alene is known for its large **kokanee** and **chinook salmon**. Large and small mouth bass, northern pike, rainbow trout, and mackinaw are also plentiful. Many **bass tournaments** are held each year on the lake. **Northern pike** are generally the first species to become active in

the spring. Fernan, Twin, Spirit and Hayden lakes all provide northern pike fishing. Due to historic low numbers, **cutthroat trout** are now **catch-and-release** in the **Spokane River drainage** (Spokane River above Post Falls Dam, Coeur d'Alene Lake and all tributary streams.)

Rainbow and lake **trout**; small and large mouth **bass**, and lake **whitefish** are plentiful on Lake Pend Oreille. **Kokanee** once provided half the entire sport fishery in the lake with over 1 million harvested yearly. They also provide forage to grow world class rainbow and bull trout but there are no longer enough kokanee to feed them. Harvesting bull trout or kokanee is now illegal. Through March 2010, **lake trout** of any size and **rainbow trout** more than 13" long from Lake Pend Oreille are eligible for a **\$15 cash reward**. www.fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/fish/misc/pendoreille_cash.cfm

For anglers wanting additional information on lake trout and rainbow fishing techniques, **two DVDs** are available; "Reliable Methods of Catching Lake Trout on Lake Pend Oreille" and "Catch a Kam with Captain Ken". Loaner copies are available at area libraries and at the **Idaho Fish and Game** Regional office in Coeur d'Alene.

Shoshone County has world class blue ribbon fishing streams such as the North Fork of the Coeur

All family fishing areas have year 'round seasons, general six-fish limits for trout and bass (no limits on other species), no length limits and any standard fishing gear may be used. Some lakes are restricted to electric motors only.

Round Lake-Sandpoint: Hwy 95 to Dufort Road to Round Lake State Park.

Bull Moose Lake-Priest Lake: Hwy 57 from Priest River, east to Coolin then north.

Kelso Lake-Athol: Hwy 95 three miles north of Athol, Granite Lake/Kelso Lake turnoff to west.

Falls Park Pond-Post Falls: Spokane St. exit off I-90, 1/2 block to 4th St., two blocks west.

Lower Glidden Lake-Wallace: East on I-90 to Wallace and Canyon Creek exit, Cooper Pass/Burke Summit.

Elsie Lake-Kellogg: I-90 east to Big Creek exit, Big Creek Road, south to top of mountain.

Fernan Lake-Coeur d'Alene: I-90 Sherman St. exit, one block at east end of Sherman Ave.

For a complete listing of family fishing waters in the panhandle visit www.fishandgame.idaho.gov

d'Alene, St. Joe and Clear Water Rivers. There are approximately 50 alpine lakes-many with cutthroat, rainbow and brook trout.

In the **Panhandle Region** there are a limited number of **large rivers** that remain **open year round**, including the Kootenai River, Pend Oreille River, Priest River, Clark Fork River above the railroad bridge at Clark Fork, and the slack water portions of the St. Joe and St. Maries rivers. The more traditional "trout fishing" type rivers that most anglers think about are managed with the general **stream and river season** of Memorial Day Saturday through November 30.

Large outdoor **sporting goods retailers** as well as charter fishing companies and guided outfitters can help you plan your trip. See ioga.idaho.gov for a list of all licensed Idaho outfitters and guides.

Fish in the Freeze

Bundling up and heading out to North Idaho lakes in the middle of winter is a popular pastime for the hardiest of fishing enthusiasts. Standard **ice fishing** equipment includes an auger for drilling through the ice, a bucket for hauling home the catch, a Thermos of hot chocolate or coffee, a chair and patience. Smaller lakes in the panhandle are most likely to be frozen at safe levels by mid-January. Two popular ice fishing lakes are **Fernan** in Coeur d'Alene and the north end of **Hayden Lake**.

Hunter's Paradise

With the most square miles of wilderness (**21,621,000 acres** of forested land) in the lower 48 states, Idaho offers the best and most varied hunting in the west. In North Idaho, **2.7 million acres** are National Forest land. The state is two-thirds public land and a new Fish and Game program called **Access Yes!** is opening up more private land every year.

The state's **big game** population includes elk, moose, woodland caribou, mule and white-tailed deer, mountain lion, black and grizzly bear, and bighorn sheep. Grouse, quail, chukar and pheasant are a few of the upland **game birds** available, while Canada geese and ducks are the most common **waterfowl**.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that **13 million Americans** hunt annually, including 197,000 Idahoans. The majority of those hunters are after big game, such as deer or elk. That makes October an important month for most Idaho hunters, when North Idaho's deer, elk and moose seasons open. **Bear** season runs late summer through October and again in spring. Panhandle area **mountain lions** may be taken mid September through mid February.

Record numbers of moose are making their home in **Kootenai County**. The growing moose population has been welcomed by hunters especially since the typical bull moose shot in Idaho has antlers spanning **36 inches**. Idaho issued a record 1,146 moose hunting permits in 2007. 15,000 to 20,000 of the animals are believed to live in Idaho, with the highest populations found

near the Canada border. Fewer than 1,000 moose inhabited the state 50 years ago.

In 2008, **gray wolves** in the Northern Rocky Mountains were removed from the federal endangered species list. Wolves will be managed as a **big game species** under the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan. About 13 years ago, 66 gray wolves were reintroduced to central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. Today those wolves number more than 1,500. More than 700 of them are in Idaho.

The **Coeur d'Alene Mountains** are considered to be among the best for trophy bull elk because of the good cover and terrain.

Bonner County (Sandpoint) offers excellent waterfowl hunting. Duck populations include both puddle ducks and divers, and quality goose hunting is abundant.

The **Kootenai Wildlife Refuge in Boundary**

County allows hunting of geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, blue, spruce, ruffed grouse, deer, elk, moose, black bear and mountain lion.

In the **Silver Valley**, hunting possibilities are endless. Many elk, deer, bear and upland game birds are taken during bow, rifle and muzzle loader seasons.

Priest Lake is home to numerous species of coveted game animals. Whitetail and mule deer share the forests with an increasing herd of elk, moose and a large population of black bear. Other species of interest include mountain lions, an abundant supply of grouse, turkeys and waterfowl. This vast area has one of the most **abundant whitetail**

Black bear and grizzly bear are found in the Idaho panhandle. Grizzly are found only in a few places furthest north in the Bonners Ferry wilderness but black bear are found throughout the northern part of the state. When hunting in grizzly country, carrying pepper spray is recommended. The mere presence of a bear doesn't always pose a risk. Stay calm. The vast majority of bears will leave an area when they become aware of human presence.

-Idaho Department of Fish and Game

THE BEAR FACTS

deer herds in Idaho. Mule deer abide in the more remote upper elevation regions, which makes for some challenging attempts to reach their homeland. Roaming the high mountain ridges, **logging sites** and regenerated forest fire areas will usually reward the hunter with sightings of small herds including some very respectable bucks.

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Idaho Department Of Fish And Game - 2009 License Schedule

Minimum time of six months legal residence within the state of Idaho required for resident license

As of May 1, 2009. Fees may change without notice. Licenses, permits, validations and tags expire Dec. 31.

Resident License Fees - Hunting \$12.75; Fishing \$25.75; Combination hunting/fishing \$33.50. Senior combination (65 yrs old, 5-year residency) \$11.75; Disabled Persons combination \$5.00; Military Furlough combination \$17.50; Junior hunting (12-17 yrs) \$7.25; Youth Small Game Hunting (10-11 yrs) \$7.50; Junior fishing (14-17 yrs) \$13.75; Junior combination (14-17) \$17.50; Sportsman package \$117.25. Daily Fishing - 1st Day \$11.50, Each Consecutive Day \$5.00.

Nonresident License Fees - Hunting \$154.75; Fishing \$98.25; Combination hunting/fishing \$240.00. 3-day salmon/steelhead (includes 3-day general fishing license) \$37.50; Junior season fishing \$21.75. Daily fishing is \$12.75, each consecutive day at initial time of purchase add \$6.00. Small game hunting \$97.75; Junior mentored hunting (12-17 yrs) \$31.75.

Tags - Resident: Deer \$19.75; elk \$30.75; bear \$11.50, mountain lion \$11.50; turkey \$19.75; antelope \$31.25; moose/bighorn sheep/mountain goat

\$180.75 (controlled hunt only.) Nonresident: deer \$301.75; elk \$416.75; bear \$186.00, mountain lion \$186.00; turkey \$80.00; moose/bighorn sheep/mountain goat \$2,101.75 (controlled hunt only.)

Special permits and tags for seniors 70+, servicemen and others please call for information. This is not a complete list of all fees. Please refer to Idaho 2009 Fishing Seasons and Rules booklet available on-line (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>), at local sports shops and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2750 Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene, 83815. 769-1414

Idaho resident children under 14 years of age may fish without a license. Nonresident children under the age of 14 may fish without a license if accompanied by a valid Idaho fishing license holder. Any fish caught by such nonresident children shall be included in the bag and possession limit of the accompanying valid Idaho license holder. Hunter Education Certificate Required. Children under 12 are not permitted to hunt. All persons born after January 1, 1975, must produce a hunter education certificate or a previous year's valid hunting license before a license can be issued.

Ask First - Idaho's trespass law requires everyone to obtain permission before entering private property that is irrigated or cultivated. If the private property is rangeland or forested, it's the landowner's responsibility to post the property if they wish to control access. These lands must be posted with signs or orange painted fence posts nor more than 660 feet apart. Always respect the property of others and ask first to use or cross private property. Idaho "Courtesy Cards" are available from the Dept. of Fish and Game to provide information from the hunter to the property owner.

Phone numbers of interest to sportsmen are:
1-800-635-7820: Hunting, fishing, nonresident license information.
1-800-ASK FISH: Up to date statewide fishing information.
1-800-632-5999: Citizens Against Poaching report wildlife violations.
1-800-55HUNTS: License and tag purchase with credit card.
1-800-TAG-DRAW: To apply for controlled hunts May 1-31 using credit card.

When you want to spend a day or a few hours in the great North Idaho outdoors, these back-to-nature itineraries are ideal for the whole family!

Watch Eagles Soar



Bald eagles enjoy **Lake Coeur d'Alene** as much as we do, arriving in November in their **annual migration**. A popular place at the east end of the lake is **Higgins Point**, a paved trail with a viewing area about 1/4 mile from the parking lot. Information kiosks and a view of the eagles from your car also makes this a fun outing for all ages. **Wolf Lodge Bay** on Lake Coeur d'Alene as well as other numerous locations on **Lake Pend Oreille** draw the regal visitors. Highway 200 between **Sandpoint and Hope** is another viewing venue. Waters are rich with salmon that have spawned and died, offering the eagles abundant winter food. The eagles remain in the area until about the **third week of January**.

It takes less than ten minutes to get from Coeur d'Alene to the eagles winter habitat. From I-90 and Hwy 95, go east on I-90 to exit 15-Sherman Avenue, then continue on Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive to Higgins Point.

Special **eagle viewing cruises** on Lake Coeur d'Alene and Lake Pend Oreille are popular. While the winter months provide views of a large number of eagles, year 'round these symbols of America can be seen in their natural North Idaho habitat.

Aviation Museum



Opened in July 2007, the **Dr. Forrest Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center** is a world-class educational experience centered around the themes of aviation and innovation. The display features twenty of Dr. Bird's personal **aircraft** dating back to 1929.

From Coeur d'Alene travel north on US 95 for approximately 34 miles towards Sandpoint to Sagle Road. Turn right (east) for 11.8 miles and turn left onto Bird Ranch Road, which leads to Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center. Open

Monday through Friday by Appointment only. To arrange your visit, please call 255-4321 www.birdaviationmuseum.com

Historical Coeur d'Alene



There's history on every street corner in the Coeur d'Alene area. **Walking and driving tours** will point visitors to the sights. Local historian **Robert Singletary**, in collaboration with the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce Leadership class, produced an audio CD to guide you on a driving tour of historical sites in the Coeur d'Alene city area. Copies are available for sale through the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. www.cdachamber.com

The City of Coeur d'Alene also has an online brochure available through the Parks Department for the **Historical Forest Cemetery** walking tour. www.coeurdaleneidaho.org

Shoot A Picture



The perfect souvenir of your North Idaho vacation are photographs of the great outdoors and abundant wildlife. The 2,774 acre **Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge** is located in **Boundary County**, surrounded by **Deep Creek** and the **Kootenai River** to the east and the **Selkirk Mountains** on the west. Its purpose is to provide resting and feeding habitat for migrating water fowl. The viewing route is approximately four miles and accessible by car, biking or hiking. Open to visitors daily, office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 267-3888

Just minutes from downtown Coeur d'Alene, the 88-acre **Cougar Bay Preserve** is a virtual wildlife nursery on the shores of **Lake Coeur d'Alene**. Cougar Bay attracts migrating and nesting waterfowl, numerous shorebirds, songbirds, moose, beaver, otter and deer. It offers 5+ miles of **interpretive hiking trails**, canoeing and kayaking, and wildlife and bird watching. Information kiosk and restroom available. 676-8176

Another great aspect to North Idaho is the opportunity to **view wildlife** without having to climb a mountain or hike into the back country. Elk, moose, deer, osprey and Canada geese are often visible in town.

Ancient Cedars



Settlers Grove of Ancient Cedars is an Idaho National Forest hiking and biking trail just north of historic Murray in the **Silver Valley**. The grove contains century-old trees, some with trunks up to 10 feet in diameter. Plan to spend the entire day on this outing. Take I-90 east from Coeur d'Alene to Kingston Exit 43 (29 miles). Drive the scenic Coeur d'Alene River Road another 25 miles northeast to Eagle. A gravel road takes you 5 miles to the grove. An **easy walk** on hard packed trails, the trail head features a large parking area. A few miles east of Eagle is the Sprag Pole Inn and Museum in Murray where you can have a great meal while you share stories of the day.

Snow Shoe



Strapping on a pair of snow shoes and making **first tracks** in fresh snow on a sunny winter day is as good as it gets for North Idaho outdoor recreation. If you're a novice or enjoying an outing with younger family members, the **Centennial Trail** is ideal. Park at the trailhead on Northwest Blvd. at I-90 Exit 11 in Coeur d'Alene and hike a flat trail along the Spokane River, through Coeur d'Alene City Park along the lake. See p. 32 for more on snow shoeing.

Fernan Lake



At the east end of Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene turn right, just past the Idaho Panhandle Forest office and go two blocks to the paved parking lot at **Fernan Lake**. Sit on the public dock and drop your fishing line or watch the hundreds of wild ducks and Canada geese who make their winter home there. This quiet lake is the ideal spot for the family to enjoy a **picnic lunch** just a few blocks from eastbound and westbound entrances to I-90.

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www.fishandgame.idaho.gov

State of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
www.idahoparks.org

State of Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board
www.oglb.idaho.gov

River Odyssey West
www.rowadventures.com

Ducks Unlimited
www.ducks.org

Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club
www.lpoic.com

Inland Empire Bass Club
www.inlandempirebassclub.com

American Bass Association
www.americanbass.com