

Spotted Lake

Spotted Lake can be found 9 km west of Osoyoos, BC. It is a small lake on a bed of minerals, including calcium & sulphates. During the hot summer months, much of the water in the lake evaporates, leaving the minerals that form the spots visible from the lake. Throughout the summer, the spots shift in size and color as they change with evaporations. Colors ranging from blue to green to yellow appear, depending on the minerals at each spot.



Spotted Lake is known to the First Nations people of the Osoyoos as **Kliluk**, and it is a sacred site that has been considered a place of healing for centuries. The belief is that each of the circles holds its own medicinal and healing properties.

The land surrounding the lake was privately owned for 40 years, and in 2001 the federal government of Canada bought it for the benefit and uses of the Okanagan Nation.



During World War I, minerals from the lake were used to create ammunition. The minerals were gathered by Chinese laborers, who drew up to one ton of salt from the surface of the lake each day. It is said that prior to the taking of these minerals, the lake displayed an even greater variety of colors and beauty. The salt taken from the lakes was shipped to eastern Canadian munitions factories.