# Fly Fishing Bucket List Destination: Pronghorn Lake

**Part 1 in a 4 part series**

The largest trout I ever caught was at Pronghorn lake. She was 30 inches in length and weighed in at 25 pounds! Imagine yourself hooking into trout of that size… This remarkable fishery provides a relaxing oasis in a truly spectacular environment to go off grid, relax with your friends, and most importantly, the opportunity to catch trophy size trout.




*Pronghorn Lake at Sunrise*

Pronghorn Lake is located in Southern Oregon, 45 minutes east of Klamath Falls. It is an easy 6-hour drive from either Sacramento or Portland.

RV hook ups, camp sites, and two rustic cabins are available at Pronghorn Lake for anglers who want to stay overnight. At night you can see the Milky Way, listen to coyotes, and share laughter with your fishing buddies while cooking up steaks on outdoor barbeque grills.


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Robert Simms, host of “The Outdoor Show with Bob Simms,” caught this nice trout in November. Here’s a link to Bob’s show: https://www.iheart.com/podcast/68-the-outdoor-show-with-bob-s-27563230/

There are two cabins equipped with refrigerator, heater, beds, microwave and coffee pot. A port-a-potty is available.




Bring your own bedding, food and water. Cell phone coverage can be dodgy. For those who want the convenience of a motel, Klamath Falls is just 45 minutes away.


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This 150-acre lake is stocked with Kamloop rainbow trout. Once you hook up with these hard fighting fish, it will test your tackle and your ability to land it. You soon realize why this is such a special place. The owner of Pronghorn Ranch, Mike Tyrholm, is committed to stocking the lake with trophy size trout. He says he just doesn't want to wait for the trout to grow big. In the spring of 2019, Mike plans to double the number of trout he stocks.




*30-inch trout caught on Vickie's Predator Bugger*




*Vickie's Predator Bugger*

**How to fish this lake:** Barbless hooks and rods no smaller than a 6-weight are required for this catch and release lake. To prevent breaking off the possible fish of a lifetime, use a 0X or 1X monofilament leader with a size smaller fluorocarbon tippet, 1X or 2X, respectively, as was used in this recent video from November 2018: https://youtu.be/WVj5NJx_HG4

The best way to fish this lake is from a boat because of limited shoreline access. You may bring your own boat with an electric motor or use float tubes or pontoon boats. Boat rentals are also available.

Pronghorn Lake is open to anglers during the spring and fall. Fish have been caught all over the lake, although there can be seasonal variations. I generally recommend fishing the east side in the spring and the west side in the fall.

During the fall, when the colder nights drive a drop in water temperature, the trout become more active. As the water continues to cool and winter approaches, fish will be located at the north and south ends of the lake, near the fish feeders.


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Using an indicator and floating line, I landed this monster trout in the fall using my UV Pupa pattern.







Vickie's UV Pupa Pattern

Pronghorn is a destination where you can enjoy the camaraderie of your friends while sitting next to the evening campfire after a day of epic fishing. It's a perfect place to unwind, go off the grid, and catch large beautiful trout. Certainly, Pronghorn Lake is a worthy addition to your bucket list!



*Adam Kostiv, Laura O'Quin, Ryan Noon*


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*Tony DiLallo catching a fish*



*First-time fly angler Laura O'Quin attending the annual Pronghorn Lake Rendezvous, Oct 2018*

Vickie Loftus

Watch for the next article featuring Hyde Lake, Oregon

For more information and or if you would like to schedule a guide trip click here:
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