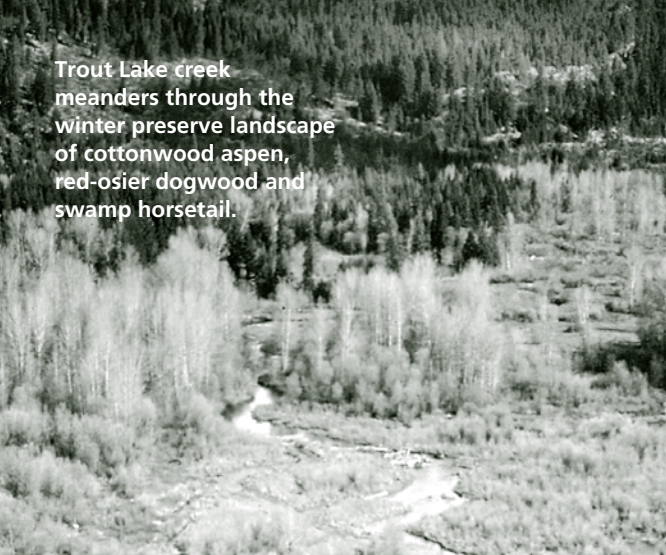


Trout Lake creek meanders through the winter preserve landscape of cottonwood aspen, red-osier dogwood and swamp horsetail.



◀ Northern (Bullock's) Oriole
Icterus Galbula



Alder and cottonwood-mixed deciduous forest bordering emergent wetland.

Wetland sanctuary and classroom

Visits, Volunteer Stewardship and Research



If you would like to visit the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve, to become a volunteer or site steward, or for more information, please contact us:

**Department of Natural Resources
Natural Area Management
Southeast Region**

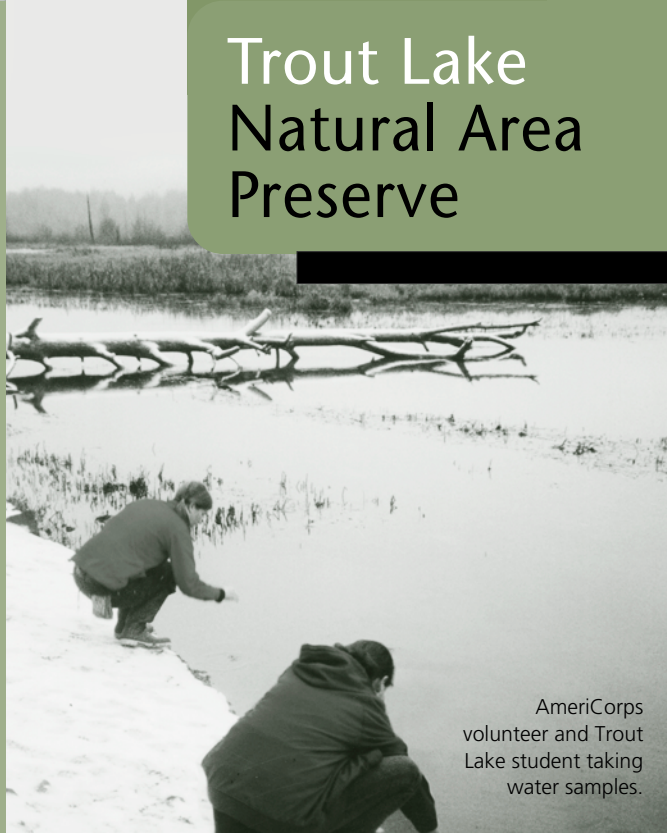
713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9341
Fax (509) 925-8522
Phone: (509) 925-0908

Black-tailed deer illustration by student of Trout Lake School. Northern (Bullock's) Oriole illustration and volunteers cover photo by Damon Little. Top cover photo by Laura Applegate. Boy with binoculars photo by Janet Pearce. All other images from DNR photo files.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve



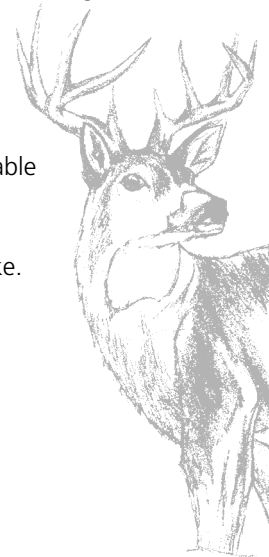
AmeriCorps volunteer and Trout Lake student taking water samples.



Although often humble in appearance, Natural Area Preserves are incredibly valuable native systems that may be key to a healthy future for our state.

They are islands — storehouses — of diverse natural resource information. They tell us about how that ecosystem has been for hundreds, or maybe thousands of years. Close study comparing them to managed lands of the same kind of ecosystem can tell us whether changes we are making are damaging the health of the chain of organisms, plants and animals that depend on each other in that system.

We at DNR are pleased to be able to manage them to offer educational opportunities for students — young and old alike.



One of Washington's High Quality Freshwater Ecosystems

Trout Lake isn't just a lake. It's an extensive freshwater wetland system, home to cranes, woodpeckers, eagles, frogs, and hundreds of other fish and wildlife. Trout Lake is a natural treasure, and one of the many lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR is steward of about 5.6 million acres of state-owned lands, nearly half of which are trust lands that earn money to help build public schools, universities, and institutions, and help pay for services in many counties.

The other half are state aquatic lands, mostly submerged, for navigation and commerce and recreation for all the people of the state; and natural areas — such as Trout Lake — which protect native ecosystems and their plants and animals.

◀ Black-tailed deer
Odocoileus hemionus

Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Oregon Spotted Frog *Rana pretiosa*

Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve was established to protect the Oregon Spotted Frog, one of only four sites where they are known to exist in Washington state.

In addition to providing an ideal habitat for the frog, Trout Lake is free of bullfrogs.

Bullfrogs, an introduced invasive species, contribute to the decline of spotted frog populations because they feed on other amphibians, including frogs.

The Oregon Spotted Frog seems to be more sensitive to environmental conditions than other frog species, and their decline can offer a warning for poor water quality.

▼ This team of scientists and volunteers is carrying out a survey of the Oregon Spotted Frog.



Wetland in the Foothills of the Cascade Mountains



Northwest of the town of Trout Lake, just 24 miles north of White Salmon, sits Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve (NAP).

Trout Lake NAP was established in 1996. It was identified by the Washington Natural Heritage Program as a priority for protection due to its large population of the rare Oregon spotted frog and its high quality freshwater wetland system.

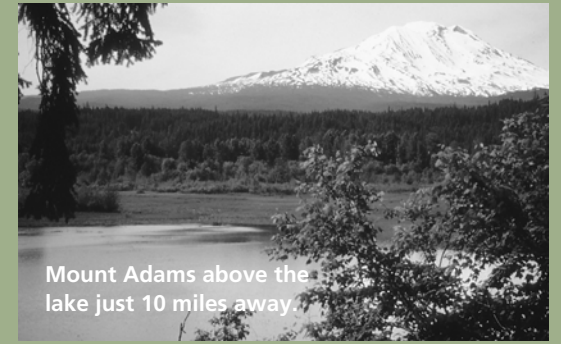
Trout lake wetland ecosystem is located amidst a forest of mixed cottonwood, aspen, western redcedar and grand fir 1,950-foot high in the Cascade foothills. A diverse mix of wetland types including grasses, sedges and shrubs cover the NAP.



The area was formed by the volcanic activity of Mt. Adams, located 10 miles to the north.

The Trout Lake valley is home to many natural features and species, including four listed as rare, sensitive and endangered: Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Sandhill Crane, and one of the largest populations of the rare Oregon Spotted Frog.

The wetland is also an important feeding and resting area for migratory waterfowl. It has been nationally recognized for its exceptional habitat.



Mount Adams above the lake just 10 miles away.

Education, Research and Public Use Activities

Educational research and monitoring are encouraged at Trout Lake. Schools and professional organizations use the site as an outdoor classroom. The preserve is open to pedestrian access by permission. Visits are coordinated with DNR's Natural Areas staff.

Trout Lake wetland ecosystem boasts nearly 200 known species of native birds and animals.

Monitoring of the Oregon Spotted Frog population continues annually via egg mass counts. DNR staff use the help of volunteers for this and other projects.

The site is popular for studying birds. Local birding experts have extensively recorded the birds in the preserve. They have created a birding checklist that is available upon request.

