

WALLOWA LAKE STATE PARK



in Eastern Oregon



78 miles East of LaGrande

FACILITIES AND SERVICE

Wallowa Lake State Park is located 78 miles east of La Grande on Oregon route 82. It contains more than 160 acres. This park provides excellent recreation facilities at an area of scenic mountains and lakes. Overnight camping facilities contain both tent and trailer units with laundry and shower facilities in a centrally located utility building. Fresh water and firewood are readily available. Electric stoves also are available with electric outlets at individual trailer units. Picnic facilities are provided for a maximum of convenience and comfort. Tables are grouped for family use or group gatherings. Sheltered electric stoves are provided at a nominal charge. Basic facilities of parking, comfort stations, trails and drinking fountains are provided at convenient locations.

Generally, park facilities are available to the public the year around. However, public demand and weather conditions govern whether or not facilities may be made available for use.

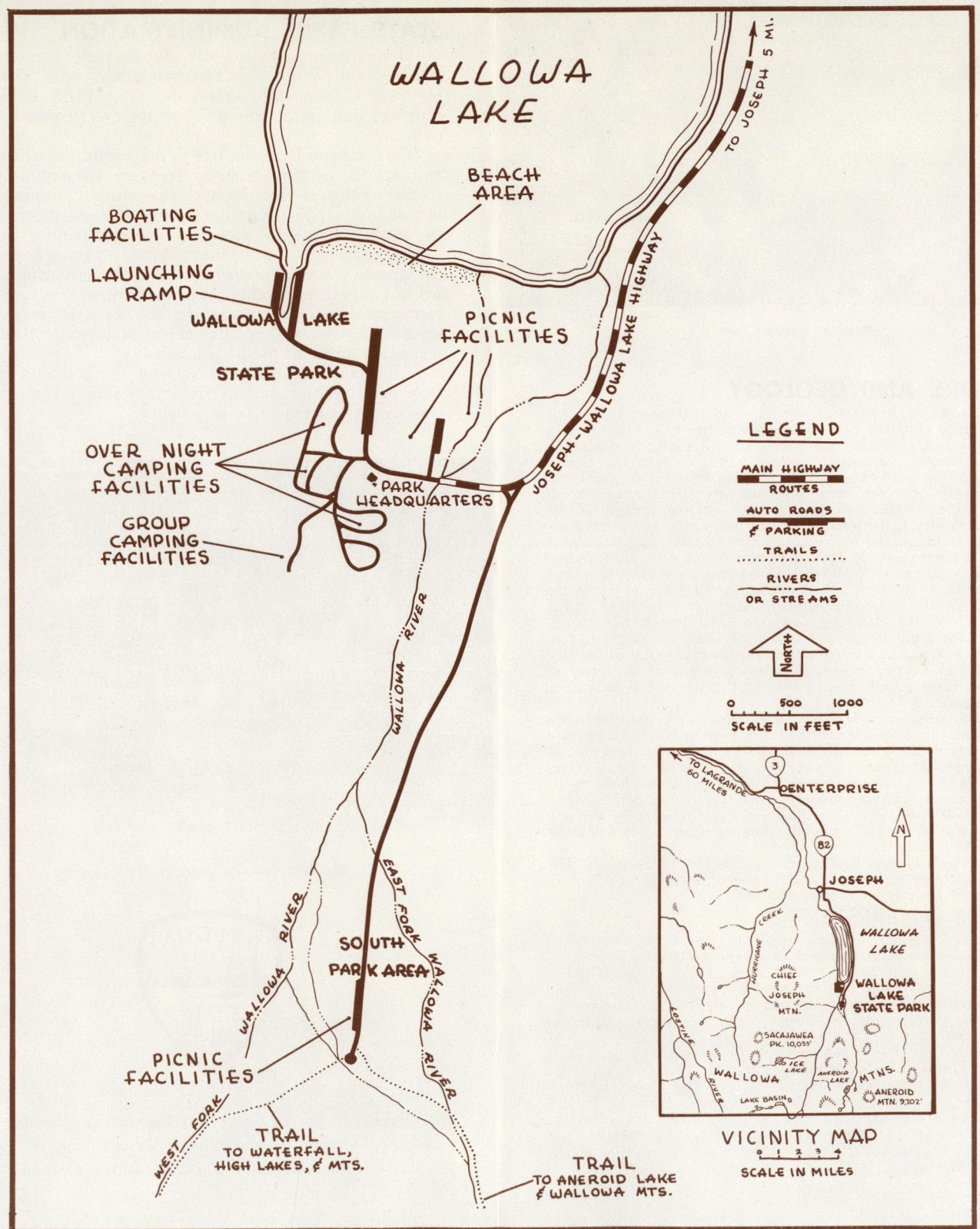
Snow conditions may also close access to parks, especially in Central and Eastern Oregon and the high Cascades. Along the Oregon coast, closures may be for a comparatively short period as compared with the eastern section of the state.

Electricity for public buildings and for the operation of electric cooking stoves is shut off in the fall and stoves stored for the winter season. Some picnic tables also are stored.

Wallowa Lake State Park provides excellent opportunity for swimming and boating. Motors and water sports equipment may be rented. Nearby, the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area provides excellent opportunity for horseback riding. Horses are available at a nearby stable.



Water Skiing is fun on Wallowa Lake





Majestic Wallowa Lake

HISTORY AND GEOLOGY

The name Wallowa is of Nez Perce Indian origin and means a small pole fish trap near the mouth of the lake. The area in which the lake is located has a long historical role in the settlement of Oregon. Captain Bonneville passed through this region in 1834-35 on exploration of the Oregon country for the U. S. Government. The Nez Perce War, the last great Indian war in the settlement of this nation, originated over the opening of the Wallowa Valley to settlement. In this period the government endeavored to induce the Nez Perce to give up their ancestral homes and go to reservations. In 1871 old Chief Joseph died. He is buried near the north end of Wallowa Lake where a monument is erected to him. In 1877 the U. S. Army attempted force to move the Indians, mainly because of atrocities committed by some young braves. Under the leadership of young Chief Joseph, the Indians defeated the army troops and in a long chase proceeded east to Montana where, after a bitter battle, they surrendered to authorities. The town of Joseph, Oregon, is named in honor of the leader of the tribe. Chief Joseph died in 1904 and was buried at Nespelem, Washington.

Geologically, the Wallowa mountains were formed when igneous magma slowly cooled and was later uplifted. There were lava floods which added more weight for the rising land to lift. The picturesque mountains were forced to rise in a sea of lava which hindered uplift and which, in many instances, clung to the rising sides, or remained inside the structure of the uplifted rock. Coral fossils now attest that there also was invasion by the sea. The remains of marine life became limestone, and shale and sandstone were formed.

Wallowa Lake lies between two ancient glacial moraines. The western moraine seems to have been shoved abruptly to the north to meet the easterly one, forming a dam.

OTHER INTERESTS

Fishing includes rainbow trout and kokanee (landlocked sockeye salmon) from boat and bank. Other facilities directly related to the region include: Wallowa Highway Forest Wayside, which is undeveloped to preserve its natural character, and Wallowa River Rest Area just west of Wallowa on Oregon 82, which has picnic tables, comfort stations and water supply for public comfort.

Nearby Eagle Cap Wilderness Area is accessible by good trails from Wallowa Lake. Contained within its 216,000 acres are mountain peaks varying between 9,000 and 10,000 feet in elevation. These inspiring mountains are further enhanced by the presence of numerous, small, gem-like lakes. Practically all of the lakes within the wilderness area, 50 or more in number, are headwaters of principle streams. The entire area is one of extremely scenic alpine beauty.

STATE PARKS ADMINISTRATION

Oregon state parks and waysides are under the administration of the Oregon State Highway Commission. The State Highway Commission directs the State Parks Division's activities and formulates the policies and regulations for park use.

Oregon State Parks are free to the public, there being no entrance or parking charges; fees are assessed only for special services or facilities, such as overnight camping. This is based on a policy that the people who use them should pay toward the cost of providing and maintaining them.

In the interest of providing as broad a picture as possible of Oregon's scenic grandeur, the State government has worked closely with other agencies to provide a variety of recreational facilities throughout the state. Other governmental agencies within Oregon maintain more than 500 recreation areas for public enjoyment.

Rules and regulations governing the activities in the state parks are designed to make your stay as comfortable, convenient and enjoyable as possible.



Excellent Camping areas at Wallowa Lake



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