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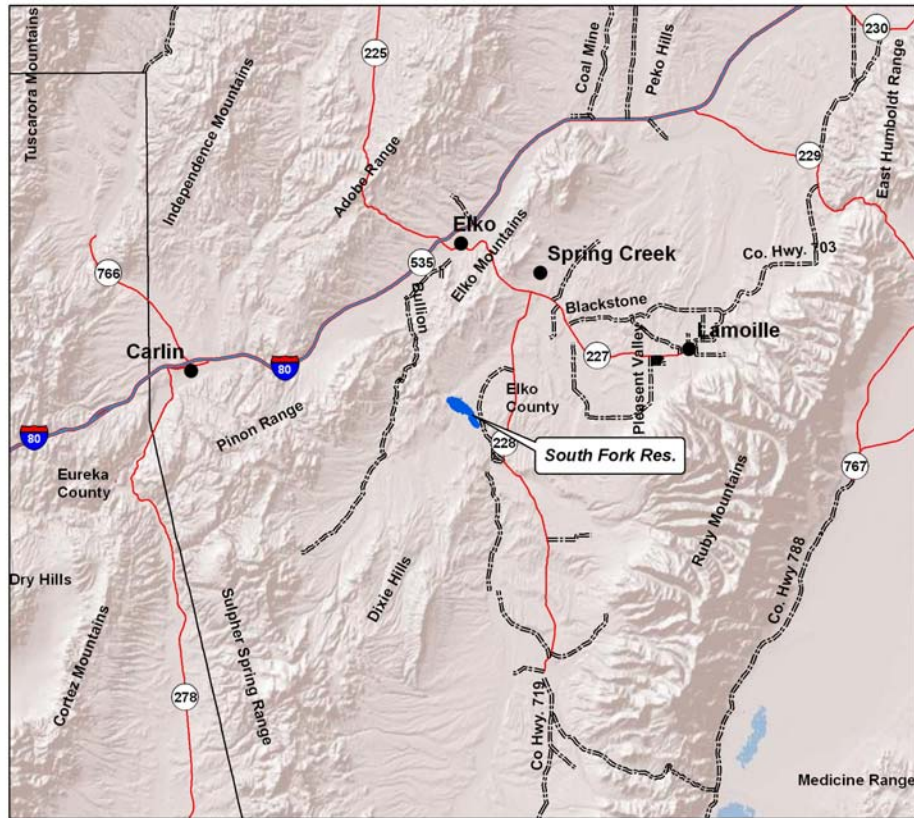
SOUTH FORK RESERVOIR

History - South Fork Reservoir, built in 1988 for recreation, is the newest reservoir in the state and lies entirely on public land.

Pertinent Information - The dam was completed in 1988 forming a reservoir potential of 1,640 surface acres with a maximum depth of 67 feet at normal pool elevation. The storage capacity at normal pool is approximately 40,000 acre feet, however, deeded water rights allow only 5,190 acre feet storage per year during normal water years. South Fork Reservoir contains rainbow, brown, cutthroat and bowcutt trout, along with smallmouth and largemouth black bass species, wipers and channel catfish. Several native non-game fish species present at South Fork Reservoir include tui chub, Tahoe sucker, redbreast shiner and speckled dace. Overall angler success was 0.52 fish per hour and 1.62 fish per angler in 2008. The average harvest size for rainbow trout during 2008 was 17.2 inches fork length. Bowcutts also showed a nice return to the angler, with excellent growth and an average harvest size of 16.8 inches fork length. The average size of warmwater fish caught in 2008 was 17.2 inches for smallmouth bass and 19.5 inches for wipers. For 2008, largemouth bass up to 6 pounds 4 ounces, smallmouth bass up to 4 pounds and 1 ounce, and wipers up to 6 pounds 5 ounces were entered into the Trophy Fish Program. Most forms of bait such as worms, salmon eggs, Power Bait, etc., are successful for trout, along with lures and flies. Typical bass fishing techniques are successful for bass, however, the abundance of natural feed make success very low. Catfish are caught using typical catfish bait such as chicken livers, worms, large shrimp, etc. Spring through early summer and during the winter ice period is the most productive for trout, however, trout are caught during the warmer summer months in the early morning hours. Bass are most easily caught in the late spring, but the catch and release regulation requires anglers to release all bass caught prior to July 1st. The entire perimeter of the reservoir is fishable with numerous access points available. Float tubing is a very popular means of fishing this reservoir. Trophy Book entries include an 8-pound 2-ounce largemouth bass captured in 1999, a 5-pound 7-ounce smallmouth bass captured in 2001 (State Record), a 28-pound 1-ounce channel catfish captured in 2003, an 11-pound 3-ounce brown trout captured in 1995, a 9-pound 2-ounce rainbow trout captured in 1995, 6-pound 3 ounce wiper captured in 2007 and a 6-pound 14-ounce bowcutt captured in 2005. Camping - An improved Nevada State Park campground facility is available, along with a few primitive camping spaces around the reservoir.

Stocking - During the spring approximately 75,000 8-inch rainbow trout are scheduled for introduction. An additional 15,000 bowcutt trout and 10,000 fingerling brown trout are scheduled stocking.

Regulations - Season is open year around, any hour of the day or night. Limits are: 5 trout and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 1 may be black bass, 1 may be white bass hybrid (wiper), and 5 may be channel catfish. Minimum size for black bass and white bass hybrids is 15 inches, except for March 1 through June 30 when only catch and release fishing is allowed for black bass.



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Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Water levels will be high in the spring of 2008 and near normal levels of trout stocking is planned for South Fork Reservoir. Fishing success is predicted to be good for trout in the 10 to 19 inch range. The lake has been producing state record smallmouth bass in the 6-pound size range and lake record channel catfish in the 20+ pound size range, although the channel catfish fishing has been slow. Wipers (white bass x striper cross) stocked over the past five years are showing up in the creel as 7 to 10 pound fish. The largemouth bass appear to be making a comeback.

Boating Regulations - Boating is permitted throughout South Fork Reservoir except the buoyed area of the spillway. Reduced Speed Areas - 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.

Access - Located 10 miles southwest of Elko, off state Highway 228. Paved access to the main boat ramp and improved campground.