



Welcome to Trout Lake NAP

This nationally recognized, high quality wetland is home to hundreds of plant species, more than 160 species of birds, and the rare Oregon Spotted Frog.

The preserve protects all of those things and provides opportunities for education and research. There is a lot to study here, including plants, animals and how wetlands work.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wetlands are among the most biologically productive systems in the world, similar to rain forests in the diversity of species they support.



Exceptional Places

Quality examples of Washington's native grasslands, woodlands, marshes and more are protected in Natural Areas managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These special sites offer opportunities for research and education. Some have interpretive or recreation trails. Others require DNR permission to visit because features are sensitive to human disturbance.



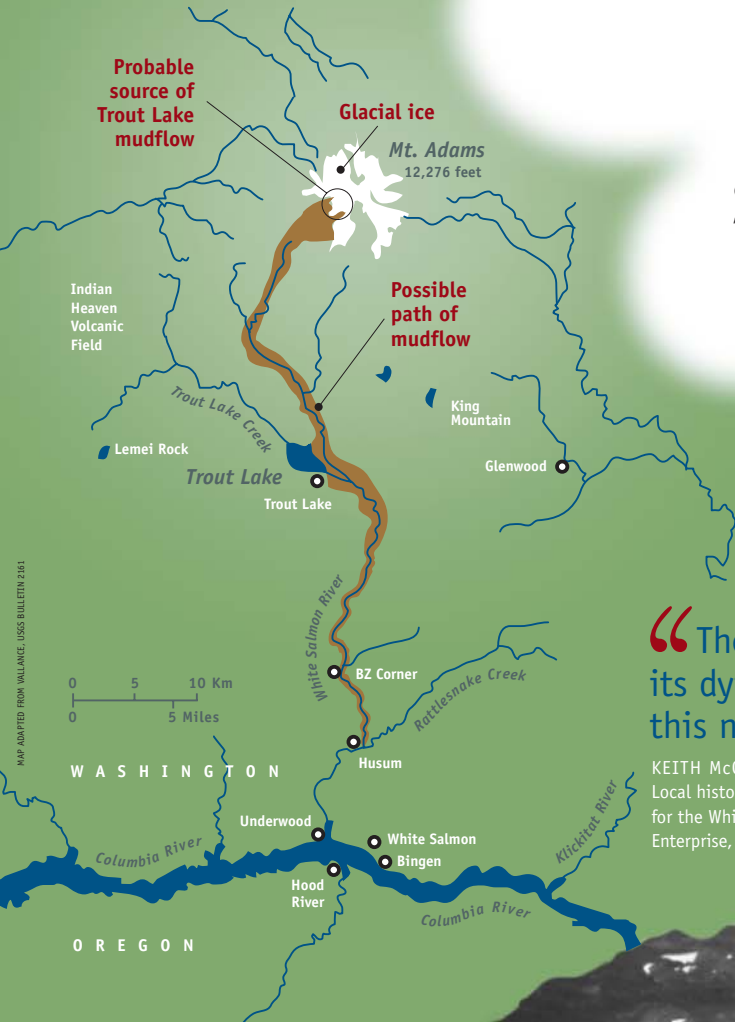
Natural Areas

For more information contact the DNR Natural Areas Program, Southeast Region at (509) 925-8510 TTY (509) 925-8527 www.dnr.wa.gov



The making and unmaking of a lake

▲ Trout Lake today.



When a massive avalanche of volcanic debris flowed off Mt. Adams about 6,000 years ago, a torrent of mud surged down river and creek valleys, flowing as far as Husum, 35 miles away. Up to 65 feet thick, this mudflow, or lahar, raised the floor of the White Salmon River valley, damming Trout Lake Creek and allowing Trout Lake to form.

Since then, sediments and organic matter have washed into Trout Lake, slowly filling it in.

Where the lake has become shallow enough,

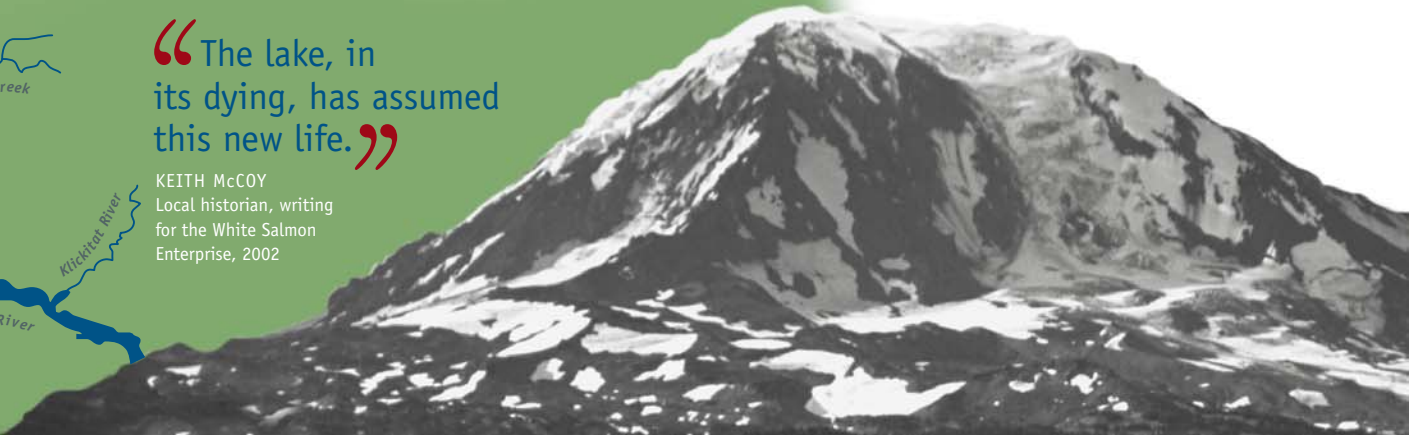
plants grow, trapping sediments.

As a result, much of what was open water just 50 years ago is wetland today.



“The lake, in its dying, has assumed this new life.”

KEITH MCCOY
Local historian, writing
for the White Salmon
Enterprise, 2002



Stagecoaches and sternwheelers

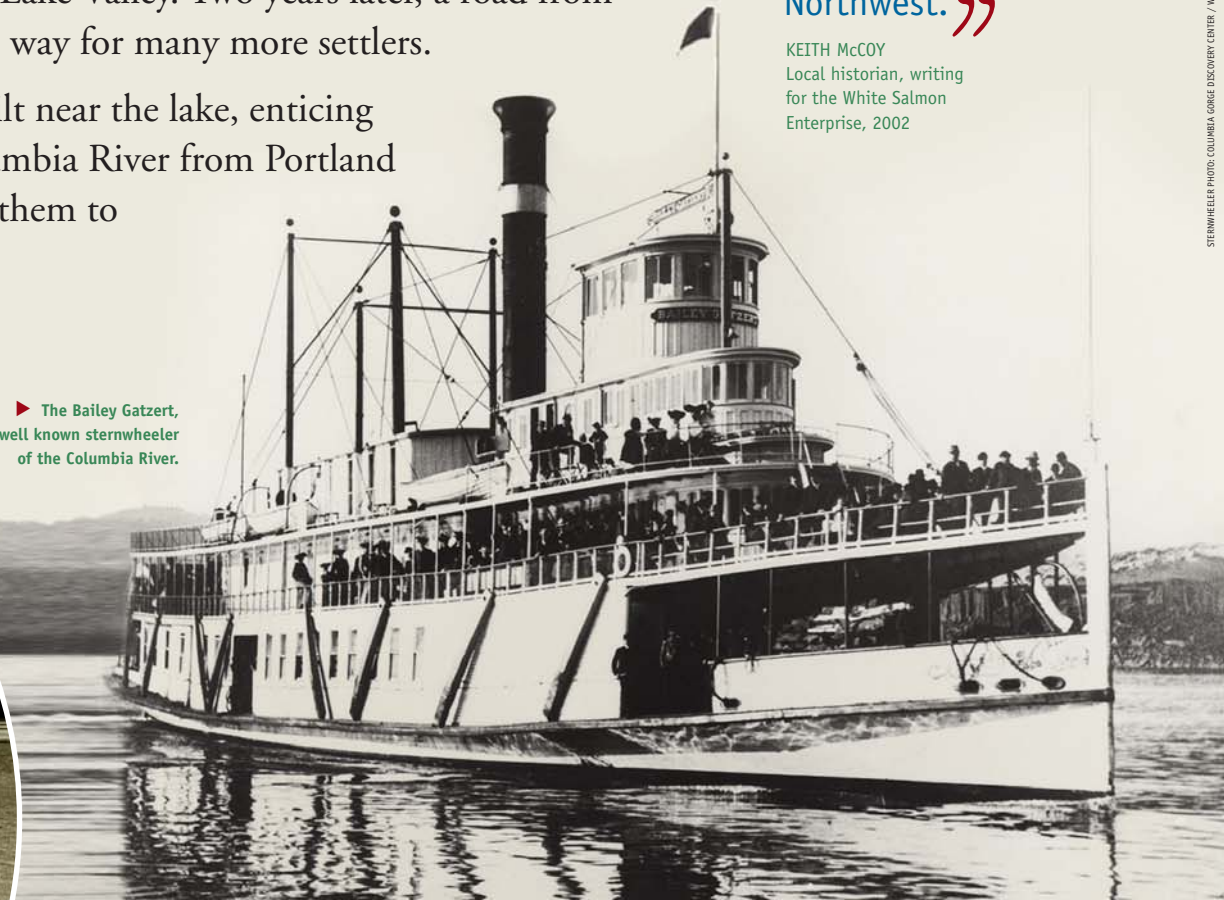
In 1880, the Stoller family arrived to build the first homestead in then-remote Trout Lake Valley. Two years later, a road from White Salmon eased the way for many more settlers.

By the early 1900s, hotels had been built near the lake, enticing folks to ride sternwheelers up the Columbia River from Portland to meet stagecoaches that would carry them to Trout Lake for recreation.

“...it became one of the best known fishing lakes in the Northwest.”

KEITH McCOY
Local historian, writing
for the White Salmon
Enterprise, 2002

► The Bailey Gatzert, a well known sternwheeler of the Columbia River.



Huckleberries and horseraces

▲ Big Huckleberry
(*Vaccinium membranaceum*)

Klickitat (Xwalxwaipam), Wishram (Wishxam), and other ancestors of the Yakama Nation traditionally used the Trout Lake area. Some called it *shaxshax-mi*, or “fish-eating bird of the lake.”

Indian Woman Image can be used again
only if permission is granted.
See MAC Museum Rights & Permissions Files

Indians gathered south of here in the Columbia River Gorge to fish and trade, and west of here in what is now the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to gather huckleberries and to race horses. Trout Lake was probably a rest stop on their journeys.

▼ Local cedar trees show sign of tribal use — careful stripping of bark, such as for making baskets like these for gathering huckleberries.



Migratory birds—Travelers from afar

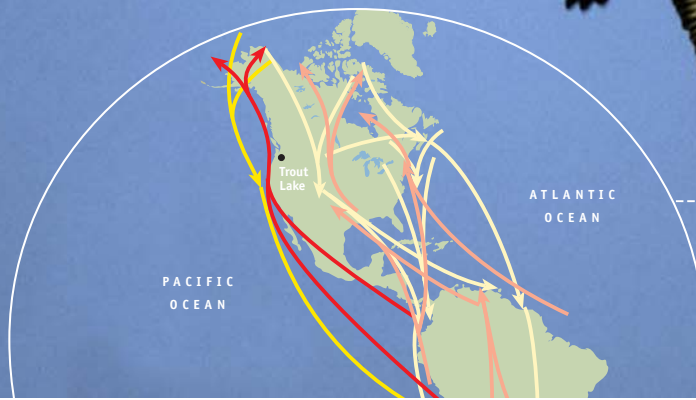


▲ **Northern ("Bullock's") Oriole**
(*Icterus galbula*) — a Neotropical
migrant. See below right.

Trout Lake is important for many migratory birds because it is a nesting site and rest stop with clean water, abundant food and shelter—like a gas station, restaurant and hotel for traveling birds.

Migratory birds need many of these places on their long migration routes. Without enough places to rest, refuel and reproduce, the birds' lives (and species) are put at risk. Many such sites already have been lost through human activities.

▲ **Sandhill Crane**
(*Grus canadensis*) —
one of the migratory birds
that use Trout Lake as a
rest stop. This crane
is on the state list of
endangered species.



PACIFIC FLYWAY

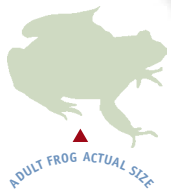
Migratory birds that visit the Pacific Northwest usually travel along the Pacific Flyway. Some birds may travel through five or more countries from Alaska into Central and South America. Trout Lake hosts 50 species of such Neotropical migrants, and seven of those have declining populations in Washington.

Diverse habitat—Just what an Oregon Spotted Frog needs

▲ Trout Lake in winter.

Trout Lake is one of the few places in Washington where Oregon Spotted Frogs still exist, and that's the main reason this wetland is protected.

These frogs need a *diversity* of healthy habitats. They lay eggs in shallow water in spring, spend the summer in the *emergent wetland*, and move to the creek in winter. What different habitats have you noticed?



Oregon Spotted Frog
(*Rana pretiosa*)

You might never know these frogs are here. Their color and shy nature make them difficult to see, and their call is just a quiet tapping sound.

▼ To monitor the frog population, researchers look for frog eggs in the shallow water at the edge of the emergent wetland, which features non-woody plants such as sedges, rushes and grasses emerging from the water.

