

Photos of Kokanee Spawning Sites at Crane Prairie
Deschutes National Forest

September 27, 2018



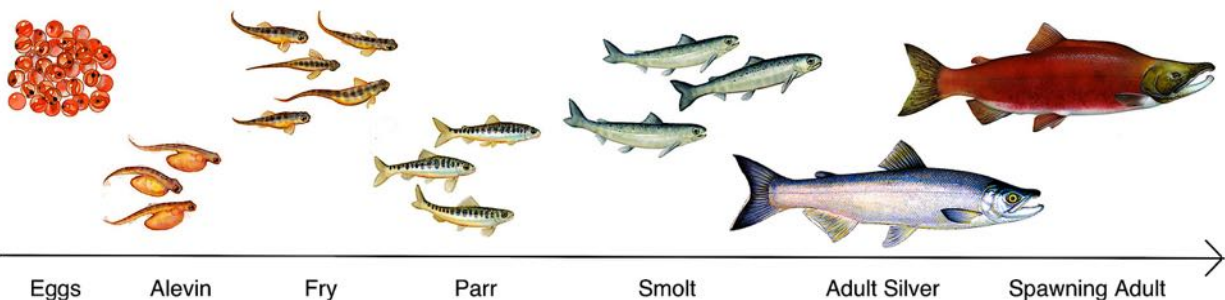
The Cow Meadow bridge over the Upper Deschutes is a premier spot to see spawning kokanee.



From the bridge, a trail winds 350 yards downstream to the river mouth at Crane Prairie Reservoir...



...though the best place to observe kokanee up close is 100 yards upriver at the stream gaging station.



The full life cycle of a kokanee salmon repeats every 4-5 years, as the adult fish die after spawning.



The old Cultus River crossing is a good spot to look for bald eagles preying on the spawning kokanee.



The spring-fed Quinn River, only 250 yards long, is a colorful, intimate spot to see kokanee as well.



In the clear, still water below the headwaters spring, one gets an up-close view of the spawning fish.



There's even a convenient steel footbridge for fish viewing here, next to the Quinn River gaging station.