

4.

CAVE LAKE/STEPTOE CREEK

History - Cave Lake is a man-made impoundment constructed in 1932. It was purchased in 1971 by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and is currently managed as a State Park under a cooperative agreement between State Parks and NDOW.

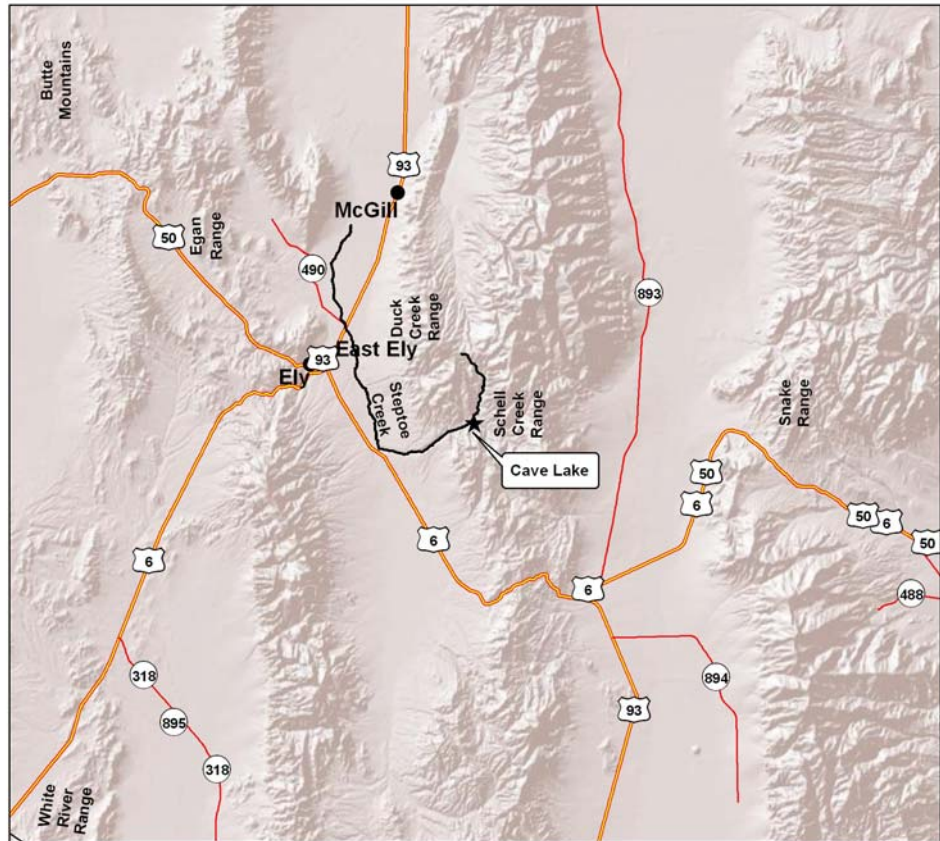
Pertinent Information - Cave Lake is fed by Cave Creek. It covers 32 surface acres with an average depth of 25 feet, with a maximum depth of 60 feet. The reservoir is currently inhabited by stocked rainbow and brown trout. The angler questionnaire survey in 2007 found a catch rate 3.51 fish per angler day. The average size of rainbow trout generally is 10 inches, while the brown trout average about 11 inches. Although less common in the creel, the brown trout can reach very large sizes. The current state record for brown trout of 27-pounds 5-ounces was captured in Cave Lake in 1984 and a 13-pound brown was checked in 2005. Also in 1984, the lake produced a 9-pound rainbow trout. Primarily managed as a put-and-take fishery, the lake is an excellent year round fishery for stocked rainbow trout. Ice fishing usually lasts from December through March. Virtually all fishing methods are productive. Fishing deep with salmon eggs, Power Bait or night crawlers is effective. Spin fishermen do well with the normal hardware such as Mepps and Panther Martins as well as a fly on a bubble. Fly fishermen should try wooly buggers or nymph patterns on a sinking line. The normal baits fished with bright colored jigs work well for ice fishing. Cave Lake is also home to a large population of crayfish. Easily caught from shore at night, they provide an opportunity for a delicious meal. Try using hot dogs or bacon with a flashlight and net. Facilities: Already located in a picturesque location, Cave Lake is complemented by a number of excellent facilities including a modern boat ramp and dock, group use picnic area, hiking trails, running water, restrooms, showers and 34 camping sites with tables and fire pits. Fees are charged by Nevada State Parks.

Stocking - Cave Lake will be stocked with approximately 22,500, 9-inch rainbow trout from April through October.

Regulations - The limit is 5 trout daily and in possession. Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 – Cave Lake should reach remain at maximum capacity and provide good fishing for small trout. A recent gill net survey suggests that the brown trout numbers are on the rise.

Boating Regulations – A vessel must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may a vessel be operated at a speed in excess of 5 nautical miles per hour.



No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Access - From Ely, drive 7 miles south on Highway 93 and then east 7 miles on State Route 486 to the park. Follow the signs.