

## [Williamson River in South Central Oregon](#)

### **Location:**

In the central Southern region of Oregon the Fremont-Winema National Forest is home to the Williamson River. Stretching 100 miles from its source, Spring Creek, in the Fuego Mountains (42.669261, -121.885635), to Upper Klamath Lake (42.464718, -121.957419) and joined by other waters as well, the Williamson River offers up some very fine trout fishing, interesting water, great scenery, and a couple of weeks of fishing if you have the time. Along the way is the town of Chiloquin (42.577694, -121.864982). Altitude is 4181 feet.



### **Description:**

You feel like small town America, you feel like rural America, you feel like Daniel Boone out scouting the woods. It feels like houses, buildings, people everywhere and nobody at all at the same time. Like most of Oregon the area is beautiful, charming, and amazing to see all at once. And one of the jewels running like a centerpiece is the Williamson River home to Brook Trout and Redband Trout. The Williamson offers a great fishing experience.

The area's beginnings date back into the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and is rich in history of the Indian citizens, the Klamath Tribes which are Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin as well as the pioneer settlers. The region then and now was a mecca of hunting and fishing.

There are a lot of activities to enjoy at different times of the year including Indian Pow wows, Rodeos and parades. Nearby is a Casino. The Lakes (Upper Klamath and Agency) offer boating and of course FISHING. Lots of camping opportunities through out the valley. And if camping is not your thing, there are motels and certainly restaurants. Some 11 plus miles to the North up highway 97 lies the City of Bend, Oregon.

The Web Site <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/fremont-winema/recreation> which is the Forest Service Ws offers a great amount of detail on attraction in the Fremont-Winema Forest.

There are Bears, Deer, Elk and many other animals inhabiting the Forest. Fremont Forest is also home of the Gearhart Mountain Wilderness. Gearhart Mountain is an 8000 ft volcanic peak. There are several tall mountains in the Forest. There is much to do in the region including fishing the The Williamson River. Brook Trout, Redband Trout as well as Brown Trout inhabit the River and provide some of the finest fishing opportunities in Oregon.

### **Upper Williamson River**

The Williamson River above Klamath Marsh is a spring-fed system with fishing for Brook Trout and Redband Trout.

Private lands account for over half the land the river passes through. The remainder is reached the Forest road system. Getting a Forest Map at one of the Fishing shop will make it possible to find access to the public lands on the River more easily.

To get to headwater area travel east of Highway 97 at Chiloquin by the Sprague River Road. Go 20 miles northeast on the Williamson River Road. Travel about 1/2 mile on the road.

**Lower Williamson River**

In the lower area you will find not only Brookies and Redbands, but Browns as well. Here, you can often find fish reaching 20 inches and a few have been caught that weighed in at ten pounds. Ideal fishing for the big ones is August and September.

Access to the Lower Williamson like the Upper Williamson is not so easily done. The Forest Service maps offer the best information along with consultation at the Fishing shops. The Williamson like a lot of top notch Blue Ribbon Fisheries is best approached in the in the first few days you are there by hiring a guide no matter if you are fly fishing or spinner fishing. You will spend more of your time fishing and not trying to find the spot to best get to the shore and into the water.



**Size**

100 miles in length from source at Spring Creek to Upper Klamath Lake. Width varies greatly along the way as does depth.

**Weather**

**Climate Chiloquin - Oregon**

	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>
Average high in °F	39	44	51	59
Average low in °F	19	21	25	28
Av. precipitation in inch	3.06	2.36	1.89	1.35
Av. snowfall in inch	13	11	6	2

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	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>
Average high in °F	85	84	77	65
Average low in °F	42	41	35	28
Av. precipitation in inch	0.42	0.42	0.59	1.21
Av. snowfall in inch	0	0	0	0

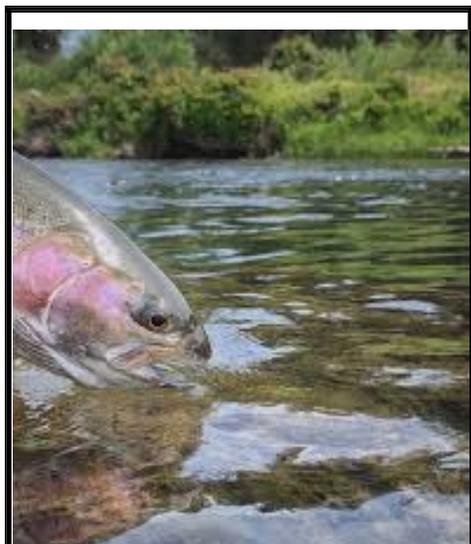


**Fishing Seasons**

Spring, Summer, and Fall. Winter is too cold and snowy. Best fishing results are usually August and September.

**Fishing Methods**

The River is ideal for Fly Fishing or Spin Fishing. Not ideal for bait caster type reels and poles but you can still catch a fish. Bank fishing and wading both work well as does a



drift boat. River access can be easy in spots but often difficult to find or get to. A lot of the River is private property. It is strongly suggest you obtain a local forest road map.



Black or Green Drake, Grass Hoppers, Streamers, Midges, Ants, Hexagenia, BWOs, PMDs all work for the Fly tossers. Almost any variation of them can be effective. Certainly there is a seasonality to it and calling a local fly shop or visiting one to ask what goes well now is the best way to get what works right now. The good news is that the food base here is broad.

If you are tossing lures, then spinners like Kastmasters or Panther-Martin work extremely well. Small to medium plug type are effective but take more experimentation to hit the right one. Typically a crank bait does a good job in moving water as do plastics. And - the ever popular salmon eggs and worms are on the list but only for slow water.

**Species At This Location:**

Trout Brook  
Trout Brown  
Trout Rainbow