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SOUTH FORK HUMBOLDT RIVER

History - The South Fork Humboldt River (SFHR) originates on the west side of the Ruby Mountains in Elko County. With the completion of South Fork Dam in 1988, the Humboldt River was split into the upper and lower reaches. Improved habitat management by State Parks above the reservoir and subsequent water releases from the dam, have created the potential for improved water quality and corresponding game fish production.

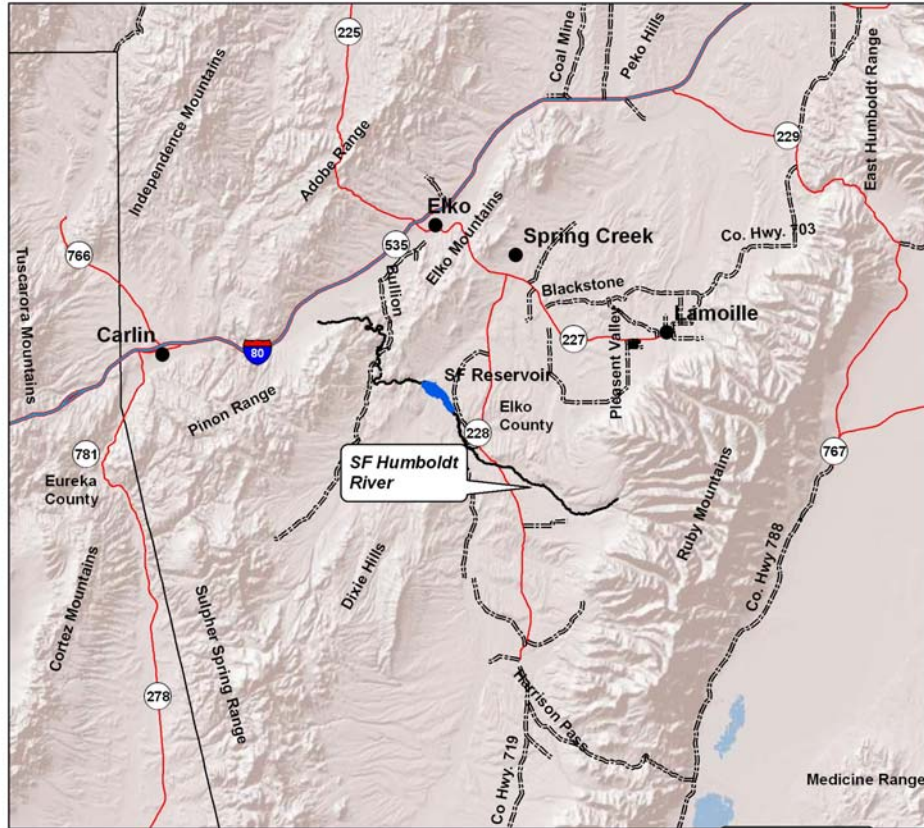
Pertinent Information - Upstream from the dam, the river runs 7 miles to State Route 228. Below the dam, the river is fishable (trout) for approximately 12 miles to Hunter Banks Diversion Dam. Flows range from 5 to 15 cfs in the fall to 600 to 1,100 cfs in the spring. Bowcutt trout (rainbow x cutthroat hybrid), rainbow trout, brown trout, smallmouth bass and channel catfish are the game fish present. Nongame fish include shiners, dace and suckers. The angler questionnaire data for 2007 found a catch rate of 3.11 fish per angler day. The best time of year to fish is April through June and September through December. Worms, Power Bait, small spinners (Mepps and Panther Martins), and flies work the best. Trophy Fish include a 2-pound 8-ounce smallmouth bass captured in 1995, a 27-pound 1-ounce channel catfish captured in 2005, an 8-pound 5-ounce brown trout captured in 2005, an 8-pound 5-ounce rainbow trout captured in 2002, a 3-pound 12-ounce bowcutt captured in 1999 and a 27-pound 1-ounce channel catfish captured in 2005. Camping - There is camping at South Fork Reservoir (State Park).

Stocking - No stocking occurs in river. Fish migrate upstream and downstream from South Fork Reservoir, which is stocked annually.

Regulations - Open year around, any time of the day or night. Above the reservoir there is a 1 trout limit using single barbless hooks only. Below the reservoir, the limit is 5 trout and 15 warmwater game fish. Only 1, 15-inch minimum size black bass is allowed except from March 1 through June 30 when only catch and release fishing is allowed on the black bass (spawning season).

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Fishing should be fair to good, following a normal spring runoff. River flow is predicted to be low by fall.

Boating Regulations - All boat harbors and other areas designated by buoys are zones in which 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 - State Park at South Fork Reservoir off State Route 228 and Bullion Road out of Elko are the only “legal” access points. The State Park access is paved, while Bullion road is improved gravel.