



Date	July 4 th weekend, 2009	Time	Morning
Location	Long & Rice Lakes	Weather	Clear
Fish Species	Rainbow	Size Range	Large
Fish Caught	None at the lakes; I caught a small Bull Trout on the SF Salmon River		
Flies Used	Adams		
Techniques	Dry Fly		
Comments	Another nice backcountry adventure into a trophy lake!		

It was very early when I awoke from the bed of my pickup to begin the hike up to Rice Peak Lookout. I drove up from my cabin the night before and arrived at the trailhead around midnight. The plan was to spend a half day fishing Long and Rice Lakes since family would be arriving at the cabin in the afternoon. It would be a 10 – 12 mile roundtrip hike to get to the lookout and lakes. There was another trailhead closer to Rice Lake but reports said the roads were bad. On the way back I walked down the road and I could have made it in my 2w drive truck.

Long Lake is one of the McCall/Cascade area Trophy Trout Lakes but is probably the least visited if judging by the hike. Just north of Cascade is a road that heads east to Warm Lake. Just before Warm Lake is a road that heads south past Stolle Meadows. Travel straight on this road to the end and you'll arrive at the Rice Lake trailhead. The roads are signed but it wouldn't hurt to take a map. You will pass near Tule Lake which is also another Trophy Trout Lake in the area. Stolle Meadows is on the South Fork of the Salmon and is a nice place to view spawning Chinook Salmon in August.

I arrived at the lookout early in the morning and enjoyed the rest from the steep hike. As I walked around the porch of the lookout I soon realized that something big was inside. My first thought was to get away from the entrance. As I listened I could hear clawing and things getting knocked around. I sat frozen on the porch of the lookout wondering what it could be. I finally got enough courage to approach the window to lift the shutter and peak inside. It ended up being two Marmots that were probably startled by my presence.

After enjoying the 360° views including Rice Lake below I started down the trail toward Long Lake. I soon navigated cross-country on a ridgeline to save time. I dropped down to the lake that I could see from the ridgeline and noticed a cow Elk feeding near the outlet. The sound of the Woodpeckers was amplified as they pecked the burnt standing logs from the huge fire two years ago. I also saw two Mule bucks in the velvet as I made my way toward the lake.



The hike toward the lookout

Rice Peak Lookout



I saw a few strong splashy rises while at Long Lake but for the most part it seemed dead. While walking the shoreline I spotted two fish and they were both Lunkers but were not interested in anything I presented. They ignored the live insects just above them on the surface and just laid there as if asleep.



I didn't stick around long to fish due to their lack of participation. It was time to hike to Rice Lake for some better luck. I again diverted off the trail and hiked down a steep incline to make my way to Rice Lake.



Long Lake

I walked along the edge thinking this lake is too shallow to hold fish. I had a very good view into the water and didn't see any fish. I kept on walking back to the Rice Lake trailhead and down the road to where I parked.



Rice Lake

I stopped briefly along the S.F. Salmon and caught a few small fish including a small Bull Trout. Further down river I stopped at the Stolle Meadows Salmon viewing area to see if I could see a Chinook Salmon. I didn't see any fish and figured it was still a little early to see them.

I also made a short hike up to Vulcan Hot Springs just upriver from Stolle Meadows. I had heard people talk about swimming in a damned up section of the stream below where it comes out. The water was very, very hot where it surfaced and there is no way I would get in that quagmire of silt and mud downstream. I didn't see the attraction. Maybe it was better before the fires two years ago that may have created the present conditions.

It was a quick trip but worth it. It was the first trip into the mountains for the year so I enjoyed every minute of it despite getting skunked at the lake.



Stolle Meadows Salmon viewing area (above)

The hike between the lookout and Long Lake

