

## Tumalo Creek, OR

By Glenn Zinkus

Located just west of ever-popular and sporty Bend, Oregon, Tumalo Creek flows from the eastern flanks of the Cascade Mountains, coursing through forested uplands and then out onto the high desert. The best fishing opportunities on Tumalo Creek begin at the base of scenic Tumalo Falls (about 13 miles west of downtown Bend), and the fishing extends downstream toward Bend. There is good fishing access from points along Skyliners Road (Forest Road 4601), which follows the creek in Deschutes National Forest, and at Shevlin Park, on Bend's western outskirts.

Tumalo Creek is a summer and fall fishery, after the spring runoff. This is a small water, easily covered on a summer day by wet wading and casting to easily identifiable holding water. After runoff, Tumalo Creek flows clear over a stone and gravel bottom, forming numerous riffles and pools that are home to wild redband trout, along with a few wild brook trout. Most are small, though the deeper boulder-strewn runs and pools can hold trout over 12 inches.

Because of Tumalo Creek's diminutive size and clarity, anglers need to be stealthy. Wear muted clothing, and slow when you approach the water; better still, hide and stay away from the water's edge whenever possible. Minimize false



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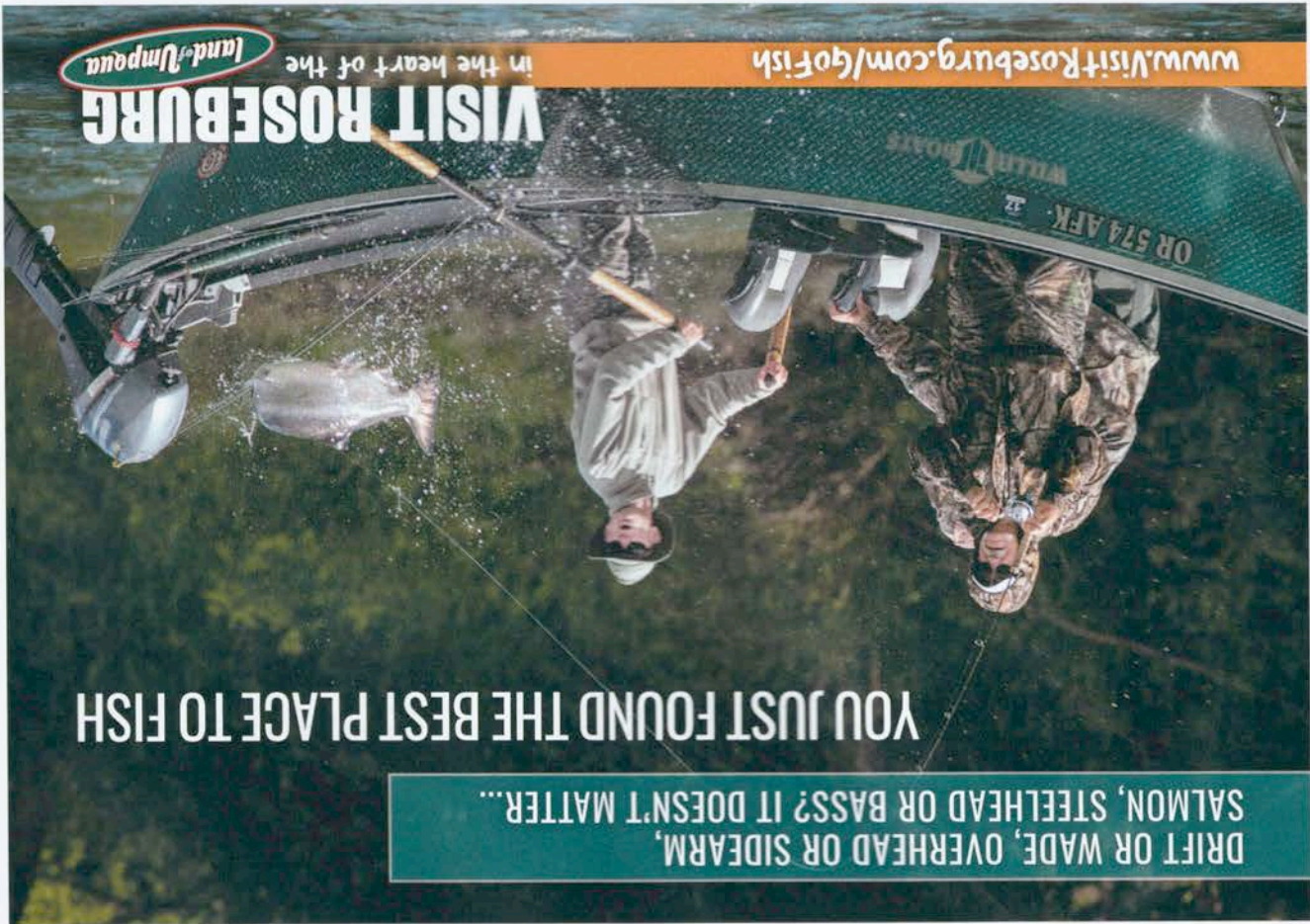
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Parking is available in Shevlin Park at Aspen Hall, Aspen Meadow, and the Shevlin Commons parking lot, as well as spots along Skyliners Road, including the small Tumalo Falls parking lot. A Northwest Forest Pass permit is required for the Tumalo Falls parking area.

Tumalo Falls—it's a gorgeous, dramatic setting.

Falls, providing access to anglers. Don't hesitate to fish the pools near the base of

Skyliners Road approaches the creek and more or less parallels it up to Tumalo as it heads through the west edge of town. A few miles into the national forest, Avenue crosses the Deschutes River and heads west, becoming Skyliners Road

At the south end of Drake Park in downtown Bend, Northwest Galveston Shevlin Park Road before departing the outskirts of town.

northwest of downtown Bend via Northwest Newport Avenue, which becomes trail that provides even more access to the best waters. Shevlin Park is 4 miles

Starting at Aspen Hall at Shevlin Park, the 2.5-mile Tumalo Creek Trail provides easy access to the water and eventually joins a Deschutes National Forest

redband. Use nymphs in the slots and pools if the dry flies don't bring trout up. variations. A bit of flash sometimes provides the necessary incentive to tempt a

subsurface work, carry Copper Johns, Pheasant Tail Nymphs, and Prince Nymph Adams, Parachute Adams, Purple Haze, and a selection of caddisfly patterns. For

and traditional jassid patterns. Pack fly boxes with attractor dry flies, including the prefer terrestrial insects, in which case you will need foam ants, beetle imitations,

You won't often need to match a hatch on Tumalo Creek, but some days the fish color, such as gray or olive.

and facilitate easier mending. Pair this rod with a floating fly line in a muted longer rods because they allow me to more easily keep excessive line off the water 4-weight rods are ideal. I don't always use short small-stream rods, preferring

casts; a single cast can cover almost all situations on Tumalo Creek. Three- and

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hold  
slow  
false

