



# Mowich Lake

Linn County

Willamette/Sandy Basin

Location	
Area	49 acres (19.8 hect) <span style="float:right">Elevation 5,077 ft (1,547.5 m)</span>
Type	natural lake <span style="float:right">Use recreation (wilderness)</span>
Location	65 miles southeast of Salem in Mt. Jefferson Wilderness
Access	5 miles by trail off US Hwy 22 and Forest Service road
USGS Quad	Santiam Junction (24K), Bend (100K)
Coordinates	44° 29' 51" N, 121° 52' 53" W
USPLSS	township 12, range 07, section 27

Mowich Lake is a beautiful backcountry lake high in the Central Oregon Cascades, the largest lake in that portion of the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness known as the Eight Lakes Basin. It is approached by hikers from either of two directions; the most popular route is via the Duffy Lake Trail, five miles from the Santiam Highway; the other route is via Marion Lake from the north. The word Mowich is a Chinook jargon word meaning deer and it has been applied to a number of geographic features in Oregon, although it is not known who applied the name to this lake. However, it is appropriate; the sampling crew on this project startled several deer near the lake.

Mowich Lake lies in a glaciated basin at an altitude of 5077 feet. Topographic relief in the drainage basin is moderate, except to the southeast where Three Fingered Jack rises 3000 feet above the lake and dominates the landscape. A dense coniferous forest blankets the slopes below timberline and extends to the water's edge. Despite being in a designated wilderness, there are some improvements around the lake such as picnic tables and toilets on the east shore.

Mowich Lake is oval in shape and has a large island at the shallow, northern end and deep water at the southern end. In spite of the shallow water, there is no significant growth of rooted macrophytes. Water in the lake is extremely low in major ion concentrations; alkalinity and conductivity are among the lowest for any lake in Oregon. Phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations are very low, and the bottom is visible even at the deepest point in the lake (52 feet; 16 meters). Mowich Lake is pristine and ultraoligotrophic with very little biological productivity. The trout fishery is maintained only by regular stocking by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

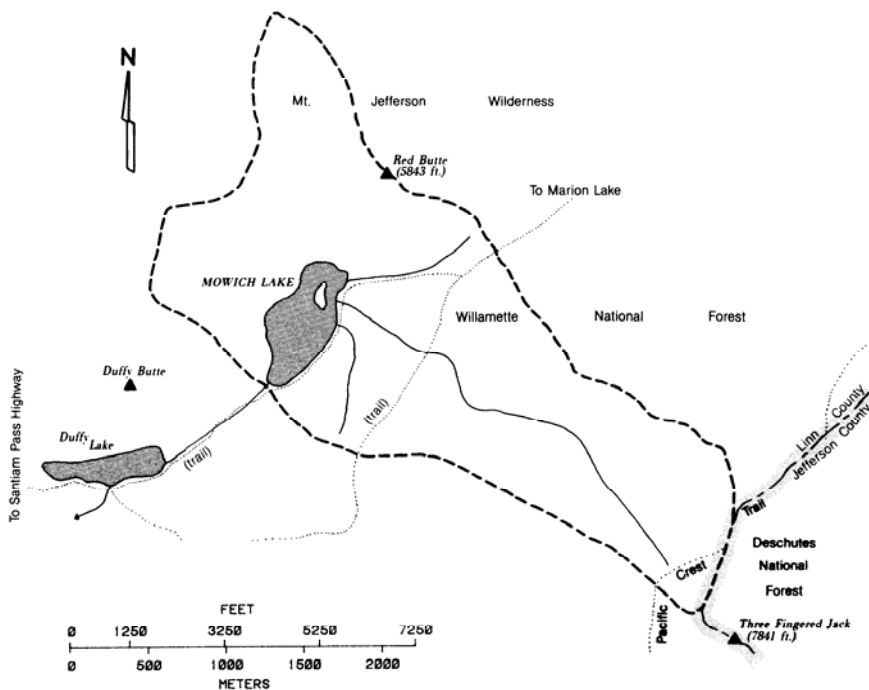


Source: Oregon National Guard, 1981-82. View looking southeast.

Drainage Basin Characteristics								
Area	2.4 sq mi (6.2 sq km)	Relief	moderate	Precip	85 in (216 cm)			
		Agriculture						
Land Use %	Forest 97.0	Range -	Water 3.0	Irrig -	Non Irrig -	Urban -	Other -	
Notes -								
Lake Morphometry				Maximum		Average		
Area	49.0 acres (19.8 hect)	Depth	52 ft (15.8 m)	19ft (5.7 M)				
Ave/Max Depth Ratio	0.360	Volume	915 acre ft (1.13 cu hm)					
Shoal area	39%	Volume factor	1.08	Shape factor	1.57			
Length of Shoreline	1.5 mi (2.4 km)		Retention time		2 mo			
Notes -								
Water Quality								
Trophic status ultraoligotrophic								
Sample date	07/21/82	Temp	-	Diss. Oxygen (mg/l)	-			
Transparency	51.8 ft (>15.8 m)	Phosp (mg/l)	0.005	Cholorophyll a (mg/l)	0.1			
Alkalinity	<1	Conductivity (umhos/cm)	8					pH -
Major Ions	Na 0.5	K 0.1	Ca 0.5	Mg 0.4	Cl 0.4	SO4 0.1		
Notes -								

### DRAINAGE BASIN

--- Basin Boundary



### BATHYMETRY

