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## Trout Fishing at the Conference

By Gary Lewis

Good news if you're going to the conference and have a fishing rod in the truck. Less than ten minutes from the conference hotel, you can find pretty good trout fishing that first weekend in May.

Lower and Upper Empire lakes are located in a pretty forested park in Coos Bay. The lake is regularly stocked in the spring, and the first stocking of the year is scheduled for the week of March 16, when ODFW will release 400 "trophy" trout, averaging 14 inches to 18 inches long.

A second spring stocking will take place in Lower Empire Lake the last week of March, with another 1,000 trophies.

Upper Empire Lake will also be stocked again with 1,000 trophies. ODFW will stock Upper Empire again the second week of April with 250 trophies.

Lower Empire will be stocked the third week of April with 2,000 trophies, and Upper Empire will get another 1,000

Excited yet? In the last week of April, that's the week we get there, Lower Empire will get an additional 2,000 trophies.



I did a site visit to the lake in December, and I plan to bring my float tube. But you can fish from the bank as well. Bait. Lures. Flies.

Bring a rod. Bring a net. Write a story.

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Gary Lewis is a two-time past president of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association.

Contact Gary Lewis at  
[garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com)