

Winopee Lake



Location: Start at the Winopee trailhead at Cultus Campground, 39 miles southwest of Bend off Highway 46

Length: 13 miles round trip

Elevation: 4,700 to 5,000 feet

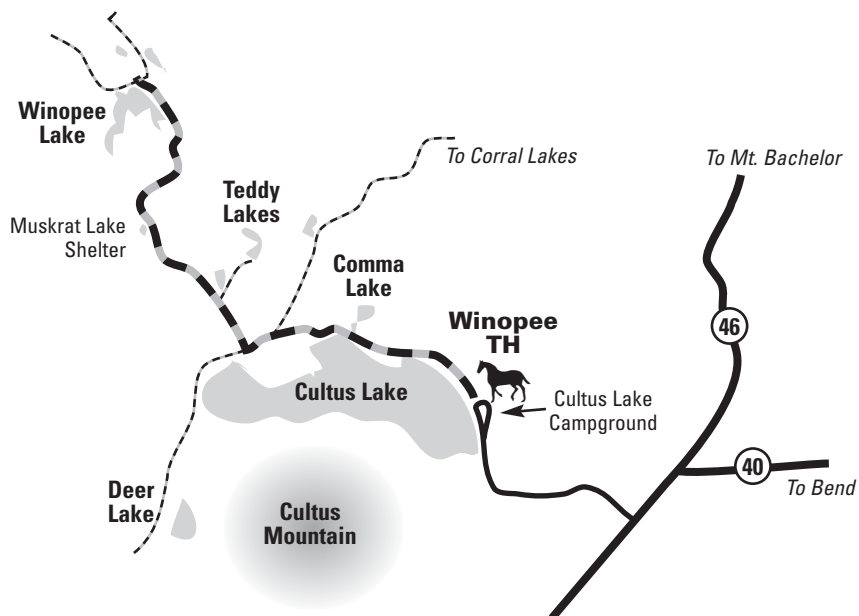
Difficulty: Easy

Best Season: Summer through fall

Permits: Northwest Forest Pass required

Facilities: Parking for several rigs. Toilets and potable water are available at Winopee Campground. Stock water is available on the trail.

Highlights: The first 2 miles of the trail are in the forest along the north shore of Cultus Lake, with views of the lake through the trees. Then the trail angles north, passing several pretty meadows, eventually arriving at Winopee Lake after about 6.5 miles. Most of the ride is forested.



Finding the Trailhead: Take Highway 97 south from Bend. After 15 miles, turn right on Highway 40 (at the blinking light for Sunriver), and continue 21 miles. Turn left on Highway 46 and proceed 1.25 miles to Forest Road 4635. Turn right on Road 4635 and follow the signs to Cultus Lake Campground. The Winopee Trail departs from the north end of the campground. Park at the boat ramp and ride through the campground, as the parking at the trailhead is limited.

The Ride: The trail follows the northern shore of Cultus Lake, then turns north. After 2.5 miles you will pass the trail to Corral Lakes. In another 0.2 mile you'll come to another junction. Go right toward Winopee Lake. After 0.5 mile you'll pass a third trail, this one leading to Teddy Lakes. A mile after that you'll pass a very picturesque shelter in the meadow at Muskrat Lake. You can water your horse at the creek there. Continue another 2 miles to Winopee Lake.

On the north end of Winopee Lake, just after you pass the trail to Finger Lake and the PCT, look for a small knoll off to the right of the trail between you and the lake. This elevated outcropping provides a very nice view of the lake and is a fun picnic spot. There is no trail onto the knoll, so you'll have to bushwhack. The area around the lake is swampy, so it is difficult to take horses down to it.



Lydia, Teresa, and Whitney relax on the knoll overlooking Winopee Lake.