



<b>Date</b>	August 2, 2007	<b>Time</b>	Midday
<b>Location</b>	Skein, Raft & Willow Creek Lakes	<b>Weather</b>	Warm, Smokey
<b>Fish Species</b>	Cutthroat, Brook Trout, Rainbow	<b>Size Range</b>	small
<b>Fish Caught</b>	A few Cutthroat, Brook Trout		
<b>Flies Used</b>	Blue Dun		
<b>Techniques</b>	Dry fly – cast to rings		
<b>Comments</b>	You need a float tube for these lakes on lower West Mountain.		

Directions: Follow Cabarton Road south out of Cascade until you hit West Mountain Road. Follow it west to the west side of the lake. As you are driving north through the cabins look for Willow Creek Road. Follow Willow Creek Road (FR 438) 4.5 miles to the end. You will have enough clearance for a car but overhanging branches may scratch paint. You will see Willow Creek Reservoir a couple hundred feet below you just before you reach the end.

Trail: I just walked south down the steep mountain to get to Willow Creek Reservoir but there was a road when I got to the bottom.

To get to Skein Lake you begin to follow a trail north (not the main trail to Shirts Lake heading west up the canyon) until it fizzles out. I then just climb over the hill and the lake will be on the other side. If you continue north and run into a stream, follow the stream up to the lake. You may run into the Skein Lake trail as well which you want to also follow up the mountain. You passed the Skein Lake trailhead on the drive up about a mile before the end of the road. I preferred to the flatter cross-country terrain vs climb up the steeper trail.

There is a short easy trail to Raft Lake from the northeast side of Skein Lake at an old cabin that you'll see. It is about a mile from the car to Raft Lake.



The fishing wasn't great! First of all it was hot and the hottest July on record. It was also midday. Evening fishing is much better this time of year. Skein Lake seemed to be the best bet out of the three lakes. I saw no sign of fish in **Raft Lake** and didn't even put my pole in the water. The lake is surrounded by shallow grassy areas so you would need a float tube to fish it. **Willow Creek Reservoir** probably isn't worth the effort. It is a short but steep drop. The fish are small and there is only a spot or two to fish from the bank.



Raft Lake



Willow Creek Reservoir



Skein Lake Cabin

I found a few rising small Cutthroat and Brook Trout in **Skein Lake**. I had good success at the few I could cast to from the bank. You have to use a roll cast on all three lakes. I wouldn't mind returning to Skein Lake and fish in the evening since it is so close to my cabin but it would never be on my list of fishing destinations.

At the trailhead there was a sign stating that sterile Tiger Muskie were planted as a research project in an effort to manage stunted Brook Trout populations. Now that would be worth fishing a year from now!



Skein Lake

Willow Creek Canyon

