Fly Fishing Bucket List Destination: Hyde Lake

Part 2 in a 4 part series

Hyde Lake is located on the historic Yamsi Ranch http://yamsiflyfishing.com in southern Oregon. This lake is a hidden gem just waiting for you to discover its remarkable fishing. I enjoy fishing this lake in the spring, April through June, and in the fall, September until the ice arrives in November. This beautiful destination will fill your senses and offer peaceful solitude.



Located 30 minutes east of Chiloquin, Oregon, Hyde Lake is an idyllic 300-acre lake nestled in the pines. It is stocked with trophy rainbows 18-24 inches in length weighing up to 6 pounds. Hyde Lake is an easy five-hour trip from Portland, Oregon. It is the perfect addition to your next trip to the Klamath Lake area.

Pontoon boats and float tubes work well here because the trout are usually located within easy kicking distance from the dock. I eagerly wait for spring fishing when Hyde Lake's warmer water temperatures wake up the trout from their winter hiatus and they start actively feeding again. The trout fight hard here, and their aggressive takes are always exciting to experience as seen in this video: https://youtu.be/evaYqg3ihdo



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In the spring, the fishing can be spectacular as the trout are hungry, and every strike is aggressive. During this cloudy day, with a slight ripple on the water, the trout were feeding in the top few feet. My Grizzly Bug pattern proved to be especially productive.



Vickie's Grizzly Bug



Dragonfly

Hyde is a nutrient-rich habitat and teams with damsels and mayflies in the spring and summer. In summer, dragonflies emerge and can be found flying close to the lake feeding on insects. The lake fishes well through the fall months.

This year the lake began to freeze up in November as the water temperature dipped to 38 degrees. The air temperature was 19 degrees at 10:30 am, and I had to break through the shoreline ice to launch my pontoon boat!



Ice Forming

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However, enduring the cold-water temperatures did have its reward as I caught my largest trout here this year. It was 26” in length and its girth put it well into an 8-pound weight range. This trout put up a knuckle-busting fight. See what was left of my #8-4X strong hook!



Bent Hook!



Caught with Vickie’s Predator Bugger



Vickie’s Predator Bugger

How to fish this lake:

The fish concentrate in the bay area at the southern end and along weed line next to shallow shoreline edges. I have also been productive fishing in the bay area in front of the dock. Trolling a leech or bugger pattern has proven productive.

Fishing close to the shoreline area, Mark Doolittle caught this nice trout using my UV Midge pattern.

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Trout caught on Vickie's Black & Copper UV Midge



Vickie's UV Midge

If fishing in southern Oregon, Hyde Lake is the perfect addition to add to your travels. Since it is only 45 minutes from Pronghorn Lake, consider fishing both lakes your next trip to the area!

The next articles will include my favorite lakes in Wyoming. Watch for my next destination: Guild Ranch Reservoir.

Vickie Loftus

For more information or to schedule a guide trip click here:
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