

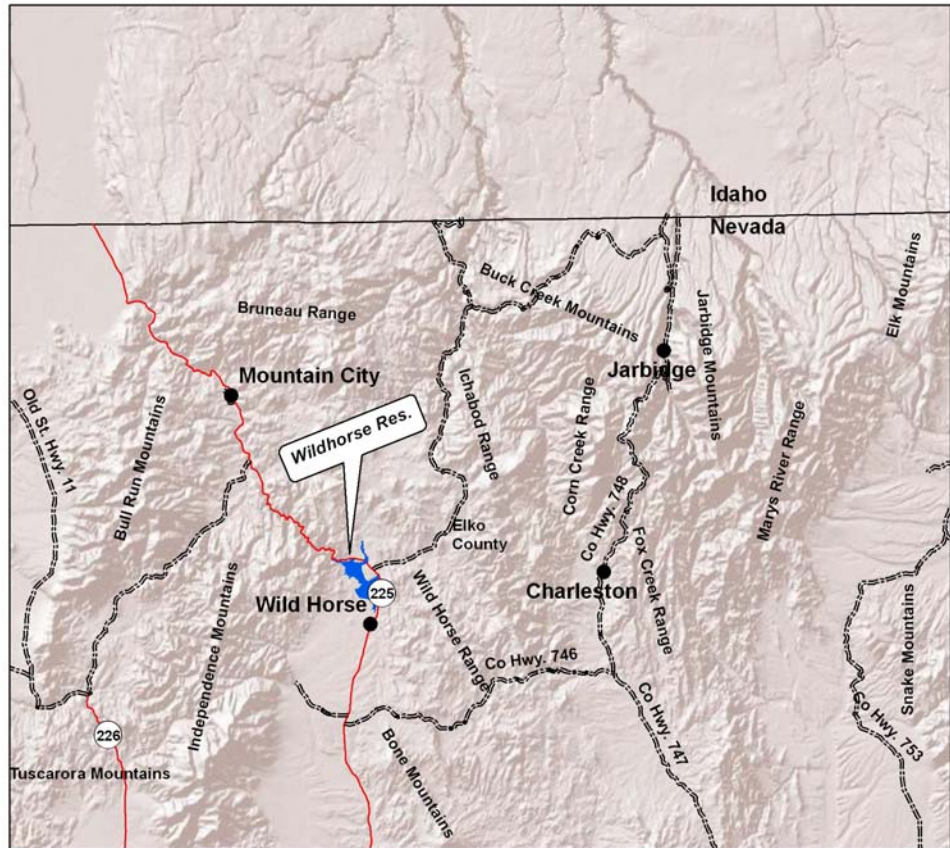
WILDHORSE RESERVOIR

History - Wildhorse Reservoir was constructed in 1937 and reconstructed in 1970. It is used primarily as an irrigation storage reservoir with seasonal drawdowns. It lies on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and leased to the Duck Valley Indian Reservation (Sho-Pai). Wildhorse is open to the public, but fees may be charged for overnight camping. A State Park and some private properties surround the reservoir.

Pertinent Information - At maximum capacity, the reservoir covers 2,830 acres, has a maximum depth of 70 feet, an average depth of 40 feet and stores a volume of 73,500 acre feet. It is a coldwater "put-grow-take" stocked trout and wild, warmwater fishery. Game fish species present are rainbow trout, German brown trout, bowcutt trout (rainbow x cutthroat hybrid), tiger trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, channel catfish, wipers (white bass x striper hybrid) and yellow perch. Average harvest rate for trout in 2008 was 1.6 fish per hour and nearly 3.0 fish per angler. Average harvest lengths were 15.7 inches for rainbow, 19.0 inches for bowcutt, 12-24 inches for wipers, 10-28 inches for channel catfish, and 10 inches for yellow perch. Trout from 3 to 5 pounds and larger are occasionally taken. Bass typically range from 8 to 20 inches and channel catfish from 3 to 20 pounds. Yellow perch, averaging 9-inches for 2007, are easily captured and 30 fish per day is common. May through June, mid-September through October and ice fishing from December through February using worms, eggs, corn, Power Bait and lures are best for trout. Fly fishing can be good in the early spring and late fall. Both shore and boat fishing is successful, however, trolling is better in the summer months. Spring and early summer is best for bass and catfish. Crank baits and rubber gear for bass and stink baits and liver for catfish work best. Yellow perch fishing is good all year using jigs and worms. NDOW's Trophy Fish Book shows a 5-pound 5-ounce smallmouth captured in 2001, a 19-pound 3-ounce channel catfish captured in 2002, a 1-pound yellow perch captured in 1999, a 12-pound 9-ounce brown trout captured in 1986, a 4-pound 2-ounce cutthroat trout captured in 1994, an 8-pound rainbow trout captured in 1979 and a 10-pound 4-ounce bowcutt captured in 1977. Camping and Facilities - Wildhorse State Park day use, camping, and boat launch fee area. BLM day use and campground fee area. Wildhorse Resort Motel, full RV hookups, restaurant, bar, convenience store and licenses. Sho-Pai campsites and boat launch (fees possible). Lakeside primitive camping available.

Stocking - A total of 75,000 rainbow trout are scheduled for spring stocking and 30,000 for fall. Up to 50,000 fingerling brown trout, 30,000 bowcutt, and 8,500 tiger trout also will be stocked.

Biologist Forecast for 2009 - Wildhorse Reservoir should be approximately 75% full in 2009, with the drawdown occurring in mid-May through October. Expect 30% capacity by the end of the year. Spring fishing will be good for trout, yellow perch and smallmouth bass. For yellow perch in the late spring, your best bet is to fish near the inlets (Hendrick's, Penrod and Owyhee River arm of the reservoir, and later in the summer from a boat, locating schools of perch in deeper water prior to fishing. Channel catfish angling will be fair in spring (late May) with a 5 fish limit. Good areas for catfish are Hendricks Arm Inlet and the southwest shoreline utilizing nightcrawlers, chicken livers and stink bait. Summer and fall fishing is predicted to be good although lower water levels are expected.



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Regulations - Wildhorse Reservoir and its inlet and outlet rivers and streams including Penrod Creek up to the bridge below the Gold Creek Ranger Station in Elko County: Open year around, any hour of the day or night. Limits are 5 trout, unlimited yellow perch, 10 mountain whitefish and 15 warmwater game fish of which not more than 1 may be black bass and 1 may be a white bass hybrid (wiper) and 5 may be channel catfish. Minimum size for black bass and white bass hybrids (wiper) is 15 inches, except from March 1 through June 30 when only catch and release fishing is allowed for the black bass. The possession while fishing or use of the fish as bait, whether dead or alive, or parts thereof, except preserved salmon eggs, is prohibited.

Boating Regulations – Reduced Speed Area - 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. Vessels are prohibited in areas designated by signs or buoys at the dam.

Access - Travel north from Elko on State Route 225 for 65 miles to the reservoir.