

Fishtrap has more than 7,000 acres of public land managed for wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Here, you'll find pine forests, shrub-steppe, and Palouse grassland. Other features include several wetlands, basalt cliffs, and two major lakes: Fishtrap and Hog. This area is part of the Channeled Scablands, said to have been formed by a massive flood during the Pleistocene epoch when an ice dam in what is now Montana burst open.

Fishtrap Lake is so named because of the willow fish traps that the Indians used to catch Redhorse Suckers (genus *Maxostoma*, family *Catostomidae*) at its outlet creek. The lake is known for its great trout fishing.

Fishtrap is a thirty-minute drive from Spokane. From Interstate 90 east of Sprague, WA, take Exit 254 (Fishtrap). Turn east, crossing over I-90, and drive 2 miles south. You will pass radio towers on the right and then cross below a railroad line. Turn left at Fishtrap campground. Drive 0.7 mile on gravel road to the BLM access area on the right. Here you will see a BLM access sign for no motorcycles, yes on bikes/hikes/horses. N 47° 21.650' W 117° 49.860'.

The BLM office is in the old Miller ranch house across from a primitive campground, which has water and an outhouse. You can come the night before the ride, relax and scout out the area.

Keep your eyes open for wildlife which includes turtles (in the water), Double-crested Cormorants and other waterfowl, deer, hawks, and of course the pesky rattlesnake. The area is a mix of conifer, deciduous, brush, grass and sagebrush. Depending on time of year, flowers. There are at least five different habitat types here: freshwater lake/wetland, grassland, riparian (transition between water and upland), coniferous forest (with Ponderosa Pine), and shrub-steppe.

Trails are moderately easy with a few steep hills and some rocks. Leave any gates as you find them, open or closed.

[http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/site\\_info.php?siteid=272](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/site_info.php?siteid=272)