

Siltcoos Lake, located about six miles South of Florence, Oregon is the second largest lake in Oregon (Klamath the largest) with nearly 30 miles of shoreline. Westlake, Oregon is the community on the shore, however there are no commercial retail stores in Westlake. Most lake shore is owned by either Weyerhouser Lumber or the Boy Scouts of America so there's not a lot of homeowners with power boats stirring up the water. However there are a couple areas of homes that cause a second look. The Ada area typically has a plethora of sail boats and a lake finger extending under a long railroad trestle making seeking out new adventures fun. The lake has several islands to steam around and several cool destinations to explore. A floating rest room makes the ride back to home base a little easier sometimes.

Adjacent to our host site is a wonderful county maintained launch. Although only a single new dock, it's plenty long enough to stage a handful of boats. Parking in the paved area is plentiful, but trailers and tow vehicles must be removed and stored at our host area.

Most steam boaters stay in cabins provided by Stafford's Westlake Resort <http://www.westlakeresort.com>. Stafford's has nine very clean, very reasonably priced, fully stocked cabins, both one and two bedrooms. Stafford's has an extensive dock and does not charge the steam boaters moorage for the long weekend. Stafford's will block public reservations of the cabins for steam boaters from their opening reservation date of January 1st through March 15th, 2012. Stafford's can be reached at 541.997.3722.

Adjacent to Stafford's is Lake's Edge RV park, but their spaces are generally filled with full timers. To see information about Lake's Edge, go to <http://www.lakesedgerv.com>

If you wait too long to make your reservations, or want to stay a little further away (about 1/4 mile) you may choose to stay at Fish Mill Lodges and RV Park. Fish Mill has both cabins and RV spaces and is an easy walk/steam from Stafford's. Check it out at <http://www.fishmill.com>

If you unsuccessfully contact Lake's Edge and Fish Mill, and still want to take your RV, about 1/2 mile away on the lake is Darling's RV Resort. They can be found at <http://www.darlingsresortrv.com>

If you wish to stay a little further from the "non-formal" activities, across the lake is Ada Fishing Resort. Ada has cabins, RV and tent spaces. To check out Ada, go to <http://www.adaresort.com>

The Siltcoos weekend is complete with a Saturday pot luck on the lake facing deck of cabin 8. BBQ's get warmed up and the oven in the kitchen keeps food hot till the dinner bell rings; then a caravan trip to Florence for supper Sunday evening. Lots of social time is allocated as the wind picks up in late afternoons making boating less enjoyable/more thrilling.

Siltcoos is located in the heart of the coastal sand dunes area. For those who wish to add secondary adventure to your steam boating, a myriad of sand vehicle rental shops are located along Hwy 101.